

# Paw Prints & WoolKlippings



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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 – April 2009



### Find God Where You Are

The Jesuit theologian, John Shea, in his book, [The God Who Fell From Heaven](#), captures the presence of God in human life in a prayer that headlines the work: It goes like this:

If you had stayed, tight fisted in the sky, and watched us thrash like all the patience of a pipe-smoker,  
then I would have prayed like a golden bullet aimed at your heart.

But the story said you cried, and so heavy was the tear you fell with it to earth,  
where, like a baritone in a bar, it is never time to go home.

And so you move among us, twisting every straight line into Picasso,  
stealing kisses from pinched lips,  
holding our hands in the dark,  
stroking the hair of repentance, making clay for the eyes of night.

So now when I pray,  
I sit and turn my mind like a television knob until you are there,  
with your large open hands spreading my life before me like a Sunday tablecloth,  
and pulling up a chair yourself,  
for by now, the secret is out:  
**YOU ARE HOME!**

God lives among us, "twisting, stealing, holding, stroking, making" us. We don't have to book a flight to the Holy Land, or visit Canterbury, or even go to church to be in the divine presence. God, as the poet William Blake, observed, "is not far off, but near." Find God where you are.

# Paw Prints for St. Mark's



## **Pilgrimage to New Melleray Abbey**

**Saturday, May 16, 2009 Cost: \$10.00**

On the third Saturday in May, St. Mark's and Grace Lutheran will embark on a pilgrimage together, a spiritual journey to a Trappist monastery in Postia, Iowa. The trip is a follow on to the ecumenical sharing that took place in January, when the two congregations participated in the Pulpit Exchange and Pew Rotation Program. This will be a small group adventure, limited to 15 participants, since the Abbey kitchen can only accommodate a group this size for lunch and still meet the dietary needs of the other groups on retreat that day. Chuck Offenburger, the long time columnist for the Des Moines Register, considers New Melleray Abbey, a Trappist Monastery located near Dubuque, to be one of the top ten places in Iowa to visit. The itinerary for the pilgrimage is as follows:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Gather at Grace Lutheran                          |
| 8:30 a.m.  | Depart For New Melleray                           |
| 10:15 a.m. | Arrive at Abbey; Tour and orientation to setting. |
| 11:45 a.m. | Brief Daily Office with Monks                     |
| Noon       | Lunch at the Abbey                                |
| 1:00 p.m.  | Reflection  |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Tour of New Melleray Casket Factory               |
| 3:00 p.m.  | Depart for Fort Dodge                             |
| 5:00 p.m.  | Arrive at Grace Lutheran                          |

If will not be going on this trip, but wish to have such an experience, fear not! There will be other trips to special places coming up in the future.



## **D/SAOC ANNUAL CAKE AUCTION**

St. Mark's Human Needs Commission donated a gift and cake to the D/SAOC Annual Cake Auction this year on 04/04/09. The gift was a highchair and gift items related to meal times.

The cake auctioned with the gift was the creation of Georgiana Meadows. It matched the cover on the highchair. Our donation brought in \$225.00 for D/SAOC's programs.

Thank you to Georgiana for her creative flair and the time she took to make and decorate the cake and to Shelley Hatcher (Elaine's co-worker) who arranged the items within the highchair. Each year Shelley's artistry makes our gift look so appealing and shows off everything in the best way.



## **ST MARK'S HUMAN NEEDS COMMISSION RUMMAGE SALE GETTING CLOSER**

Our annual rummage sale will be Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please keep us in mind as you do your spring-cleaning and go through cupboards, closets, garages, etc. We need donations of all your old knick knacks, dishware, linens, clothing, books, furniture, tools and home decorations. We do not accept winter clothing (it just doesn't sell in May). Please donate only those items that are GENTLY used. Items must be clean and usable. Items can now be brought to Taylor Hall. We have placed some things already along the far wall. Please try to keep this area as neat as possible as you place your donations.

We're having another raffle along with the rummage sale. Our raffle item this year is a Nintendo DSi. We paid \$180.00 for it and we think this will be a popular item. In addition to the games to be played, it has wireless Internet capability and you can use it as a camera and can store music too. We are asking for donations towards this purchase. Perhaps your business or your family would like to make a donation. Please contact Elaine Weidlein at 408-2705 or notify Marilyn. Checks will go through her and can be made out to St. Mark's Human Needs Commission. Please note that you are donating towards the raffle.

Remember that all proceeds for the rummage sale and raffle go to stock the Baby's Room at Upper Des Moines Opportunity. This has been St. Mark's project for many years but the need to keep it stocked for parents and babies in our community continues.

We also welcome volunteers to help prepare Taylor Hall, price the items and to work the day of the sale. We always have a good time and it's an opportunity to get to know your friends at St. Mark's better. Upper Des Moines Opportunity staff are partnering with us again. They are a wonderful group of people too. GOOD SHEPHERD members – We welcome any sale items you want to donate or any other participation. Give Elaine a call.



**Easter Thanks:** We have a great Altar Guild, headed by Mary Duro; a core of gifted Lay Readers and Servers; and such talented musicians – Dave and Cathy Moklebust, Von Ketelsen, and our St. Mark's Chorus. Together, they set a terrific tone for our corporate welcoming of the miracle of Christ's resurrection. Be sure to thank them personally for sharing their talents with us.



**Renewed Room Debuts:** In a short span of about six weeks, we have gone from the idea of renovating the former Fireside Room to the reality of it! Yes, the first phase of work is complete and on Easter Day we enjoyed our first after-service coffee hour in the space. We are so thankful for the efforts of our four project teams: Design, Communication and Fundraising, Work, and Hospitality! You all did a wonderful job! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

### **Ecumenical Gathering at St. Mark's in May**

St. Mark's has been asked to host the Fort Dodge Interfaith Forum Annual Meeting this year. A catered dinner is planned for this May 16<sup>th</sup> event, which will require no effort on our part to serve a meal and we are free to just enjoy the festivities. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

## **LESSONS FOR MAY**

### **May 3 – Easter 4**

First Lesson – Acts 4:5-12

Psalm – 23

Second Lesson – 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel – John 10:11-18

### **May 10 – Easter 5**

First Lesson – Acts 8:26-40

Psalm – 22:24-30

Second Lesson – 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel – John 15:1-8

### **May 17 – Easter 6**

First Lesson – Acts 10:44-48

Psalm – 98

Second Lesson – 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel – John 15:9-17

### **May 24 – Easter 7**

First Lesson – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm – 1

Second Lesson – 1 John 5:9-13

Gospel – John 17:6-19

### **May 31 – Whitsunday**

First Lesson – Acts 2:1-21

Psalm – 104:25-35, 37b

Second Lesson – Romans 8:22-27

Gospel – John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



## “WOOLKLIPPINGS” FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

Our matriarch, Jan Marvel, passed away Sunday morning, April 19th at Southfield. She was surrounded by loving family and had received many visits during her last several days from friends, her church family and Fr. Peg Jackson. Jan was a founding member of Good Shepherd church and fully deserving of the term “matriarch” – but she was no “gate-keeper” – rather, she was a “gather-er in of souls”. Jan was willing to be vulnerable to rejection by actively inviting people through the years to Good Shepherd. (I know, because she called me every Christmas and Easter for 3 years asking if she could pick me up for the service because I had once darkened the door of Good Shepherd. Even though I never took her up on the offer, eventually, she became my “church mom”).

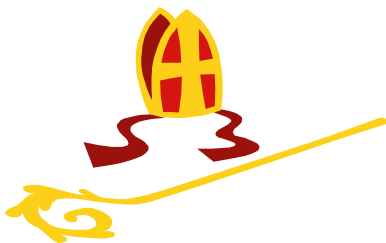
Jan played the organ for Good Shepherd for over 40 years and never lost her joy and appreciation of music. She was still keeping time with daughter Judy for her piano lessons. We “planned” her celebration of life 5 times (sometimes with her participation) until the “energizer bunny” just wound down. So, it was a joyous send-off. Someone commented, “they didn’t have a funeral, they had a party!”

And we did. Tuesday night, the family, church family, close friends and Southfield staff filled the church for Eucharist and a gathering followed in the church hall. Wednesday was a beautiful day and a happy celebration. About 160 people attended the service. David played a magnificent Russian Easter as a prelude – happy hymns chosen by Jan were sung – the Episcopal funeral rite cannot be beaten for its brevity and beauty. The congregation walked out singing the Iowa Fight Song!

We performed our magical transformation of the church hall during the interment into a feast for the senses – great food too!

Jan taught all of us what church community means. She taught many of us how to be a Mom and a Grandma. She was a Grandma for all of the children of Good Shepherd. So, our matriarch has passed. We’ll miss her. But the torch does pass on. Can you spell matriarch?... J-U-D-Y.

Love you, Jan...  
Debby



### **Bishop Scarfe Visits Good Shepherd**

We welcomed our Bishop for his yearly visit on the afternoon on April 25<sup>th</sup> for conversation, worship, and a spectacular meal.

Our conversation included the church renovation project (he really liked what he saw!), our ongoing Sunday School program, our desire to have a parenting class for those who are looking for assistance in raising their children in the faith, and the need to offer adults in the congregation who are new to our church and the Episcopal way the opportunity to learn about our way of living out the Good News!

Bishop Scarfe believes our tradition, which really began as a way to bring warring Protestants and Catholic together in Common Prayer, has much to offer people today who are looking for a faith that is both Protestant and Catholic, and, when we are at our best, seeks to find unity in the midst of theological diversity. He was quick to add that, sadly, in recent years we seem to have not been at our best, but he holds out hope that some of the issues that have divided us so will fade into the background as we reaffirm our common resolve to love and serve Christ.

Our Liturgy was moving. The Bishop celebrated and preached. In his sermon he reminded us that we are God's children, beloved in God's sight. He invited us to remember this every time we looked into a mirror, that beneath the warts and wrinkles we are children of the Most High. We shared the bread and wine, so full of Christ's presence, and found in these simple gifts healing for our souls and strength for our busy lives

After the Eucharist, we enjoyed a different kind of meal in the parish hall. The tables were overflowing with sandwiches and salads and deserts. At one point the Bishop was heard to say, "And I thought the fare would be light!" Next time he will know better. When it comes to meals at Good Shepherd, they are never light!

It was an honor to host such a good and talented man, one who, in the midst of living out an impossible vocation, still possesses such a lively faith!



### **Good Shepherd Youth Has Speed!**

Joel Haberman was the overall winner in a 5K run in Clarion. Yes, that's right, he bested everyone, young and old, alike. Not bad when you consider that Joel is but 12 years old and, as his father says, "He doesn't even train!" Apparently, these days Joel is not as concerned with his running as he is with his wrestling, but if he ever decides to lace up his Nikes in earnest, he is going to make some track coach very happy! Congratulations, Joel!



Habhab Construction completed the first phase of our remodeling project on April 17. The altar area was lowered and the side walls and ceiling of the sanctuary were covered with new wood treatments. Additional remodeling ideas include the installation of a window above the altar (and maybe another window high on the back wall) and doing something with our restrooms. We are so grateful to Don Katschke for providing such effective leadership in coordinating the work thus far and for the twelve people who appeared the day after the work was completed to clean the church and hall. We even had some little hands hard at work. We are grateful also to everyone who is contributing financially to the effort!