



Paw Prints & Woolklippings

September 2010

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

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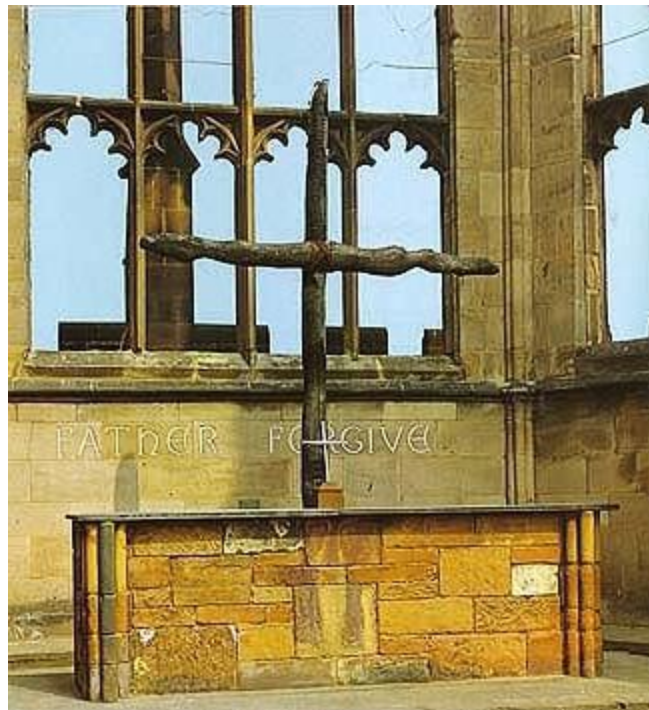
Good Shepherd's Website: goodshepherdwc.org

FATHER FORGIVE

I am sharing my monthly column with the Bishop of New York, the Right Reverend Mark Sisk, who has written a fine article on the dispute over the building of a Mosque near the epicenter of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on New York City. I agree with the Bishop's call to "not let our emotions lead us into the error of persecuting or condemning an entire religion for the sins of its most misguided adherents."

But I also want to share a thought with you about another horrific attack that took place near the end of World War II, and how the victims in that case chose to respond to the perpetrators of the attack.

Do you recall because you lived through it or perhaps read about it after the fact in a History class, the senseless bombing of Coventry, England, by the German air force? Like Dresden, target, but was fire bombed devastated and the glorious charred shell.



When the decision was made to build a new Cathedral, it was decided to retain the destroyed Cathedral as a living memorial. In the wall behind the altar of this Cathedral Provost directed that two words be carved into the red sandstone, their letters a foot high: FATHER FORGIVE.

Many people were outraged by the decision and the Provost was roundly criticized for it. Citizens responsible for such an unspeakable act ever be even expressed a shred of remorse? Yet, using Jesus' words from the cross, the Cathedral leader chose to echo in stone the

mission: reconciliation. FATHER FORGIVE. Two simple words. Inscribed in the days following the bombing, they seem to point to the men flying the now-silent planes and to the people below as well.

The prayer invokes not human aid but divine will. Two words which may seem wholly inappropriate, too impossible to embrace.

But then we are reminded. "There is a hard law," noted Alan Paton, "that when a deep injury is done to us, we never recover until we forgive."

Love and Prayers, Fr. Richard

August 24, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Diocese of New York

I am writing to tell you that I wholeheartedly join other religious and civic leaders in calling on all parties involved in the dispute over the planned lower Manhattan Islamic community center and mosque to convert a situation that has sadly become ever more divisive into, as Archbishop Timothy Dolan recently stated, "an opportunity for a civil, rational, loving, respectful discussion."

The plan to build this center is, without doubt, an emotionally highly-charged issue. But as a nation with tolerance and religious freedom at its very foundation, we must not let our emotions lead us into the error of persecuting or condemning an entire religion for the sins of its most misguided adherents.

The worldwide Islamic community is no more inclined to violence than any other. Within it, however, a struggle is going on - between the majority who seek to follow a moderate, loving religion and the few who would transform it into an intolerant theocracy intent on persecuting anyone, Muslim or otherwise, with whom they disagree. We should all, as Christians, reach out in friendship and love to the peaceful Islamic majority and do all in our power to build and strengthen bridges between our faiths. We should also all remember that the

violence and hateful behavior of the extremist are not confined to any one religion. Over the centuries we Christians have numbered more than a few among us who have perpetrated unspeakable atrocities in Christ's name. I must admit that I also have a more personal connection with this issue. At the Episcopal Diocese of New York we know the leaders of this project, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf and his wife Daisy Khan. We know that they are loving, gentle people, who epitomize Islamic moderation. We know that as Sufis, they are members of an Islamic sect that teaches a universal belief in man's relationship to God that is not dissimilar from mystic elements in certain strains of Judaism and Christianity. Feisal Abdul Rauf and Daisy Khan are, without question, people to whom Christians of good will should reach out with the hand of hospitality and friendship, as they reach out to us. I understand and support their desire to build an Islamic center, intended in part to promote understanding and tolerance among different religions.

For these reasons I applaud the positions taken by Governor Patterson, Mayor Bloomberg and others and look forward to furthering the efforts to resolve this issue. I am convinced, aided and guided by the One God who is creator of all, that people of goodwill can find a solution that will strengthen, rather than divide, the human condition.

The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of New York

Seminary News

This past week we received the following e-mail from Aaron and Clara, providing details of their arrival in Austin, Texas. RG

Greetings everyone,

We made it to the seminary! I arrived yesterday, got settled into my new place thanks to Mary Cole-Duvall and Karen Voss, and had nice dinner and prayer with them last night before they went off to their guest suite. The seminary is small and comfortable. Everyone has been nice and welcoming. My apartment is simple and adequate and also comfortable. I'm in a good location close to the stairs, the pool, and a short walk to the seminary across the street. I face the University of Texas area to the south. Clara is adjusting to her new surroundings--watching the new squirrels and birds, complaining about the heat, and trying to figure out why she can't be out much. Phoebe is chalking it up to another move and is grooming and sleeping like normal.

Thanks for all of your love and support in getting here and please keep in touch.

Peace,
Ah

PAW PRINTS FROM ST. MARK'S



Church School Begins on September 13th, 9:00 a.m. Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Designed for children ages 3 to 7, the program helps them to approach faith development, not just intellectually, but by using all of their senses. We are blessed at St. Mark's to have not only a wonderful Godly Play classroom, located on the lower level of the Martin Memorial Building, but also a certified teacher, Georgiana Meadow, who will coordinate the program. Come and have fun!

Parish Briefs

➡ Youth News. . . On Sunday, August 22nd, our youth sponsored a school supplies' ingathering to benefit Butler School. Organized by **Youth Director Lydia Schmoker**, the supplies have been delivered to the school and the teachers are very grateful to have them for those students who need them. Lydia urges the parish to buy supplies now for future ingatherings, as our local stores are presently offering big discounts. . . ALSO, several of our young people, including **Kaelly Scherff, Karen Vogel, Toddy Svoboda, Zoe Bratland, Rachel Essing, Jessica Gilley, Linda Springer and Reed Westerhoff** are involved in the **Youth Happening** over the Labor Day holiday weekend. A peer led conference designed for high school youth, **Happening** is a renewal program of the Episcopal Church that gives participants a direct experience of building a Christian community. The event is being hosted at the Cathedral in Davenport and Fr. Richard is serving on the staff as a spiritual director. ➡ St. Mark's member **Bob Smith** has gifted us with a new holy water font as a memorial to honor his beloved spouse, **Lois**. It will be dedicated on Sunday, September 12, during the 9:00 a.m. service. **Bob** is also giving a hand carved *Christus Rex*, imported from Italy, which, once it arrives from overseas, will be installed in a suitable place in our sanctuary. ➡ **Christine Schiltz** will be offering an adult education series about the **Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry** on two Sundays this fall --September 26 and October 10-- following our 9:00 a.m. liturgy. Christine, a former Benedictine Nun and a certified Healing Touch Ministry Practitioner, holds an M-Div degree from the Methodist School of Theology, Delaware, Ohio. Her presentations will explore the roots of healing ministry in both the Jewish and Christian scriptures and acquaint participants with simple skills to do healing ministry - prayer, hands-on healing, and anointing with healing oils. ➡ A BIG THANK YOU to **Jane Martin, Susan Derscheid, Esther Merrill, Celeste Rice, and Mary Beth Rice** for volunteering to staff our office over a three day period while Parish Secretary Kris Christy-Hogan attended an out-of-state wedding.

➡ In case you haven't heard, **Ray Brown, Brownie's Cafe**, is open for breakfast on Sunday mornings from 7:00 AM until 11:00. It was good to visit with Ray and his faithful friend, Bandit at Aaron & Clara's party. It was quite a day at St. Mark's with three dogs in attendance. ➡ **Parish History:** We recently found a box of pictures and other items from long ago. They are now in the safe in the church office. There are a few pictures on display in Taylor Hall. Everything will be on display in Taylor Hall in early October at coffee after services. Please come by, take a look at the display, and help identify the pictures. ➡ Our annual **Saturday Night Out Community Supper**, formerly known as the Wahkonsa Dinner, is Saturday, September 25th, so please, if you can help with food and/or donating paper products for bingo, please let Fr. Richard know. WELCOME! ➡ By now most of you have met **Lana Emrys**. Lana has been actively participating in parish life for the past few months. She worked at CFR as a counselor alongside Aaron Hudson. Clara would spend most of her day at work with Lana while Aaron was out attending to other matters. Lana now has a new work companion, Liberty, a 12-week old Golden Retriever, of course. ➡ **Paul and Katie Riehl and sons, Calvin & Oliver**, have been attending on a regular basis since August 8th. Their next door neighbor, **Jane Martin**, invited them to come to church with her and they are so pleased with the warm welcome they have received. Paul works in the family insurance business in Badger, and Katie is a nursing student. Calvin started Kindergarten at Cooper, and Oliver will be 3 in October. Paul, as Assistant Grillmaster, was a big help to **Tom Martin** grilling burgers at the farewell party we had for Aaron Hudson. We also were happy to welcome **Beth Collin, Jeff Terry**, and their new baby, **Nash**. Beth is Lynn Seaba's sister. ➡ ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU to **Jane Martin** for conducting research to identify material for our September newsletter.

WOOLKLIPPINGS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD



The **ANNUAL GATHERING, Sunday, September 12th**, will begin with a breakfast of pancakes, sausage & scrambled eggs starting at 10 a.m., followed by the Eucharist at 11 a.m., and then games for kids of ALL ages on the church lawn. Please contact **Joan Haberman or Tom McLaughlin** if you will be in attendance so we can be prepared for breakfast. Guests and friends are **WELCOME** at Good Shepherd anytime but especially for the **GATHERING**.



Inside the Congregation

➡ At our **GATHERING** we will be honoring our dedicated child care provider, **Amy Mechaelsen**. Amy has worked with us and around us and our activities for the last 5-6 years. Amy has moved to Ames and is "loving" her work at an assisted living facility about a block from her apartment. Our new child care provider is **Cassie Crick**. ➡ **St. Margaret's Guild** gave \$25.00 to Upper Des Moines for the "back to school" program and \$25.00 to All Cultures Equal for the Family Literacy Book Bag Project. A thank you from **Leslie Kauffman** is on the vestment cabinet for everyone to read. ➡ Regular Church School classes will start on Sunday, Sept 19th, at 11 a.m. **Michelle Haberman** will be teaching classes in Sept. ➡ Good Shepherd traveled to St. Mark's for a joint congregational celebration in honor of **Aaron Hudson (and Clara!)**. Aaron is heading for seminary in Austin, Texas, and we enjoyed a fabulous service with wonderful music. The party in the parish hall featured terrific food, doggy bingo, and, yes, a Jell-O and whipped cream eating contest. Speaking of canines, did you know that one reason why a dog is such a lovable creature is that his tail wags instead of his tongue! ➡ Our **Webster City Vision Project** is producing results for our city on a number of fronts: we are working with Power Up Youth and the City to get block parties started. Additionally, we are working on a volunteer clearing house, helping citizens to put their talents and gifts to work on a project for which they have passion. The city is completely behind this effort to encourage volunteerism and is even giving free t-shirts to community members who give four hours for a good cause! ➡ The **Webster City Ministerial Association** has designated Sunday, October 10, for its annual pulpit exchange. **Fr. Richard** is preaching at the Church of Christ and their pastor, **Ray Artrip**, will be visiting Good Shepherd. Holly Scherff will be officiating that day. ➡ Our Oktoberfest is just around the corner . . . a date for the event will soon be announced. Just a brief reminder from the Bazaar/Soup Lunch Committee that the **Good Shepherd Bazaar is Saturday, December 4th**. Many hands make light work and all gifts are gratefully accepted and appreciated.

HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES SEPTEMBER 2010

ST. MARK'S

	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>LR/CB</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Servers</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>	<i>Sanctuary Candle</i>
September 5	Kaelly Scherff	John Duro	*Joanne Tjelmeland	Tom & Pam Anderson		Esther Merrill
September 12	Brody O'Tool	Mary Beth Rice	Jane Martin	Esther Merrill & Susan Derscheid		
September 19	Toddy Svoboda	Georgiana Meadows	Cheri Cerwick	John & Vicky Daniel	John & Margo Daniel	
September 26	Callan Anderson	Jacob Martin	Sue Blanchard	Lisa Neet & Elaine Weidlein		
	Funeral Committee: Mary Duro, Chairman; Kathy Walters, Volunteer					

GOOD SHEPHERD

	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>LR/CB</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Servers</i>	<i>Greeters</i>
September 5	Katie Haberman	Deb Leksell	Adam Martin-Schwarze		Joan & Al Haberman	Michelle Haberman
September 12	Zac Katschke	Cathy Moglebust	Lynn Flowerday		Joan & Al Haberman	Katie Haberman
September 19	Zeb Katschke	Robbie Katschke	Barbara Flowerday		Joan & Al Haberman	Gus Dermand
September 26	Noelle Katschke	Lynn Flowerday	Joan Haberman		Joan & Al Haberman	Kelly Ubben

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 – Chris Wilaby
 8 – Art Bacon
 8 – Paul Wendland II
 11 – Emily Dermand
 14 – Al Haberman

15 – Bruce Walker
 17 – Jane Dermand Oswald
 18 – Quincy McCaleb
 19 – Olivia Daniel
 20 – Zac Katschke

22 – Danielle Bundy
 23 – Victor Vanderpool
 26 – Mary Murphy
 28 – Linda Mood
 30 – Dodie Wood

