

Paw Prints & WoolKlippings



Volume 34, No. 2
March 2010

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

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Been Interrupted lately?

Most of us hate to be interrupted.

There is nothing more frustrating than being focused on something important or necessary - studying for a test, paying the bills, baking a pie, completing an important task at work - and having to suddenly stop everything to pay attention to something else -- an unexpected phone call, a knock at the door, a call from your neighbor from over the back fence. Or when you are just trying to focus on being relaxed, in a social atmosphere, a party, and someone comes over and brings up something work-related.

A doctor and a lawyer were trying to have a discussion at a party. However, their conversation was constantly being interrupted by people asking the doctor for free medical advice about their operations, pains, and so on. After a half hour of this, the exasperated doctor turned to the lawyer.

"What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"Oh, I give it to them, and then I send them a bill," replied the lawyer casually.

The doctor was shocked, but it sounded practical and decided he might give it a try.

The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor was undecided about the course of action the lawyer had advised. Then when he opened his mail, he found a bill from the lawyer.

We tend to think life would run more smoothly if we could limit, if not eliminate, life's interruptions. Maybe, following the example of the lawyer, if we started to send people who interrupt us bills, we would get along better, things would improve.

The late Henri Nouwen, great Catholic teacher, minister, said in the prime of his career he became frustrated by the many interruptions to his work. He was teaching at Notre Dame. He had a heavy agenda each day and didn't like to be disturbed. Then one day it dawned on him that his interruptions were his work.

Someone has said, "Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans!" And whoever that someone was, he or she was on to something!

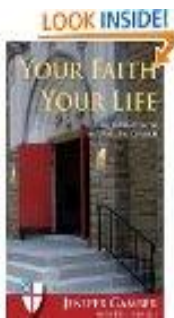
It is probably wise for us to remember how Jesus dealt with life's interruptions, for did not merely tolerate them. He embraced them.

Never seeing just crowds but always people and reaching out to touch them, healing them, making them whole. When it came to life's interruptions, he was no miser of miracles, no pinch penny guardian of grace. He lavished people with the power of his grace. And for Jesus, his loving, his caring

and his concern for needy people, never followed a rigid schedule, but often happened when he was making other plans.

To echo Henri Nouwen, "Interruptions were Jesus' work." And if we, his followers, are to faithful to the vision of his work, they need to be ours also.

Love and prayers, Fr. Richard



2010 Lenten Program

If you are new to the Episcopal Church, or a life-long member who is looking for the opportunity to brush up on your understanding of our faith tradition, please join us for worship, some good food, and a lively discussion. Our Lenten study is already underway, exploring some of the rich dimensions of our faith heritage as Episcopalians. The text for the study is the newly published, *Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church*, by Jenifer Gamber and Bill Lewellis.

This program is being offered at both St. Mark's and Good Shepherd. The dates and times are:

Wednesdays at St. Mark's: March 3, 10, 17, and 24. 6:00 pm Taize Eucharist followed by simple meal and study.

Thursdays at Good Shepherd: March 4, 11, 18, and 25. 6:00 pm Worship followed by simple meal and study.

LESSONS FOR MARCH

March 7 - Lent 3

1st Lesson - Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm - 63:1-8

2nd Lesson - 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel - Luke 13:1-9

March 14 - Lent 4

1st Lesson - Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm - 32

2nd Lesson - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

February 21 - Lent 5

1st Lesson - Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm - 126

2nd Lesson - Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel - John 12:1-8

March 28 - Palm Sunday

1st Lesson - Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm - 31:9-16

2nd Lesson - Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel - Luke 22:14-23:56

Paw Prints for St. Mark's



Shrove Tuesday: Our pre-Lenten party was a success like last year's bash, only more so! We had clowns to entertain us and Von Ketelsen dropped in to strum his guitar for us. We had great participation and wonderful food. Holly Scherff is one great short-order cook, able to multi-task with the greatest of ease. Her pancakes were huge and hot, delighting the over 100 community patrons who came to feast on them. A free will offering was taken to help with the recovery in Haiti. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took part.



Vestry Retreat: Fr. Richard and the Vestry met on Saturday, February 27, for a time of relationship building and program planning. We began with each participant talking about a special object that he or she had been asked to bring, connecting the object to a story that had special meaning and significance. We then went through the list of accomplishments we achieved in 2009. To mention some of the highlights, we renewed our community room, explored new directions in our worship, reinstated the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, created a number of successful fellowship events, built an ecumenical partnership with Grace Lutheran Church, held two Vestry Planning days, and established a weekly Sunday School program, Godly Play, for our children. As part of our retreat, we elected new officers of the Vestry for 2010. Elected to serve were John Daniel, Senior Warden; Lydia Schmoker, Junior Warden; and John Duro, Vestry Clerk. We had a great time and are grateful to Holly Scherff, who made us a wonderful lunch. Looking ahead, we are planning to establish a Worship Committee to bring enrichment into this vital area of our common life and an educational series that focuses on some of the great religious traditions of the world: Islam, Buddhism, American Indian, Hinduism, and Judaism. Additionally, we would like to have some lively fellowship events. If you have any ideas, please share them!



Via Media: On Sundays during Lent, following the 9:00 a.m. service, Aaron Hudson is leading a program about our Anglican tradition that is based on an excellent DVD series, *Via Media*. This study compliments the Wednesday evening program about the Episcopal Church that is being facilitated by Fr. Richard.

"WOOLKLIPPINGS" FROM GOOD SHEPHERD



The **Mark Whaley Benefit** is coming up on Friday, March 19th at the Moose Lodge, starting 5:30 p.m. A joint effort of Good Shepherd, the Webster City Fire Department and Mark's Harley Club, the event includes a silent and live auction, raffle prizes, great food (free will donation asked), and a live band, Vinyl. Checks should be made out to Mark Whaley Benefit and sent to First State Bank in Webster City. For more information, please contact Barb Flowerday or Deb Leksell.



Amy Mechaelsen, Good Shepherd's dedicated child care provider was named employee of the month at Southfield Wellness Community. She works, takes classes at Iowa Central, and comes every Sunday for our children.



The women of Good Shepherd are invited to observe the **World Day of Prayer** from 11:00 AM to 1:30 P.M. on Friday, March 5, 2010 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The program "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God" was prepared by the women of Cameroon, Africa. The event will include music filled worship, a meal of Cameroonian foods, and an offering taken for grants to assist women and children in need around the world. Loween Getter encourages us "to have at least ten members of our congregation" attend. Please contact Judy McLaughlin by March 1, if you would like a reservation.



The women of Asbury United Methodist Church invite us to join for **Women's Lenten Luncheons** each Tuesday February 23 through March 30. Serving commences at 11:45 A.M. The cost is \$5.00 per meal. Please call reservations to Asbury by the Monday prior to the Tuesday meal. Child care will be provided, but each parent should provide a sack lunch for their child. Devotions will follow the meal and last no more than 20 minutes.



Snow Removal News: Mike Sherwood, the school superintendent, has agreed to have school employees move the snow on our lot on school days. Brandon Hayes will continue to move the snow on the weekends. We are grateful for Mr. Sherwood's generosity.

Housekeeping Duties for March 2010

ST. MARK'S

	March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th
Acolyte 9:00 a.m.	Callan Anderson	Brody O'Tool	Trey Anderson	Kaelly Scherff
LR/CB 9:00 a.m.	Mary Beth Rice	Georgiana Meadows	John Daniel	Holly Scherff
Altar Guild				
Coffee Servers	Jane Martin	Ed & Joanne Tjelmeland	Cheri Cerwick	Tom & Pam Anderson
Altar Flowers	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Joanne Tjelmeland
Sanctuary Candle	Esther Merrill	Esther Merrill	OPEN	OPEN
Funeral Committee	Sharon Vogel, Chairman, Susan Derscheid, Esther Merrill, Volunteer			

GOOD SHEPHERD

	March 7th	March 14th	March 21st	March 28th
Acolyte 10:45 a.m.	Dustin Conley	Zeb Katschke	Katie Haberman	Antrez Conley
LR/CB 10:45 a.m.	Lynn Flowerday	Robbie Katschke	Deb Leksell	Judy McLaughlin
Lector 10:45am	Nan Bucknam	Angie Martin-Schwarze	Steve Haberman	Tom McLaughlin
Altar Guild	Cathy			
Coffee Servers	OPEN			
Greeters	Tom McLaughlin	Gus Derman	Michelle Haberman	Lynn Flowerday

Happy Birthday

2nd Sarah Seaba	3rd Casey Miller	4th Chris Moglebust	5th Samantha Ubben	6th Josh Lubbers
7th Jackie Anderson	10th Elizabeth Derman Alt	12th Rick Alt	13th Matt Batterson	14th Rachel Kersten
15th Anna Bacon	15th Larry Bucknam	16th Laura Simms	17th Calypso Gray	17th Hannah Galey
17th Floyd Hale	18th Dustin Conley	18th Kylie Wendland	19th Heather Walker	21st Hazel Doran
21st Liz Leksell	23rd Cathy Moglebust	23rd Kathleen Vanderpool	27th Roberta Katschke	27th Tom Walters
29th Ed Tjelmeland	31st Lori Wilaby			