



NEWSLETTER



St. John's by the Campus
Episcopal Parish and Student Center
February 2023

Hospitality is a Witness to God's Provision



Nearly 10 years ago, when my wife Sara and I hiked the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage in Northern Spain, we spent each night in a special hostel for pilgrims. These are called Albergues. Albergues vary in size, atmosphere, and modernization but what never varies is a deep sense of hospitality. Each place we went, the owners knew that we had just undergone a long hike and likely needed a shower and rest before anything else. After we had settled in, we could talk about food. When our stomachs were full, we would share our life with one another often over better wine than Sara and I could appreciate. We never had to make a reservation. We just showed up. Eventually we came to trust that somewhere down the trail would be a bed just for us.

This pattern of pilgrimage and hospitality was familiar to me. I grew up making the river-to-river bike trek called RAGBRAI (The Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa). Like ancient pilgrims, we depended on the rhubarb pie, basement showers, and backyards of strangers. Like the Camino, intimacy flourished around the supper tables of our hosts. I remember learning a game called Pass the Pigs around the table of a family who eventually become my parishioners nearly twenty years later!

Both RAGBRAI and the Camino put participants in an odd position. You are out of control. You cannot will the next town any closer. You can't worry away the miles between you and the end. Both experiences foster submission and trust because each night, somehow, brings a bed and a meal.

Hospitality is a witness to God's provision. One truly feels like God has the whole world in her hands when one consistently encounters hospitality. St. Benedict writes of hospitality, "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt 25:35).

The world is sorely in need of hospitable spaces. There are too few places where one can show up and be welcomed like a long-awaited guest. I hear often that the world seems out of control, especially from young people. And if we are honest with ourselves, any sense of control we think we have over the changes and chances of the world are likely illusory.

Like a rough hiking trail or late July bike ride, life can be hard. It can be full of confusion, chaos, panic, and pain. But this only reinforces the fact that the world needs churches. The world needs places where one is valued for simply having made the journey. This kind of hospitality opens space for intimacy and encounter. This kind of welcoming helps people meet God. And by welcoming strangers as Christ, we give them space to be truly themselves.

I wonder how St. John's might be called to live more fully into this ministry. As we enter this new season, we might be surprised by some old friends and new guests. When they come, remember whom we truly welcome: Christ. Pay attention to how people transform around the coffee hour table. Look for the tears in the eyes of people singing hymns as they remember something that they may have forgotten about themselves. Bear witness to people becoming themselves in our presence. For as we welcome others as Christ into our fellowship, we can't help but to look a little more like Christ ourselves. And that really is the point of all this, isn't it?

Yours in Christ,
Father Tom+

Parish Office

St. John's by the Campus
Episcopal Parish and Student Center
2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

Clergy

The Rev. Tom Early, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, Assisting Priest

Parish Assistants

Rachel Thevenot, Church Admin/Bookkeeper
David Moore, Chaplain
Dr. Miriam Zach, Music Director/Organist
Joan Aiton, Treasurer
Jane Galyon, Newsletter Editor

Vestry 2023

Elizabeth Charbonnet, Brenda Freeman,
Diane Gillott, Debbie Haywood,
Leigh Ann Long, Amy Mellies,
Cristine Mincheff, Tim Muggli,
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How to Communicate

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This Newsletter is published monthly except in July by the Episcopal Parish of Ames, a non-profit organization, 2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014. Comments or inquiries may be sent to the church office. The deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, February 27. Please submit articles via email to church@stjohns-ames.org or jgalyon@iastate.edu.

February Birthdays

- 1 Wendy Nutini, Josh Welter
- 2 Philip Gillott, Dave Oakland, Gay Stone
- 4 Susan Fritzell, Rachel Thevenot
- 8 Ann Harvey
- 13 Matt Rosacker
- 15 Claire Mellies, Oliver Mellies
- 20 Taylor Balsley, Ian Warren
- 21 Jim Stone
- 24 Peter Matthews
- 25 Rich McCay-Read
- 26 Helena Appau
- 27 Raveena Levis, The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, Marie Schwartz

Adult Forum

Adult Forum is now meeting between church services and exploring our call to discipleship through story sharing. This is a continuation of our discussion about discipleship which we started during our fall book study on Stephanie Spellers' *The Church Cracked Open*. We will be meeting in the church library from 9:10 to 9:50 on Feb 5, 12, and 19.

Starting on February 26 for Lent, the Adult Forum will be doing a Lenten study based on the National Church's curriculum to prepare our minds and hearts for the journey to Easter.

Compline is coming back March 1. Compline meets for a zoom service at 8 pm every Wednesday with evening prayer. This year we will have some Lenten guided prayer focused services.

Kathleen Sallee
Greta Levis

Music News

You are invited to upcoming free concerts at Iowa State University in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall (MET):

- Saturday, February 11 (1:30pm MET)
"Palimpsest" ISU organ studio concert
- Saturday, March 4 (1:30pm MET) - 27th International Festival of Women Composers concert
- Saturday, April 15 (1:30pm MET) - ISU organ studio concert

Flower Fund

If you are interested in donating flowers for the Altar in honor of a special date or person, please sign up on the sheet on the long table in the Parish Hall. The instructions for donating are printed and available there as well. Thank you very much for supporting the St. John's flower fund.

Diane Rioux, Flower Coordinator
DiRio02@msn.com. 515-450-3311

The Food at First Program continues to serve a free meal every day at First Christian Church, 611 Clark. As always, everyone is welcome, and no questions are asked. They typically serve over 100 meals every day.

- Sun.-Fri. Meals are served from 5:45 - 6:15 pm
- Saturday meal served from 11:30 am-12:15 pm
-

The Free Market program distributes food three times a week:

- Monday and Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 PM
- Saturday 10 – 11 AM
-

It takes an army of volunteers and support to provide this critical ministry to the Ames community every day. For more information or to volunteer, go to <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com>

Sunday Tech Crew Volunteers

St. John's needs volunteers to help run the technology for the livestream on Sundays during the 10 am service. If you are tech-savvy and are interested in getting involved, please contact Rachel at church@stjohns-ames.org.

Bible Study

Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Irv will be the leader. We are in the LifeGuide Series, The Twelve Disciples. Please join us! Sarah Terrones, Bible Study Coordinator, 515-290-6931

Office Hours

St. John's office hours are now Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Online Parish Services

The 10 am Sunday service is livestreamed on our YouTube channel.
youtube.com/@stjohnsbythecampus

Ski Trip 2023



FEBRUARY 11-12
SEVEN OAKS, BOONE &
ST. JOHN'S, AMES

SKI TRIP IS AN ANNUAL WINTER WEEKEND FULL OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND WORSHIP! THIS YEAR'S SKI TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE FEBRUARY 11-12 AT SEVEN OAKS SKI RESORT IN BOONE AND OVERNIGHT AT ST. JOHN'S, AMES. WE HOPE THAT YOUTH (GRADES 4-12) AND ADULTS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION WILL JOIN US!

YOUTH OVERNIGHT FEE (INCLUDES T-SHIRT) - \$35

T-SHIRT - \$10

SKI/SNOWBOARD (12 & UNDER) - \$57.30

SKI/SNOWBOARD (13 & UP) - \$75.49

INCLUDES: LIFT TICKET, SKI/SNOWBOARD RENTAL &
HELMET.

FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR
THE REGISTRATION FEE AND ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION
AND REGISTER BY SCANNING THE QR
CODE..





JULY 4-8, 2023
UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK

EVERY THREE YEARS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CONVENES AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EVENT SO “THAT THE ENERGY OF THE YOUTH OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAN CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED IN ACTIVE MINISTRY AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.” THIS IS AN EVENT FULL OF WORSHIP, LEARNING, MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND HAVING A LOT OF FUN WITH EPISCOPALIANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN EYE23 MUST BE ENROLLED IN 9TH, 10TH, 11TH, OR 12TH GRADE DURING THIS SCHOOL YEAR. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE TURNED AT LEAST 15.

THE REGISTRATION COSTS FOR EYE IS \$400. THIS INCLUDES 5 DAYS AND 4 NIGHTS OF ALL EVENTS, MEALS, AND LODGING. AIRLINE TICKETS, TRANSPORTATION, AND ADDITIONAL MEALS WILL BE AN EXTRA COST. YMDT HAS FUNDS RESERVED FOR YOUTH TO ATTEND EYE AND HOPES TO COVER 1/3 OF THE COST.

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE.



The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
St. John's by the Campus
December 21, 2022 6:30 pm Via Zoom

Present: John Joiner (Sr. Warden), Corey Mellies(Jr. Warden), Joan Aiton (Treasurer), Diane Rioux (Clerk), Diane Gillott, Cristine Mincheff, Leigh Ann Long, Debbie Haywood, The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, and David Moore (Chaplain).

The Minutes of the November Vestry meeting were accepted.

The Financial Report for November was accepted.

\$289 Altar Guild charge was incorrectly charged and will be corrected.

Phone bill has increased. Debbie Haywood will follow up on charges.

New Business:

Parking Lot – Request for signage for reserved spaces:

Parking Lot committee will discuss and bring report next month.

New Signage will cost \$2,900 for 22 spaces, cheaper if ordered online.

Preliminary Budget:

Executive Finance Committee will meet in January to further finalize the 2023 budget.

The 2023 budget and 2022 fiscal year-end financial report will be presented at the next Vestry meeting for final approval. These reports will then be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Staff Wages and Raises:

A standard cost of living raise was given to staff of 2%. A \$400 per month bonus will be given to Rachel for continuing to take on the bookkeeping duties.

Rachel will not be given paid time off to attend DMACC classes in the spring semester based on bookkeeping responsibilities and the schedule of the new Priest-in-Charge. This may be revisited in the future after Fr. Tom Early arrives. This change required a majority Vestry vote; the vote was 5-1 and 1 member chose not to vote.

The office will be open 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

ISU Welcome Fest:

David Moore requested the purchase of a banner for Welcome Fest Table.

A table runner or tablecloth with the St. John's logo will be researched.

Key Policy:

New Key Policy for those using key fobs and building keys has been written.

A \$10 deposit required if person requesting a key is not a Vestry member or Committee Chairperson.

Ames Town and Gown:

On February 19th, 2023, St. John's will host the Ames Town and Gown Musicale. The serving of alcohol was approved for this event.

New Sunday Servant Schedule for January is available for sign up.

Reports:

Sr. Warden: Moving arrangements are being made for Fr Tom and Sarah. Details will be emailed, and cost will be approved via email. Deep thanks were given to The Rev. Mary Jane for all her support from April through December and coordination of Supply Priests.

Jr. Warden: Furnace failure needs repair. Cost was approved from Long Term Maintenance funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Submitted by Diane Rioux, Clerk
Edited by Rachel Thevenot, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper