

The Epistle

A Publication of

October 2009

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now it is fall, and the long days of summer are already noticeably shorter. Shorter days should remind us to soak up the sunshine to encourage ourselves with warm memories next January.

This past Sunday there was an article in the magazine of the New York Times with the title: *The Right Way to Pray?* I was curious, because I don't think of the NYT as a usual source of spiritual teaching. Zev Chafets interviewed and experienced what prayer is like across the Jewish/Christian spectrum. He quotes Rabbi Marc Gellman as saying, "There are really only four basic prayers: Gimme! Thanks! Oops! and Wow!"

"Gimme" prayer would encompass prayers of petition and intercession, I guess, and that naming of the category of prayer seemed harsh, when I know it is a very important prayer ministry for many in our congregation. So I thought I would share a piece about intercessory prayer that was handed out at the Julian Shrine Chapel in Norwich, England, which has helped me in my own intercessory prayers, and perhaps you may find it helpful in your own prayers of intercession.

"I saw that He is at work unceasingly, in every conceivable thing, and that it is all done so well, so wisely, and so powerfully that it is far greater than anything we can imagine, guess, or think."

Revelations of Divine Love, Chpt. 43

A simple way of intercession is the way of awareness...

THE FIRST STEP is to become aware that God has been working long before we came on the scene ourselves, that He is working now, and that our desire is to be linked with Him within the communion of saints in this work.

THE SECOND STEP is to hold the intercession paper in our hands and to let all our awareness enter into it. I do not say concentration as that might suggest a strenuous mental effort, and that is not what is required: just awareness, as we might stand in the presence of a picture of a sunset.

THE THIRD STEP is to put the slip aside and just be in God's presence. We do not now have to reflect that we are there on behalf of another; what has already been done makes that clear. We just are in the presence of God, our intention again, we do not have to reflect on it now being that God's love shall flow freely in this other as, our hope is, it shall flow in ourselves.

"Every morning put your mind into your heart and stand in the presence of God all the day long." All intercession, all prayer is ultimate gathered up in this saying of an Eastern monk. Archbishop Michael Ramsey has written that basically the word intercession (Christ ever lives to make intercession for us, "Hebrews 7:25) means not pleading with God, but standing in God's presence on behalf of another. It can be a help to grasp this. For it follows that to pray for others we do not have to be clever or eloquent or even perceptive of their needs; just ourselves as we are, simple, a bit confused perhaps, but wanting God's will, or wanting to want God's will for ourselves and others. It is God's business to take things on from there. We are to fill the water pots with water – the winemaking is His. We are to remove the stone – "Lazarus come forth" belongs to Him. We are the dry bones; the clothing with flesh and breathing upon them are His.

May God bless and keep you as you pray!

Faithfully,
Mary Jane+

ST. MARGARET'S MISSION

St. Margaret's Mission will next meet Thursday, October 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, hosted by Harold and Pat Gourley.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will meet Friday, October 2, at 9:15 a.m. at First Congregational Church, 312 West Main Street.

ST. PAUL'S GUILD

Our October 8 meeting will be a "Dutch Treat" lunch at 12:00 noon at Pizza Ranch. Colleen Harmon is hostess, and the program will be presented by a foreign exchange student.

BIBLE STUDY

Our fall Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke will resume Wednesday, October 21, at 10:30 a.m.

VESTRY

St. Paul's Vestry will meet Thursday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

2009 COFFEE SCHEDULE

Oct 4	Mary Lou Tappe
Oct 11	Pudd Handorf and Freida McInroy
Oct 18	Marjorie Cook
Oct 25	Joann Livingston
Nov 1	Rex & Nan Ryden
Nov 8	David & Karen Bursley
Nov 15	Tom & P. J. Colbert
Nov 22	Orlin & Sally Klinkufus
Nov 29	Don & Pam Campbell

THANK YOU!

A big "Thank You" to Dr. Tom Colbert for presenting his program entitled: "Faith of the Founding Fathers" on September 22. The audience included many people from the community at large, in addition to St. Paul's members. People were attentive and appreciative, and had questions for Dr. Colbert at the end of his presentation. A time of fellowship followed, with coffee and cookies served.

CROP WALK

The Crop Walk will be held in Marshalltown Sunday, October 18. Kay Beach will be walking, and would welcome fellow walkers. If you would like to make a pledge or give a contribution, please see Kay.

ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS to our St. Paul's Preschool. They won **first prize** for their float in the non-commercial category in the Oktoberfest parade!

St. Paul's Preschool is sponsoring a "Family Halloween Chili/Soup Feed" on Halloween night from 6-8:00 p.m. This will be held downstairs in the Great Hall, and the cost is \$1.00 per person. Everyone is welcome to attend! Proceeds benefit the preschool.

Anyone who is interested in helping to make soups and/or breads for the supper, please contact Lori Gardea at 641-691-1839.

www.stpaulsmarshalltown.org

This is our new parish website!
Be sure to check it out!



CROP WALK

The Crop Walk will be held in Marshalltown Sunday, October 18. Kay Beach will be walking, and would welcome fellow walkers. If you would like to make a pledge or give a contribution, please see Kay.

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

The next time for St. Paul's to serve the evening meal at the House of Compassion will be Tuesday, October 13. If you would like to help serve, please sign up on the green clipboard on the table at the back of the church.

October is the month for St. Paul's to bring items to stock the Supply Closet. Brown grocery bags are in the shopping cart at the back of the church. Please take a bag home, place your items in it, and return it to the church this month. A list of needed items is stapled to each bag. Needed items include paper products, soaps, cleaning products, and personal items.

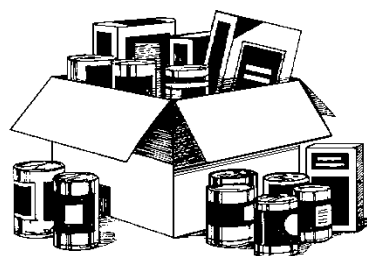
The Art & Compassion Soup Luncheon will be held Sunday, October 11, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Fisher Community Center Auditorium. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes a ceramic bowl of your choice. House of Compassion will share in the proceeds.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Oct 28	Pam Campbell and Marjorie Cook
Nov. 25	Pam Campbell and Kay Beach

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please trade with someone, or use the following members in an emergency only:

Barb Baltisberger	753-7494
Marjorie Cook	753-7848
Nan Ryden	753-3788



HELP SERVE THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FOOD BOX!

The Emergency Food Box needs your help now more than ever. The items that are most needed at the present are **macaroni & cheese, noodles, boxes of dry cereal, pork & beans, and canned peas, corn, and tomatoes.** (please check the dates on the cans)

Cash donations are always welcome. These funds are used to buy needed items locally, and to pay handling charges for items we are able to get from the Food Bank of Iowa. Please make checks payable to: **Emergency Food Box**, and mail to: **EFB; P.O. Box 391; Marshalltown, IA 50158.**

Thank you for your past contributions!

St. Paul's next opportunity to bring food items is Sunday, October 11.