

Paw Prints *And* WoolKlippings



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January 2009

A Monthly Journal of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa
And Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Webster City, Iowa

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Day By Day – January 2009

No One Got Ahead By Looking In the Rear View Mirror

One of the most dramatic moments in the history of this hemisphere came in 1519 when Hernando Cortes landed his six hundred men on the east coast of Mexico. Once they were ashore and all the supplies had been unloaded, Cortes ordered the ships burned.

When hardships would develop on the expedition at hand, he did not want men whose attention was centered on easy trips back to Spain.

That little company of soldiers stood and watched those ships burn, knowing that any return to Spain would have to depend on new ships being constructed or new expeditions sent out.

In a symbolic way, every New Year is a time when old ships are burned and new ones built.

But there are so many people, we included, who still try to sail away in ships burned by time, who stand looking across an ocean of years to times and places that won't be again. And as we gaze back we fail to notice that we are standing on the shore of a continent of time and opportunity grand beyond description, if only we will claim it.

God is calling us, as individuals and as communities of faith, into the unborn future. What it will be is largely up to us. That is, tomorrow will be just as miserable and as unfulfilling as we choose to make it, or it will be as joyful and exciting as we choose to make it.

We like to say that the future is in God's hands,
and so it is,
but it is also undeniably in ours.
Let's build a happy one!

Love and Prayers,
Fr. Richard+, rector

Christmas For Us

Without God, Christmas would never be. But it is also true that we contribute to the unfolding of the liturgical drama of Christmas each year in a whole host of ways, which makes Christmas “for us,” uniquely crafted and memorable. At Good Shepherd, the service featured an inspired Christmas pageant, beautifully performed by the youth and children of the parish, and the graceful dance of Katie Vanderpool, daughter, Sophie and Katy Haberman. The production was directed by Barb Flowerday, with assistance from Nan and Larry Bucknam, and Kelly Ubben. A unique feature of the service at St. Mark’s was the singing of a Taizé chant before the proclamation of the Gospel. Both churches were wonderfully decorated for Christmas, thanks to the Altar Guild members and special assistants of both congregations. As always, the music was just heavenly! For the latter, we offer our special thanks to David, Cathy and Sarah Moglebust, Brett Ballman, Barb Flowerday, and Von Ketelsen.

LESSONS FOR JANUARY

January 4 – Christmas 2

First Lesson – Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm – 84
Second Lesson – Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Gospel – Matthew 2:113-15, 19-23

January 18 – 2 Epiphany

First Lesson – 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
Psalm – 139:1-5, 12-17
Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel – John 1:43-51

January 11 – 1 Epiphany Baptism of our Lord

First Lesson – Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm – 29
Second Lesson – Acts 19:1-7
Gospel – Mark 1:4-11

January 25 – 3 Epiphany

First Lesson – Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm – 62:6-14
Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel – Mark 1:14-20

Paw Prints For St. Mark’s



2009 Ecumenical Sunday Pulpit Exchange and Pew Rotation

On Sunday, January 11th, 10 congregations of the Fort Dodge Interfaith Forum are participating in a unique ecumenical event, exchanging for a Sunday morning their pastors and delegations of laity from their congregations. The purpose of this “pulpit and pew exchange” is to promote Christian unity within our community.

St. Mark's is hosting a group from Grace Lutheran Church composed of Pastor Mathew Martens and 5 lay members. Pastor Martens will be our preacher and celebrant. Fr. Richard will be headed for Grace Lutheran Church to preside at their service in the company of 5 members of our parish. In addition to attending the worship service, visiting delegations will be bringing a gift to present to their host church, having their pictures taken for the historical archives, and engaging in dialogue with their hosts following the service.

Other participating churches include: Christ Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Friendship Haven, The Salvation Army, First Congregational/UCC Church, First Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Damascus Road, and First Christian Church.

Following the visits on January 11th, there will be opportunities for teams to share their experiences with their home churches and to gather with all the participating teams for a structured reflection about how we might deepen our unity and witness to Christ.

If you are interested in directly participating in this program, either as a member of our visiting or hosting delegations, please speak to Fr. Richard.

Swaziland Report: Sunday, January 18th: Lydia Brown will be sharing with the parish her recent missionary adventure to Swaziland following the 9:00 a.m. service. She promises interesting stories and great pictures. Come and see!

Altar Wine Ingathering: On January 25th, as a way to more personalize our table fellowship, we will be gathering donations of wine to be used for our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in 2009. If you would like to contribute a wine donation, please bring an offering of Sheffield Tawny Port Wine. This brand is available at Hy-Vee Wine and Spirits (1511 2nd Ave N) and Karen's Spirits and Wine (328 2nd Ave S). Those making donations will be given the opportunity to designate their wine offering "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" as they deem to be appropriate.

First Sunday Food Ingathering: January 4th. Please bring PASTA!

Holy Baptism: Spencer Dale Peterson, son of Darci and Dale Peterson, was baptized at St. Mark's on Sunday, December 28th. Through this simple washing, Spencer was "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own, forever."

The sprouting of Christmas was made possible by Lana Wendland once again this year. The beautiful trees and wreaths make our Christmas celebration merry and bright. Many thanks.

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn: Our hearts go out to Pat and Hilary Galey, whose mothers, Ruth Galey and Kathleen West, died less than a week apart in December. We also pray for the family of Anne Hilsabeck, a faithful former member of St. Mark's, who died on December 19, 2008 and was buried from St. Mark's on December 23rd. "Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

“WOOLKLIPPINGS” FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd had so many blessings through the month of December. Our bazaar was extraordinarily successful – we were blessed with great weather, good friends, participants and the hungry hoard for 16 different kinds of soup. Many “friends” donated soup, baked goods, crafts and music. As of last count, we cleared about \$3000 for the bazaar and soup luncheon. It was great to see many of our partners in ministry from St. Mark’s, as always. Last year we were stunned when a car load appeared on icy blizzard roads. Our outreach from the proceeds will be determined soon. Each year is a testament to our church family working together to provide a witness of God’s presence in the world.

The 16th was a Sunday of hanging the greens and decorating the church. It was great to get it done early so we could celebrate on the 21st with our family Christmas party on the 21st. In spite of bad weather (blizzard), we managed to get 35 present for morning prayer, a carol sing accompanied by bells – the children loved that part – soup, sandwiches and dessert.

The Christmas Eve service was a beautiful blend of old and new – Father Richard had suggested a children’s pageant in lieu of the sermon. The children got together at 4:30 for a run-through. Our older class (all boys) were various narrators and the smaller ones were participants in the Christmas story. It’s been several years since we’ve had a Christmas pageant. What a welcome addition to the evening! The church was full – the rafters rang. Again we were blessed with Katie Vanderpool’s liturgical dance (oh, so beautiful it brought tears). And when daughter Sophie and Katy Haberman got up to dance with her – definite tears! The music was world class with Sarah Moglebust and fiancé Brett Ballman played trombone accompaniment to several hymns and Sarah’s beautiful voice soared! Barbara Flowerday and Cathy Moglebust’s bell selections were gorgeous. David, Cathy and Sarah sang. It was almost overwhelming. Definitely a high! All children (even guests) enjoyed receiving a special ornament from their Good Shepherd family. Special thanks to all of the people who added something to the service. Thanks to Nan and Larry Bucknam and Barbara Flowerday for the pageant production.

Bad weather again on the 28th meant morning prayer. But, it is a special service that we enjoy! We’ve been so blessed to have Father Richard; it is good to be reminded when we don’t have his presence.

Good Shepherd made generous donations to the Food pantry at Upper Des Moines Opportunity in November and December. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Housekeeping Duties for January 2009

ST. MARK'S

	January 4th	January 11th	January 18th	January 25th
Acolyte 9:00 a.m.	Lydia Brown	Brody O'Tool	Lydia Brown	Brody O'Tool
LR/CB 9:00 a.m.	Aaron Hudson	Georgiana Meadows	John Daniel	Holly Scherff
Altar Guild	Holly Scherff	Jane Martin	Margo Daniel	Joanne Tjelmeland
Coffee Servers	Cheri Crimmins & friends	Esther Merrill & Susan Derscheid	John & Mary Duro	Lisa Neet & Elaine Weidlein
Altar Flowers	John & Margo Daniel	Esther Merrill	John & Margo Daniel	OPEN
Sanctuary Candle	Esther Merrill	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Funeral Committee	Sharon Vogel, Chairman, Susan Derscheid, Esther Merrill, Volunteer			

GOOD SHEPHERD

	January 4th	January 11th	January 18th	January 25th
Acolyte 10:45 a.m.	Joel Haberman	Dustin Conley	Antrez Conley	Jake Haberman
LR/CB 10:45 a.m.	Deb Leksell	Judy McLaughlin	Lynn Flowerday	Barbara Flowerday
Lector 10:45am	Angela Martin-Schwarze	Joan Haberman	Tom McLaughlin	Steve Haberman
Altar Guild	OPEN			
Coffee Servers	OPEN			
Greeters	Gus Dermard	Katie Vanderpool	Lynn Flowerday	Michelle Haberman

Happy Birthday

2nd Dale Decker	4th Dianne Decker	4th Karen Vogel	5th Daniel Webb	6th Eric Elrod
12th Sarah Elrod	12th Bob Smith	15th Joanne Tjelmeland	19th Jamin Elrod	20th Michelene Cappas
21st Johnathan Wilaby	22nd Mark Daniel	22nd Maliq McCaleb	23rd Alyssa Anderson	25th Valerie Dodge
26th Janet Witt	29th Antrez Conley	29th Jacob Martin	30th Brittany Wendland	31st Deb Conley

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AND

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
6:00 p.m. - Wednesdays - Taizé

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
11:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist