



Paw Prints & Woolklippings



October 2010

*The Joint Newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa
and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Webster City, Iowa*

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Be Thankful For the Faith You Have

I don't know about you, but sometimes I think I am missing out in the faith department. As much as I like to read about the exploits of our Biblical heroes -- Abraham and Ruth and Peter and Mary Magdalene -- or hear about more contemporary godly men and women who each day make great personal sacrifices on behalf of their faith in Jesus, if I am not careful I end up feeling pretty puny by comparison.

I say to myself, "You know, Richard, if you just had a bit more faith, you would be a better person and priest, less anxious, more patient. You would be less like you are and more like they are!" Do you ever feel this way? Do you ever feel like if only you had a little more faith you would be a better spouse, a better parent, a better co-worker?

On those days when I am feeling that I am deficient in the faith department, I try to pick up the New Testament and be reminded of how Jesus responded to his disciples when they were looking to him to "increase" their faith.

He doesn't say, "Why sure, there you go, have some more faith!" He doesn't give them a crash course on "getting and keeping more faith." He doesn't say read the Torah more, worship at the synagogue regularly, give more to the synagogue when you get your pledge card. He doesn't say any of those things. In effect he says, "Start where you are, with what you have." And further, he says that even a little bit of faith, the size of a mustard seed, could do wonders.

I recently came across a story given to us by an Indian poet, Rabindrinath Tagore, who tells of a man who lived in a house on the edge of a great forested valley. Very early one morning he looked across the valley and saw a blazing golden door on the far side. Greatly excited, he set off from his own small house, made his way down the side of the valley, crossed the river that flowed through it, and then climbed up the other side, eagerly searching for the golden door. Eventually, late in the day, he arrived at a small, tumbledown shack, very much like his own house. Its solitary window was dark.

Disappointed and very tired, he sat down to rest before beginning the long journey back home. He knew he had to hurry to beat the darkness that would quickly fall after sunset. Then something caught his eye. There on the far side of the valley from him, where he knew his own shack with its solitary window to be, was a great golden door blazing and beckoning and calling him home.

As the seeker of the golden door came to realize that the golden door was set in the shabby walls of his own shack, so we need to discover that we start with the faith we have. Even if it is small, like a mustard seed, it will be enough. Start with what you have. You just might have more faith than you think.

Don't envy the faith of others. . .but be thankful for the faith you have. . . and believe God will put it to good use. Even work a miracle of two!

Love and prayers, Fr. Richard

Seminary News: very recently Jane Martin received the following e-mail from Aaron Hudson,

To the people of St. Mark's and Good Shepherd,

I am so appreciative of the love and support you have given me during my time there. I am grateful for the parish family that you have been for me and the opportunities you have given me to serve the church with you and among you. This has been an incredible gift of getting to seminary, one I would not be able to have without you. Thank you for supporting me in the way you have chosen and the people you are. I will never forget what you have done for me and my life.

With God's peace, Aaron Hudson

A poem follows that Holly read to us at beginning of her homily a few weeks ago. Everyone thought it very touching and thoughtful, so here it is for us to enjoy again.

My child, I made you for myself. I made you like myself. I delight in you. My heart aches with pity. When you smother joy under the onslaught of busyness. Then there is barely a minute. To pause and listen for me.

You run everywhere looking for life, Searching for the life of life. All the while I am here. I am as close as a prayer. I am breathing in your breath.

You look for me in the pleasures of life. Things pile upon things. Experiences crowd out experiences. Places run together in a hazy blur, And still you don't find that one thing that will satisfy you.

But I am here. I am as close as a prayer. I am breathing in your breath. I made you for myself, I wanted you. I made you like myself, I made you good and I made you free.

Listen! For I have carved in you the heart to hear. Listen and know that I am near. I am as close as a prayer. I am breathing in

your breath Before you speak the word of worry or worship I hear you. Before you sing your delight or moan your anguish I speak.

I am here. I am as close as a prayer. I am breathing in your breath. With each breath I choose life for you. I paint the pattern of joy in your heart and leave it there for you to find. I build the frame of your flourishing in the center of your being and call you to search it out.

I kindle the spark of goodness in you. With each breath I fan the flame. I am here. I am as close as a prayer. I am breathing in your breath. With each breath you choose, my child, for you are free. Will you breathe with me the breath of life? Will you claim the joy I have prepared for you? Will you seek me out and find me here? Will you whisper the prayer? Will you breathe in my breath?

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, *Made for Goodness*

Paw Prints from St. Mark's

➡ **A New Season for The Babies Room:** Now that the warm weather has ended and fall is here, the racks of The Baby's Room needed to be stocked with warmer clothing. On Saturday, September 18th, a group of volunteers, led by Cheri Cerwick and Kim Bloomquist, did just that. We appreciate the efforts of Marilyn Cramblit, Holly Scherff, Lydia Schmoker, and Fr. Richard.

➡ **Youth News: Youth Director Lydia Schmoker** is in the process of organizing a youth Halloween celebration involving our St. Mark's youth and youth from some local churches.

➡ **Adult Education:** On Sunday, **September 26th**, we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Christine Schiltz on **Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry**. The session also included some hands on healing. Don't miss part two of Christine's presentation, which is scheduled for Sunday, October 10th, following the service. **And, on Sunday, October 24th, we will welcome Jon Shelness of the Zen Center of Des Moines, who will speak about the heart of his religious tradition, Buddhism.**

➡ **Altar Guild:** Since the work of the Altar Guild is performed before and after we worship, it often goes unnoticed. And yet, it is so vitally important to our life as a worshipping congregation. Clearly the members of the Guild do not expect to be showered with expressions of gratitude from us for the work they do. But just as clearly, every once in a while, a little expression of thanks is certainly in order! With this in mind, Altar Guild Directress, **Mary Duro, is hosting a thank you brunch at her home for our Altar Guild on Saturday, October 16th, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** It will be their turn to have someone preparing a table for them!

➡ **Saturday Night Out Supper a Smash:** On Saturday, September 25th, St. Mark's took its turn to host the once-a-month meal for downtown area residents. **Holly Scherff** made scalloped potatoes and ham as the main course and there were side dishes and desserts to go along. After the meal, our guests played several rounds of bingo and everyone went home with prizes. We are thankful for Holly's efforts on behalf of this ministry and for the other members of St. Mark's who took part: **Cheri Cerwick, Art and Anna Bacon, Jennifer and**

Robert Zhai, Susan Derschied, Mary Beth and Celeste Rice, Kris Christy-Hogan, and Fr. Richard.

➡ **Fr. Howard Happ** was back in Fort Dodge for his 50th high school class reunion. A native of Fort Dodge, Fr. Happ grew up in the local Presbyterian fold, but converted to the Episcopal Church in his young adulthood. He was very fond of Fr. John Taylor, the storied priest who served the parish as rector for nearly 30 years, and ultimately decided to become an Episcopal priest, himself. Fr. Richard and Fr. Happ became friends in Southern California, where Fr. Happ eventually decided to live and where he taught Religion at the California State University at Northridge for many years. **During his visit, Fr. Happ baptized his close friend and classmate, Roger Duane Snell at St. Mark's on September 23rd**, and preached at a Saturday afternoon Reunion Eucharist on September 25th. **We always enjoy seeing Fr. Happ and welcome Roger as a baptized member of our parish.**

➡ **The Fall Younkers Community Day Sale** will be held Saturday, **November 13, 2010**, starting at 6:00 AM. St. Mark's parishioners are selling coupon booklets for the sale for \$5.00 each. The booklet purchaser receives \$10.00 off one individual item purchased on the sale day plus six 20% off coupons. The Baby's Room Account of the Human Needs Commission retains the \$5.00 from each booklet sold. Purchases at Younkers with the \$10.00 off coupon or 20% off coupons, can be made the week before Community Day -- Sunday 11/7/10 through Friday 11/12/10 -- but you must charge your items and pick them up on Community Day 11/13/10. Plus, there is a 30% off Early Bird Coupon to be used through Saturday, Nov 13, 2010 until 10:00 AM. The 20% coupons can also be used for online purchases that day. If you are able to sell booklets to friends, family or co-workers, or want to purchase booklets, please contact Cheri Cerwick 408-6739 or Kris in the office 576-2019. Please consider doing some shopping on Community Day and make your booklet purchases through St. Mark's. **Support The Baby's Room!**

➡ We were saddened to hear of the death of **William Bruce Christy**, the father of Kris Christy-Hogan, our Parish Secretary, who died on Friday, September 24th. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

WOOLKLIPPINGS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

➡ **The ANNUAL GATHERING was held on Sunday, September 12th**, and featured a wonderful breakfast of pancakes, sausage & scrambled eggs. Prior to the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. service, several members tied balloons on strings to their ankles and then played stomp the balloon through the nave of the church. It was a bit raucous and good fun, quite typical of our style of doing church! Thanks to all for putting on such a great time.

➡ **Gus Dermand** stood up in church to speak on Sunday, October 3rd, and brought us all to tears. In his own words: "The Brushy Creek Honor Flight has been organized by a group working to send WWII veterans to Washington DC to see the war memorials. We boarded our plane at 7a.m. and arrived at Dulles Airport at 9:30a.m. to be welcomed by lines of people, short and tall, waving flags. Patriotic human beings grabbed our hands and gave hugs of loyalty. In speeding mode we were able to visit the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and the Iwo Jima Flag Raising memorials. Imagine standing in the WWII memorial and seeing a clear view of the Washington Monument and with a 180 degree turn face the Lincoln Memorial! We experienced a very emotional "Changing of the Guard" at Arlington Cemetery. Every family should hope to share this intense moment. Our sponsors surprised us with "mail call" on the way home. Fortunately I could not read them until my wife could help me. The words shared had been held in silence for 50 years. I'm sure the many letters were sprinkled with my tears. I am thankful to have received the opportunity to share this journey with my comrades."

➡ **Drum circle on Sat., Oct. 16, 3:00 pm, at the Moglebust house, 3033 Hwy 17, Eagle Grove.** Bring any "ethnic" percussion instruments or flutes, a lawn chair if it's nice out, and BYOB. I have several instruments to share if you can't obtain anything to play. You may also bring poetry, stories, or prayers to inspire our drumming. Drum circles can be relaxing or energizing, depending on tempo and style, and can be used for meditation or even healing. Everyone is a drummer in spirit!

➡ **Deb Leksell is having a birthday on October 10th and wants you to share it with her.** Open House

from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. 1408 Willson Avenue, Webster City. Please, no gifts or cards. If you are feeling generous, donate something to the food bank. **Great news...Liz Leksell is engaged to John Sparks.** Wedding in St. Croix on February 5th with reception to follow in Memphis. We are so excited!

➡ On Sunday, **October 10th**, the Webster City Ministerial Association will be staging its annual **pulpit exchange**. Fr. Richard is preaching at the Church of Christ and their **Pastor, Ray Artrip**, will offer the sermon at Good Shepherd. Holly Scherff will be conducting the service.

➡ **Oktoberfest in November:** We are waiting until early November to lay out the sanctuary with long tables, eat German food, and dance the polka, but when we all gather on the first Saturday of November to do these things, it will seem as though October was just a week longer this year! Cathy and Dave Moglebust will captivate us with their musical magic, members will share favorite jokes, and the obligatory chicken dance will be solemnly performed. Save this date! November 6th

➡ **Save this date, too! Good Shepherd Bazaar and Soup Luncheon, Saturday, December 4.** Doors open at 10AM. All gifts of food and craft items are gratefully accepted. There will be a sign-up sheet at Church for soups. Tell all your friends to come for a good Saturday outing.

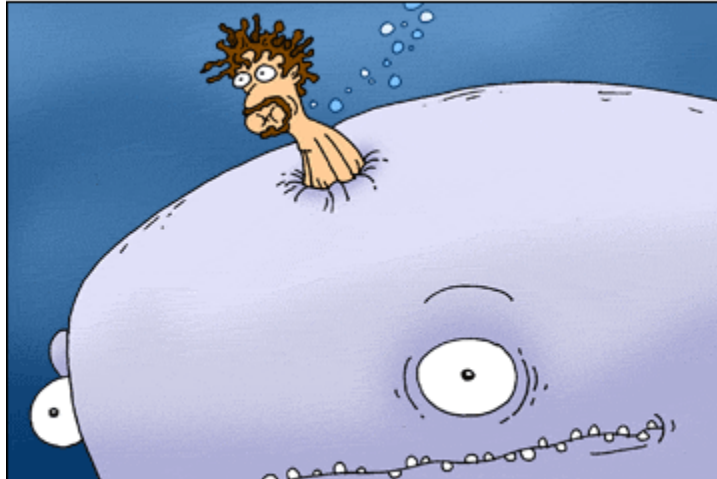
➡ **Rest in Peace:** Mark Whaley's sister, **Francine Whaley VanScoy**, died in the early morning of October 1st at Grandview Health Care Center in Dayton, where she had been in residence for the past five years. A native of Webster City and Mark's only sibling, Francine was born on December 20, 1948. We grieve with the Whaley family and entrust Francine to God's never failing love.

➡ **Colleen Krantz's new documentary, *A Train to Nowhere***, will air on Tuesday, October 12 at 7pm on Iowa Public Television. About three years ago, Colleen, Darin and family moved to Adel from Webster City. They were members of Good Shepherd.

“Laughter is the shortest distance between two people”

~ Victor Borge

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Jonah 1-4) 08-16-2010

JONAH'S ONE AND ONLY ESCAPE ATTEMPT

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(See Jonah 1-4) 05-25-2009

JONAH WAS NOT A FAN OF SEAWORLD

ST. MARK'S
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES

OCTOBER 2010

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Altar Guild	Coffee Servers
October 3	Trey Anderson	John Daniel	Holly Scherff	Cheri Cerwick and Celeste Rice
October 10	Kaelly Scherff	Celeste Rice	Joanne Tjelmeland	Lisa Neet and Elaine Weidlein
October 17	Brody O'Tool	John Duro	*Mary Duro	Keith and Holly Scherff
October 24	Toddy Svoboda	Holly Scherff	Sue Blanchard	Chris and Jessica Troutwine
October 31	Callan Anderson	Mary Beth Rice	Cheri Cerwick	Don and Sharon Vogel

Funeral Committee: Margo Daniel, Chairman; Joyce Anderson, Cheri Cerwick, Volunteer

FLOWERS

John & Margo Daniel -17th

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Esther Merrill – 3rd

Celeste Rice – 17th

Esther Merrill – 31st

BIRTHDAYS

4 – Gary Anderson

4 – Mary Beth Rice

6 – Lynn Seaba

7 – Denise McCaleb

10- Victoria Daniel

16 – Keith Scherff

28 – John Daniel III

30 – Fr. Peg Jackson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES**

OCTOBER 2010

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Lector	Greeters
October 3	Dustin Conley	Barbara Flowerday	Steve Haberman	Ranae Anderson
October 10	Antrez Conley	Judy McLaughlin	Deb Leksell	Michelle Haberman
October 17	Jake Haberman	Deb Leksell	Robbie Katschke	Katie Haberman
October 24	Joel Haberman	Robbie Katschke	Nancy Dermand	Gus Dermand
October 31	Katie Haberman	Cathy Moglebust	Nan Bucknam	Joan Haberman

Altar Guild – Cathy Moglebust

Coffee Servers -

BIRTHDAYS

1 – Kimberly Anderson	14 – Angie Martin-Schwarze	21 – Ann McLaughlin	31 – Jackson Bucknam
4 – James Marvel	15 – Sara Bucknam	27 – Judy McLaughlin	
4 – Harold Anderson, Jr.	16 - Thomas Conley	30 – Fr. Peg Jackson	
10 – Deb Leksell	19 – Ursula Leksell	31 – Heidi Denekasl	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY