



Paw Prints & Woolklippings



September 2015

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

The Rev. Elaine Caldbeck, Rector and Vicar: stmarks50501@frontiernet.net
Admin Support: stmarksadmin@frontier.com

St. Mark's: 515-576-2019 St. Mark's Fax: 515-576-0632 Rev. Caldbeck: 515-570-9869 Good Shepherd: 515-832-2707

St. Mark's Web Site: www.stmarksfdia.org Good Shepherd's Website: www.goodshepherdwcia.org

Our Church, What Is Next?

Dear Folks,

I've just begun to get acquainted with you and wanted to convey what is next. As some of you may know, Saturday, August 15, 2015, Bishop Alan Scarfe came to meet with the St. Mark's vestry. Not all of the vestry were able to attend, and in part this letter is to share with the rest of vestry and congregations the information conveyed by the Bishop. The hope is to clarify my role as well as your roles in moving forward. For now, also know that my office hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am to 11:30 am. My schedule is flexible, feel free to call me to set up meetings beyond that window. 515-570-9869. Monday is my day off.

A significant theme at St. Mark's is whether or not people communicate frequently enough or with clarity. The bishop separated this into at least two issues. The most important concern is trust. That it is very difficult for all of us to move into the future and let go of the past if we haven't developed trust among us. Without trust, it is hard to listen and actually hear each other. The second is a lack of direct interpersonal communications and the negative tendency to talk indirectly about others and guess what the other person is thinking or doing.

The bishop agrees that there have been good reasons for the lack of trust and specifically apologized for his actions in the confusion and changes in Richard Graves' role as regards to going from interim to rector. The bishop also apologized for not taking more steps to prevent or reduce the tendency to force people off the vestry. He does not agree with such choices, and will make every effort to encourage and support gaining skills to work together instead of giving up on relationships. I know that you can build strong relationships.

Along that line, the bishop stated that his preference is to start a priest in a congregation and see if the relationship builds into something long term. However, given the lack of trust at St. Mark's his best guess is that I, Elaine, will have as my role, working to build trust, as well as teaching good interpersonal and business practices. That means I will be interim until those skills are successfully adopted by the leadership and congregation. At that point, the church will be ready to move into transition and search mode.

Bishop Scarfe suggested the vestry read and work through the steps in the book *The Speed of Trust*. All of you are welcome to engage the book and subject matter. We might enjoy having a book group. Let me know. I expect we will also learn from a couple other books, all are welcome to participate or suggest books.

In addition, the vestry needs to study the church best business practices document. Copies will be available. St. Mark's will compare these best practices to existing traditions and make any needed changes. For example, the diocese expects vestries to adopt rules that any check over \$250.00 must have two signatures on it.

Another document the vestry will seek to follow is the Diocese of North Carolina Vestry handbook. This is a fairly new document, which will be made available to all. Presiding Bishop-elect, Michael Curry, oversaw the creation of this handbook and it explains roles and responsibilities with great clarity for the present-day church. For example, both spiritually and pragmatically, the vestry must act as a team to lead the parish. At the same time, while the priest is part of that team, the priest often has the final say. You might say that the reason the priest is paid is to take the responsibility for the big decisions, and not leave the lay people that heavy burden.

As well, the bishop pointed out that clergy are trained, practice, and sworn to uphold certain responsibilities and are carefully schooled in self-understanding to lead the church. The clergy don't always get it right, but it is not fair to put the responsibility on lay people without that training.

I think the words Bishop Scarfe repeated most, were, "seek to be calm, and back up several steps (rushing into the future won't help). Work with Elaine, allow her to lead." Trust can be regained, and healing is possible.

All in all, prayerfully, together we can unpack the wounds and worries of the past, polish skills and develop top-level practices to take St. Mark's into a strong and loving future. Know that I love all of you and St. Mark's has the resources of people, building and everything else to play a dynamic role in serving God.

Your priest,
Elaine S. Caldbeck+



On September 6, St. Mark's will be starting a new Christian Education program called Godly Play for children ages 2 to 12. Class will start at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday before the service to give the children plenty of time to explore the story that day. It is a program that has been used here before, but it has been a few years. We just moved the Godly Play room from the basement up to the "Community Room." It's a wonderful room and a more central location for the children.

Godly Play is a method of Christian Education based on the Montessori traditions. It was developed and tested for more than 30 years by Episcopal priest, author, and teacher Jerome Berryman. Godly Play realizes the inane spirituality of children and encourages them to deepen their experience with God. It teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, liturgical action, and silence - to help them become more aware of God's presence in their own lives.

A typical Godly play session lasts about an hour and follows the pattern of a Sunday church service so it gives them a deeper understanding of parish worship. There are 2 adults present, a storyteller and a doorkeeper, to facilitate the session. This is a breakdown of a Godly Play session:

- **The Threshold:** As the children arrive they are greeted by the doorkeeper and asked "Are you ready?" This question is designed to help the children to enter a space that asks them to be attentive and respectful.
- **Building the Circle:** The children come into the room one-by-one and are greeted by the storyteller by name. They are asked to take a place in the circle. The storyteller then prepares the group for the story with a prayer or meditation ritual.
- **The Story:** The storyteller then gets the materials and presents the story. All the stories have a designated spot on the shelves so the children can find them easily if they want to explore the story themselves.
- **The Wondering:** The storyteller asks some open questions to invite the children to become part of the story. What part of this story is the most important? What part can we leave out? What part do you like best? Where are you in this story, what part is about you?
- **The Response Time:** This is a work time where the children can reflect on what they just heard. There are a variety of art supplies to work with, or the children are free to explore the lesson for themselves.
- **The Feast:** Sometimes the children share a "feast" together (usually a small snack and a drink). We will be having the children join the congregation for Communion instead.
- **Saying Goodbye:** The storyteller will close with a prayer and say goodbye to each child individually as they are picked up by parents.

Godly Play is a wonderful program and everyone is invited to come explore the Godly Play space. The Godly Play story title will be listed in the bulletin every Sunday. If any story jumps out at you and you would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to ask. One of the teachers (or maybe even the children) would be happy to show you! We are looking for volunteers to be co-teachers; if you would like to help please contact Lydia Schmoker at 571-4596.



Paw Prints from St. Mark's



New Occupants: After 15 years, the WIC (Latham) clinic vacated the west basement area of St. Mark's this summer. We were honored to be able to house an organization that helps so many area mothers and children.

St. Mark's is now equally pleased to offer its unused office space to Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO), which officially opened its doors in its new location on August 24. According to its website, UDMO is one of 18 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in the State of Iowa. CAAs are non-profit organizations created to fight poverty at the local level and are quite often the primary source of support for people living in poverty. Many of these individuals and families are our "working poor," earning low wages or living without health insurance and other benefits. UDMO provides a helping hand during times of crisis, aiding families as they get back on their feet. Staff members work diligently to provide continued support while encouraging families to achieve self-sufficiency.

In addition to the many services offered by UDMO, one of the ways clientele are given assistance is through The Baby's Room, sponsored by St. Mark's for the past 12-14 years. The church will now have The Baby's Room on site with easy access by both UDMO personnel and St. Mark's workers, allowing more availability to parents in need of clothing and other supplies for infants from 0 to 24 months of age.

HAPPENING #39

For those of you who aren't familiar with this annual event, it is an opportunity for young Christians in grades 9-12 to "retreat" from their hectic world to consider some of the important relationships in their lives—with parents, with siblings, with peers, and with God.

St. Mark's will be hosting **HAPPENING #39** over the Labor Day weekend, **September 5-7**. The church rooms and the halls will be filled with vibrant, energetic young people who will inspire us with their enthusiasm for Christ and each other. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP BY DONATING FOOD, OR MAKING OR SERVING FOOD FOR ANY OF THE MEALS THAT WEEKEND, PLEASE CONTACT LYDIA SCHMOKER at 571-4596.

Back to Church Sunday: Join us **Sunday, September 13**, for a cordial "Welcome Back to Church" after a summer of vacations and warm weather activities. Following the morning service, Shannon Ely will be serving us something special during Coffee Hour.

511 Practical Living: St. Mark's will be providing a meal and childcare on Thursday, **September 24** to assist with this life-skills program for youths who are aging out of Foster Care, and for high school teenagers with children. Check your calendars and watch for a sign-up sheet to volunteer for the meal, and for childcare.

Manna Meal: St. Mark's takes a turn to cook a meal for downtown residents on Saturday, **September 26**. The dinner, which begins at 5:00 p.m., is served at First United Methodist Church, and is followed by a game of bingo. According to the Methodist Church coordinator, Bingo prizes most needed are PAPER PRODUCTS. Now would be a good time to start watching for sales on items you plan to donate. There will be a sign-up sheet in Taylor Hall for you to indicate how you might like to contribute to making this dinner a success for the folks who live in our area.

News from ICKY's

The school year is back in full swing, which means more kids will be frequenting ICKY's. We want them to be fully occupied with wholesome activities while on the premises, but the facility is somewhat lacking in fully operable game tables.

If you have, or know of, any spare foosball, ping pong or pool tables that could be used at the center, please contact Pastor Elaine.

Invitation from HAPPENING #39

The Happening staff has invited both the **Good Shepherd and St. Mark's** congregations to be a part of their closing Holy Eucharist at **11:30 a.m. on Labor Day, September 7**. Come and support these young people as they wrap up their exciting weekend with this holy ceremony.



“WOOLKLIPPINGS” FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

- Celebrated joyously on August 1 in Waverly Iowa. Maren, Chris and Kenley Henderson, Janel and Joe Whaley and Nancy Whaley:



- We had a nice turn out for our August Saturday service. Clare, Ayden, Aaron and Brianna were pleased when we decided to order pizza following the service. The children had fun together and the adults had a great time visiting.
- **Bishop’s Committee met on Sunday, August 23:**

Aside from business already mentioned, we voted to postpone the fall concert originally scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 with the Iowa Central Community Singers until spring. The building project and time constraints have strained our limited resources.

Richard Mason was thanked for completing the audit of the books. We voted to pay our experienced substitute musicians \$50 a service. Denise Naeve is paid \$75. With Natalie off to school, we may be challenged to cover our musical needs.

Since the search process has been put on hold, we are waiting to hear if we need to complete the Diocesan Assessment Tool in September that Robbie Katschke was going to spearhead. The Church Directory is on the back burner for now.
- **Our sympathy** is extended to the Mason family as they attended to saying goodbye to matriarch Lois Mason, Richard’s mother, on Tuesday, August 25. Lois’ life, right up to her passing, was joyously celebrated in the hospital with puffs, banners, Three Musketeers, a tiara and homecoming queen sash. Friends and family by her side with lots of laughter. Lois begins a new life.
- **Good news and bad news:** Tom McLaughlin is doing wonderfully well after back surgery (with complications) six weeks ago. Physical therapy has made a tremendous difference. Tom is glad he had the surgery. Deb Conley got good news from her oncologist about her treatment which is going well. Bad news: Ann McLaughlin had a tumble on Sunday the 23rd. Her face connected with concrete - the concrete won - and she broke her ankle. Prayers are needed for healing.
- **Church school** starts Sunday, September 20. Larry Bucknam will have the 7th-9th graders. He did have all boys for many years. Now he is grateful to have Hunter Hesler to balance off the girls. Deb Leksell will be teaching the younger children in September and October. Teachers are needed for several different months. Sign up is on the church kitchen door! It is fun! They are such a neat group of kids. Consider stepping out of your comfort zone, letting the Holy Spirit in and trying a new ministry.
- **Prayers...**in addition to healing and sympathy prayers, we prayed for all our children and teachers who will be going back to school to have a successful year: Jake Haberman to Wartburg, Joel Haberman to UNI, Katie Haberman to Clarion High, Zeb and Noelle Katschke to Iowa Falls High, Briana Mourton, Ursula and Kyle Leksell to Webster City High, Hunter Hesler to Webster City Middle School, Khaiana Chitavong, Clare Martin-Schwarze,

Aloura Sue Hilts, Aaron and Ayden Mourton to Webster City Elementary, McKinnon Flowerday and Ivy Hilts to Homeschool, Barbara Flowerday and Justin Hilts to ICC, Shelby Janssen to UNI.

We also pray that the adults who will have such an influence on these our special ones and all others also have a good year: Steve and Michelle Haberman, Karen Mason, Jasmine Flowerday, Sara and Larry Bucknam, Denise Naeve, Teri Cornett.

Finally, we pray that Zac Katschke, who is heading for Army Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia on September 1, is also successful.

- **Saturday night service, September 12 at 5:00 PM:** this is always a fun time - perfect for inviting friends. We look forward to the folks who join us from St. Mark's too. After the service, we'll decide on social time - either pizza at the church OR out to eat. I guess we could always have "take out" Chinese too. Why be limited?
- **Tuesdays with Elaine** has been fun. Anywhere from 5 to 10 show up for lunch at 12:45. Mostly women, but occasionally a man shows up too. Maidrites were a great change last week from the Emporium. We had to pull over another table to accommodate us. Exchanging our stories, telling tales on each other, sharing happy things...sad things too. Occasionally a little business gets done as when we had to get all the Bishop's Committee members and clergy signatures on the Diocesan Loan application. You never know exactly what is going to happen. Everyone is welcome. We announce by email the location and call those who don't have email. We also are flexible enough to cancel lunch when there is a conflict. But join us when you can, bring a friend. Generally, Elaine is available sometime during the afternoon for a personal call. Just contact her!
- **The Building Project** at Good Shepherd is starting slowly but it is still on schedule:
 - Treasurer Larry Bucknam reported that the pledges and donations are at \$25,300
 - The Diocesan Loan Application has been submitted - we expect to hear from the Diocese in September
 - The roof repair and replacement are completed and paid for (not part of the loan)
 - Rock relocation and removal in the courtyard has been completed (see below)
 - Vic Jelinek, contractor, is expected to begin by the middle of September
- **Rock relocation and removal:** a project handled so well by the Webster City Lynx Wrestlers. After three days' notice, a crew headed by Chad Hisler and Bill Bertran showed up at the church on Friday, August 21, with shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes and strong backs, as well as a dump trailer. Up to 15 people were involved, including two young wrestlers and their mom. This crew, which included one with a broken hand, worked steadily and cheerfully until most had to leave for a two hour football practice. Larry Bucknam oversaw the project and enjoyed seeing these young guys again. (Larry was key in starting the wrestling program in Webster City decades ago and still volunteers his time.)

The wrestlers pulled the rock away from the foundation so the siding could be replaced and removed the 12 inch deep jagged rock from the courtyard. Two loads were hauled away in the dump trailer. They were done by 3:30, having started at 10:00.

A "loaves and fishes" lunch was served to the team. Rhonda, Joan, Tom and Judy and Deb made a few donations towards the lunch and the rest was purchased by the church. How do we get "loaves and fishes" out of ham and cheese and smoked turkey sandwiches, with fruit, chips, veggies and bars? Well, the left overs were taken to the hospital for the Mason family and what the Mason family wasn't able to consume, the nurses enjoyed. Finally, after Sunday church enjoyed carrots, fruit and bars...

The Bishop's Committee voted to make a donation of \$1200 to the Webster City Wrestling Boosters. The original bid of \$2000 was submitted by North Central Iowa Turf. We are very grateful to save on our project. Oh, a last note...Larry Bucknam was down on his knees during the day literally pulling the rock by hand away from the foundation. He had a prayerful attitude. (Pictures below and on the website and Facebook page).

