



NEWSLETTER



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

Summer 2023

Companions in Ministry at St. John's

Bishop Meshack Mabuza, former Bishop of eSwatini (Swaziland) famously one said, "there is no retirement in the Kingdom of God." St. John's is blessed to have two priests in our midst who are officially designated as "retired" but who still practice rich ministries. Mother Mary Jane Oakland and Father Paul Gennett both reside in Ames, and I am excited to formally recognize their association to St. John's by-the-Campus. I have reissued an invitation to Mother Mary Jane to be Priest-Associate and invited Father Paul to be the same. I hope these titles clarify how they will continue to work among us. Both have a ministry of pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. St. John's will provide appropriate space to aid in these ministries. Additionally, when I am away for work or rest, they will be among those available for pastoral emergencies. Furthermore, you may see them assisting during major celebrations in the life of the parish. Finally, I know their ministry of presence will continue to be a leaven, raising our common life together.

As Priest-in-Charge, I will continue to be primary administrator, pastor, liturgist, catechist, and homilist. Our Priests-Associate will aid me in this work, but I ask that you bring any concerns about these areas directly to me and leave these priests to the work to which they feel called. To learn more about these ministries and other ways they minister, see their brief bios included in this newsletter and ask them about it at coffee hour!

We are also blessed by the presence of their partners. Many of you know Dave Oakland and I am excited for you to know Marilyn Gennett. God blesses the call to priesthood with a charism of collegiality. I am thankful to call these two members of the college of presbyters my neighbors and friends. Let us give praise to God who continues to bless richly this congregation.

In Christ,
Father Tom Early+
Priest-in-Charge

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, Priest-Associate
The Rev. Paul Gennett, Priest-Associate

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,
Marlene Strathe

Summer (June/July) 2023 Newsletter Vol 29, Num 6

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, July 31.

Please submit articles via email to
church@stjohns-ames.org or
jgalyon@iastate.edu.

How to Communicate

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Office: church@stjohns-ames.org
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Chaplain, David Moore:
davidmoore@stjohns-ames.org
St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ames.org
Diocese of Iowa: www.iowaepiscopal.org

June Birthdays

- 1 Kittie Ellis
- 2 Bev Madden, Doug McCay
- 3 Liza Domek
- 4 Jud Freeman, Virginia Hanson, and Richard Jiles
- 5 Paul Fritzell
- 6 Adam Hillier
- 7 Zach Galyon
- 8 Andrew Jiles, Tim Rasmussen
- 12 John Haywood,
- 22 Charlotte Bowler, Jane Galyon, and Greta Muller Levis
- 24 Taryn Tigges
- 25 Mercedes Read McCay
- 26 Jan Payer
- 27 Alexander Guthrie, Warren Madden, and Dorothy Yoerger
- 29 George Montgomery, Elizabeth Rioux
- 30 Ben Forney, Ed Ethridge

June Anniversaries

- 4 Coralie Lashbrook & Robert Hoenike
- 6 Molly & Ed Ethridge
- 8 Maggie LaWare & Jim Andrews
- 10 Marti & Bob Elzer
- 10 Suzan & John Shierholz
- 15 John & Debbie Haywood
- 18 Dot & Steve Prater
- 19 Nicola & John Bowler
- 20 Stacy & John Joiner
- 27 Gay & Jim Stone

July Birthdays

- 3 Deb Fisher
- 4 Irvin Hentzel
- 6 Maggie LaWare
- 7 Joe Charbonnet, Debbie Haywood, and Gene Johnson
- 11 Douglas Hurt
- 12 Gordon Port, Aldo Schwartz
- 13 Nick Matthews
- 17 Victoria Schwartz
- 19 Jeffrey Peterson
- 22 Norman Rudi
- 23 William Fowler
- 25 Craig Forney, Dan Nutini
- 26 Elizabeth Charbonnet, Derek Olsen
- 27 Miles Nutini
- 28 Eileen Hillier
- 29 Daniel Appau
- 30 Charles Forney

July Anniversaries

- 30 Diane & Bruce Bjorklund
- 30 Jane & Alex Galyon

Fr. Paul Gennett Jr., Priest-Associate



The Reverend Paul W. Gennett Jr. has served as a priest in the Episcopal Church for over 30 years. He received a Masters in Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1992 and retired as Rector at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in Newark, Delaware in 2018. Prior to his ordination, he was a corporate consultant for 20 years, principally serving the human resources and organizational development disciplines. He has been blessed to be married to Marilyn for 52 years and by two adult children – Colin and his partner Lucinda living in Phoenix, and Adrienne and husband Bill living in Ames. He is very proud and most grateful for their lives, and a recently arrived granddaughter Samarchai Cora adopted from Thailand in December 2022. For the last 20 years, Paul has been enjoying his deeper calling to walk with others in his own recovering spiritual journey and as a spiritual director. He has led retreats on spiritual living and the Twelve Steps for both recovery and non-recovery communities.

The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, Priest Associate



The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland is a retired priest in the Diocese of Iowa. She was ordained to the vocational diaconate at St. John's by the Campus in 1995, where she served until 2001 when she was called to serve in the parish of St. Paul's

Episcopal Church in Marshalltown, IA. Rev. Oakland was ordained to the priesthood in 2005. In addition to her parish work she was a member of the nutrition faculty at ISU for 27 years. She served the Diocese as Chair of the Commission on Ministry at three different times: as a lay person, a deacon, and a priest, serving as chair for 11 years. She has chaired the credentials committee for Diocesan convention for more than a decade. She has been involved with the One World One Church commission serving in ministry alongside her husband, David, making several trips and spending some extended time under the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland. At St. John's, Rev Oakland is involved in various ways to support ministry, and as a spiritual director. She can be reached through our parish office at 515-292-6655.

Happy Trails, Chaplain Moore

St. John's will bid farewell to Campus Chaplain David Moore who will move over the summer. The change of scenery comes in joyful anticipation of his impending nuptials to fiancé Beckah. During his chaplaincy, David has overseen the expansion of this ministry to all young adults, regardless of their enrollment status. His mission goals were to foster a sense of community through which participants might know God through one another. Board game afternoons, pumpkin patch visits, parking fundraisers and weekly lunches were just a few ways he brought this vision to fruition.

The congregation will have the chance to celebrate David's chaplaincy on **July 9 after the 10 a.m. service**. On behalf of St. John's, I thank Chaplain Moore for his generosity of service and eagerly await hearing how he will bless the next congregation he joins in ministry.

Farewell to Rachel

It is with bittersweet hearts that we announce that Rachel Thevenot will be leaving St. John's by the Campus, effective August 1, 2023. Rachel has decided to further her education by attending school full-time.

We are very grateful for all the hard work Rachel has given us over the past four years, and she will be missed. She has played an integral role in keeping our doors open and will be difficult to replace.

Please join us on Sunday, July 23, 2023, after the 10 am service to wish Rachel farewell. We wish her the best of success in all future endeavors.



Happy Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023

St. John's Nursery

As we prepare for the fall and "get back to normal" we would like to re-open our nursery on a regular basis. We are looking for volunteers to fill in this summer as we look to hire childcare providers for the fall. If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery, please contact Amy Mellies at anymellies@gmail.com

Adult Forum

Adult Forum will resume in the fall. Look for upcoming updates. Thank you to all who participated this past year.

Kathleen Sallee

Greta Levis

Bible Study Hiatus

Bible Study will be on hiatus from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Music News

Dr. James Kibbie will be our 35th Organist of Iowa at Iowa State University on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 1:30pm with the Brombaugh 3-manual pipe organ in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Kibbie

Breeze Church Management

We are excited to announce that on June 20, 2023, we are officially moving our church management software from Realm to Breeze. This new platform has many functions for both parishioners including allowing you to view and update your own information, view your giving history, see groups you belong to, view your volunteer schedule, and donate online. Go to www.stjohns-ames.org/breeze to learn more!

Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Aldo Schwartz

will be held at St. John's on July 8, 2023, from 2 pm to 5 pm. The ceremony will be from 2-3pm with refreshments immediately following. Please join us!

What is going on around the Diocese of Iowa?

Check out the updates at the new and improved Diocese of Iowa website: www.iowaepiscopal.org. Includes a link to the monthly e-newsletter.

Jottings from the Junior Warden

May has been a month of completing several of the facility projects at St. John's. All of the canister lights have been replaced in the sanctuary with LED bulbs, new exit signs have been installed where needed, and all of the emergency lights have been tested and, where needed, batteries were replaced. The 'down lights' in the parish hall have been turned off with the parish hall perimeter lights, able to be controlled by a dimmer switch, now on at night. This change reduces the awareness of lights needing to be replaced. Work continues on identifying a more permanent solution for the parish hall lighting.

A new storage shed has been erected on a concrete slab to avoid floor deterioration due to moisture as well rodent access. The fence surrounding the waste management receptacle has been replaced with new fencing.

Steve Prater is continuing to work with Converse to identify furnace replacements and the related costs. Six furnaces need to be replaced, none of which can be delayed any longer. It may be possible to delay installation of several of the air conditioning units until such time as the remaining roof repair is made. Steve will also be addressing some of the plumbing problems which have led to excessive water usage in the bathrooms as well as continuing to work with Century Link/Lumen insurance to fix the lower section of the pipe where we encountered back-up earlier this year. Our parish certainly owes Steve a tremendous debt of gratitude for the care and concern he has given to our parish home.

Efforts have begun to identify snow removal companies to be contracted for the coming winter. The lawn service contract has been terminated as the service is no longer providing lawn maintenance. Oliver Mellies has been hired to provide lawn care during the summer months. Again, if there are projects or facility needs that need to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me at drstrathe@gmail.com or 970-227-7970

Marlene Strathe



Youth Breakfast on June 11

St. John's Youth will serve breakfast after both services on Sunday, June 11. Cinnamon rolls, sausages and fruit will be available. This is a fundraiser for EPIC Summer Camp. Free will donation.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating flowers to adorn the altar for our Sunday services. This can be in memory of or in honor of a special person or occasion. These can be purchased or can even be shared from a blooming garden. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or feel free to contact Diane Rioux.

Diane Rioux

St Johns Flower Coordinator

515 450 3311. DiRio02@msn.com



Altar- Guild- and- Friends

On April 1, the Altar Guild and Friends folded palm crosses for Palm Sunday services. It was a fun 1.5 hours as we visited and learned how to "lock the square." 😊 A big thank you to all who took part. Our gratitude also to those Altar Guild members and friends who helped strip the altar following Maundy Thursday's Eucharist during Holy Week. We made a great team!

With appreciation,
Browyn and Diane

EfM seminar at St. John's

Congratulations to our 2023 Education for Ministry graduates: Brenda Freeman, Greta Muller Levis, Kathleen Sallee, Wendy Ware, and Kimberly Patterson. Cristine Mincheff also graduated, finishing her 4th year with a class she started in California. There were 10 participants in the 2023 class at St. John's led by Rev. Diana Wright. We now begin planning for the 2023/24 session that will start in September. Hopefully our five current students will return, and we will be able to recruit new students for year one. Registration for the 2023-24 class will be available this summer. Check out the [EfM](#) website for more information about the curriculum and program or contact the church office or Ed Gillott for more information.

"Education for Ministry (EfM) invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. EfM seminar groups meet in local settings and online, and provide a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity." This is not a class just for those seeking ordination. Every baptized person is called to ministry. The EfM program is administered by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, and the tuition is \$330. Since its inception in 1975, more

than 100,000 people have participated in this vital program. EfM groups meet regionally in nearly every diocese of The Episcopal Church, in six provinces of the Anglican Communion, and some in virtual classrooms with participants from across the globe.

Food at First - The [Food at First](#) program recently celebrated its 20th birthday. From its humble beginnings in 2003 serving one meal a week at the First United Methodist Church, Food at First is now a multi-dimensional feeding and food distribution program that serves a free meal every day at the First Christian Church, 611 Clark. Everyone is welcome and no questions are asked. They typically served over 100 meals every day!

- Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri Meals are served from 5:45 pm – 6:15 pm
- Saturday meal is 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

During the summer months, there is a critical need for volunteers to collect food from local restaurants and markets, and prepare meals for distribution. It takes an army of dedicated volunteers and support from the community to provide this critical ministry to the Ames community every day. For more information or to volunteer, go to <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/> or check out the latest post at <https://www.facebook.com/FoodAtFirst>

Join us for the 33rd annual Summer Ministry School &

June 23-25th at Grinnell College

WORSHIP. LEARN. RELAX.

Register by May 19th to take advantage of Early Bird pricing!

REGISTER AT:

events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?c=&ch=&



For over 30 years Episcopalians in Iowa have gathered for a weekend in the summer to learn church leadership skills, explore personal spirituality, or just find Sabbath time. Praying together sets a rhythm and tone for the weekend that culminates in Eucharist on Sunday morning. During the weekend, 8 hours are set aside for “track time” to get in-depth study in one track topic of your choice (track offerings change each year), or choose to do a solo retreat. Spend time catching up with friends and making new ones during meals and morning and evening social times, and enjoy free time built into the weekend’s schedule to socialize, rest, or do an activity.

2023 TRACK OFFERINGS:

STRENGTHEN CONGREGATIONS

TRACK 1: Transformative Worship in the Absence of a Priest -- *The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot*

TRACK 2: Nurturing Spiritually Vital Congregations -- *The Rev. Cn. Meg Wagner*

TRACK 3: What is a Deacon? -- *The Ven. Judith Crossett & The Rev. Patricia Johnson*

SUPPORT CLERGY & LAY LEADERSHIP

TRACK 4: Church Office Administrator Retreat -- *Ms. Elizabeth Adams & Ms. Tina Austin*

TRACK 5: Ministry Amid the Eldering Process -- *Mr. Bob Sessions & The Rev. Stacey Gerhart*

DEEPEN OUR CONNECTION TO GOD

TRACK 6: In Times Like Ours: The Prophets Speak Today -- *The Rev. Jean McCarthy*

TRACK 7: Deepening our Connection to God through Art and Storytelling -- *Ms. Alescha Caldwell*

TRACK 8: Into The Oneness -- *The Rev. Dr. Catherine Quehl-Engel*

TRACK 9: Solo Retreat/ Spiritual Direction*
*optional Come Away and Rest -- *Ms. Helen L. Keefe & The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland*

**EPIC Summer Camp (4th – 12th grade)
Christian Conference Center, Newton
June 26 – 30**



Join youth from around the diocese as we learn about Jesus: The Person, The Myth, The Legend. Jesus was a person and sometimes we forget that.

Our theme for EPIC focuses on the human being Jesus was. What did Jesus feel? How was his mental health? Did he deal with the same body aches I do? Come learn about Jesus and have fun doing typical "camp" things: Singing, roasting marshmallows, swimming, hiking, doing crafts and building community in a safe, welcoming environment where you can be 100% you. We have trained and caring staff who will walk alongside our youth and be there for them, whatever they need.

WHO: All youth entering grades 4-12 (not limited to Episcopalians!)

WHEN: June 26-30, 2023

WHERE: Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

HOW MUCH: \$375 per camper. Scholarships are always available!

Camp check-in is Monday, June 26 from 3-5 p.m., and pickup will be between 12-1 p.m. on Friday, June 30. Scholarships are always available and you can fill out the request form at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8SKXQ_8_zL3p1BNSv4d4arOltf8OSKeDXYxrsKO3I8LXJNg/viewform.

Community Conversation on Civility - June 6

The City of Ames is hosting a Community Conversation on "Civility in Conversations" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium at Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave. The event, rescheduled from April 4 due to inclement weather, will feature speaker Scott Raecker, Executive Director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. This interactive presentation will explore the importance of civility and civil discourse in addressing the challenges of mental health issues we face both from an individual perspective as well as public engagement.

Raecker will lead this interactive presentation, incorporating key strategies that focus on how individuals play a role in creating a culture of civility. Participants will engage in research-based strategies that foster a culture of civility through relationship-building, integrity, respect, and accountability.

The presentation will be livestreamed on the City of Ames YouTube channel (AmesTelevision or AmesChannel12) and saved to the video archives on the City of Ames website. This event supports Ames City Council's goal to identify opportunities to improve mental and physical wellness together with community partners and is the final in the current series of mental health Community Conversations. These events are free and open to the public. Get more information and view the Community Conversation video archives at www.cityofames.org/living/mental-health-initiative.

**The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
St John's by the Campus
April 26, 2023**

Present: Fr. Tom Early (Priest-in-Charge), Amy Mellies (Sr. Warden), Marlene Strathe (Jr. Warden), Leigh Ann Long (Clerk), Brenda Freeman, Diane Gillott, Debbie Haywood, Cristine Mincheff

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm with a reflection on Hymn 196 (The Hymnal 1982).

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of March 22, 2023 vestry meeting were approved.

Financial Reports: The February and March financial reports were presented. There was discussion on whether our Stewardship Share had been paid in a timely manner. Memorial policy needs to be reviewed and addressed.

New Business

1. Eastertide Conversation Early Findings
 - a. Children and Youth Ministry –
 - i. Next Fall we plan to offer a monthly Episcopal Youth Club for 6-12th graders. The meeting will start with a meal, then breakout into two cohorts: one for middle schoolers and one for high schoolers. The club might meet other times for service opportunities.
 - ii. Weekly Sunday School Formation will happen for K-5th grade.
 - iii. Sunday Nursery will be available from 9-11 am, with a commitment to offer childcare for other events. Nursery staff will be outsourced.
 - iv. Additionally, we hope to get youth more involved in the Sunday liturgy (acolytes, readers, Prayers of the People). A stretch goal would be a completely youth-led service.
 - b. Campus and Young Adult Ministry – A full report on this will be made at the May vestry meeting.
2. Newcomers Dinner – will be held May 10th.
3. Bookkeeping Quote – report from Diane Gillott and Marlene Strathe:
 - a. Received from Kara from GDG Services. She has worked with churches and non-profits before. She can do Accounts Payable and a Financial Statement compilation for \$250/month and can assist with preparing for a formal financial audit and generating financial planning reports. Payroll can begin at the beginning of the next quarter. She will not do check signing services; this and all stewardship planning will stay within the parish. Joan wishes the Finance Committee's input on this proposal, and the vestry will receive their report and move to vote later.
4. Payroll Retention Tax Credit Funds (CARES Act) – \$39,870.58 received on April 3rd.

Old Business

5. Phone and Internet - We have one main phone line that splits to the main office and Fr. Tom's office, plus a line for the security system. We may receive credit from CenturyLink for unused lines.
6. Credit Card Use Policies – model after Collegiate Methodist Church policy and/or style after the parish's key agreement. Could use a p-card model and have an upper limit on amount spent. Needs refinement still with Rachel and/or Kara.

7. EYE fundraiser - \$442.50 was raised from the Youth Breakfast. A bake sale may be held in June. It was asked if there would be camper scholarships available from the parish again this year.

Reports

1. Priest-in-Charge

- Pastor – I spent a good amount of time pastoring families who lost loved ones. As I spend more time here, I am happy to gain the trust of those transitioning from this world to the next. I was happy to spend the afternoon of Maundy Thursday with the group at Green Hills. I spent a few days journeying with a man experiencing acute mental illness along with his family. We will be revising the hours when the church doors are unlocked.
Several new people have attended here since my first starting. The wardens and I believe it is time to gather and offer a “newcomers” night. The wardens have offered to handle hospitality and I will be taking care of invitations.
- Priest – I am so thankful for the clergy and lay support in making this a very powerful Holy Week. In working with the staff and altar guild crafting Holy Week and Easter, our focus statement was to keep things simple, manageable, and meaningful. This became even more prescient as we added a funeral to the list of services during Holy Week and another one a couple of weeks later. I now plan to bring this mantra with us as the year continues and we experience more “firsts” as congregation and priest. We are working on a liturgy for graduates in May.
- Teacher – I have been pleased with the good work of Kathleen and Greta as coordinators of the Adult Forum. We meet before each coming liturgical season to coordinate themes and dream about future offerings.
- Councils of the Church: I continue to attend the diocesan program “Companions in Ministry.” I also became a founding member of The Young Adult Caucus of The Episcopal Church.

2. Sr. Warden

Thanks to Brenda Freeman, Greta Levis, and Debbie Haywood for supporting the Eastertide Conversation meetings.

3. Jr. Warden

Electrical/Lighting:

- Fluorescents replaced including up lighting in library/parlor.
- Altar area spot replaced; cross illumination light replaced
- Columbarium light replaced
- Exit signs replaced (3 remain to be replaced)
- Batteries replaced in two emergency lights (all others tested)
- Nave ceiling fixture light replaced; south entry spot replaced
- Sanctuary Lights: No longer make the replacement lights for the canister lights - Available bulbs @\$70/bulb; Led bulb replacements @ \$30/bulb; would need to replace all with new dimmer switch
- Parish hall: rebuilding circuit boards \$300/fixture. Exploring costs of new fixtures; Nothing identified as similar to current fixtures

Outside Issues:

- Determined that a new shed set on a concrete slab is a better long-term investment than shed floor and roof repair and leveling of the ground structure

- Fencing and shed appropriate to the area size identified at Menards; total cost of materials and labor estimated at \$2500
- Work schedule: remove shed and fence, pour concrete slab, rebuild fence, place new shed on slab.

Kitchen:

- Joanna Muggli has gathered one estimate for the cost of replacing the dishwasher/sanitizer and flooring replacement costs, but we need to get two more.

Other Items:

- Outside sign had been turned off; determining if this is a photocell/timer issue
- Exploring options for reaching the lighting which illuminates the belfry
- Sent the Long Term Maintenance Fund proposal to the finance committee for discussion
- Mulch secured for spring outside maintenance
- Lawn service (grass strip west of church) terminated service – need to explore other options
- Potential snow removal companies need to be contacted for potential bids

4. Parking Lot Committee

Conversations need to happen with renters about moving their vehicles on Sunday mornings – they could be towed and/or potentially lose their rented spot. Brenda Freeman asked if there were missions in the parish that wanted to work a football game Saturday fundraiser this fall.

Closing Prayer & Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by Leigh Ann Long, Clerk
Edited by Rachel Thevenot, Church Administrator