The Iowa State College NEWMAN NEWS



70 YEARS OF BEING GATHERED, TRANSFORMED & SENT



St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center was officially incorporated on April 8, 1947. The Archbishop's signature on those official documents was the culmination of many prior efforts, and the beginning of more good works... When Rev. James Supple arrived in Ames in early 1947 as our pastor he found an

Iowa State College campus bursting with students, busy with activities – and a new parish of 75 families and 1,154 students! He'd served two years as an Army Air Corps chaplain in World War II and as an associate pastor – and was up for the challenge of building a new church and student center.

Much work had already been done. In 1941 permission

was granted to offer Mass in the Memorial Union Great Hall. By then, the Catholic student population at Iowa State – spurred by interest in the naval training program after the bombing of Pearl Harbor – had grown tremendously. The only



Catholic parish in Ames, St. Cecilia, could not accommodate all the students. In 1945, St. Cecilia parishioner and realtor John Judge negotiated for the purchase of Porter Lodge on Lincoln Way between Ash and Lynn avenues as the site for a new church and in early 1946 St. Cecilia's pastor bought the property. The building became a chapel for daily Mass with space for private instructions and counseling for students close to campus.

Fr. Supple took up residence upstairs in what became

For our 70th Anniversary we're revisiting some covers from past alumni newsletters. The first issue of *The Iowa State College Newman News* (whose masthead is reproduced here) was published in March, 1948, and mailed to alumni. *The Newman News* continued for several decades as a student newspaper, published by students from the Newman Club on a weekly or monthly schedule (depending on the year). known as "The Old House" and set about building the Newman Student Center and Chapel, and growing a full church for the new parish serving students, families in Campustown, west Ames, and the larger community.

Joe Stritzel (Agronomy '49), one of STA's founding parishioners, recalled how Sunday Mass was still celebrated in the Memorial Union. The Great Hall held dances on Saturdays, and at the end of the night Joe remembered, "All the Catholic boys would stick around and help put chairs out for church the next morning." Ground was broken for the Newman Student Center and Chapel on Sept. 14, 1948. The 300 seat chapel, located in the basement, was dedicated on Dec. 11, 1949, by Archbishop Rohlman. The rest of the building, which included offices, lounge and the priests living quarters, was dedicated May 4, 1950, by Archbishop Leo Binz.



Fr. Supple had a unique bond with students. Margaret Deterding recalled how she and her husband Leo (Mechanical Engineering '49) lived in a converted military quonset hut that served as married student housing, "There were

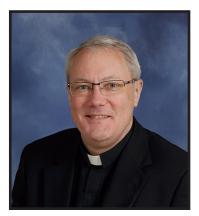
13 couples from church living in Pammel Court, and only three of us had cars. So we'd all pile into these cars, sitting in each other's laps and on the floor, and some standing on the running boards, and pick Fr. Supple up after Mass and drive out to the country for a picnic."

His sense of humor was legendary, as was his ability to remember names. John Kubik (Ag Engineering '73) recalled



one experience with some 150 students in a classroom when Fr. Supple asked everyone to introduce themselves and say where they were from. "An hour and a half later he went back and knew everyone's name... It was amazing."

St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center + Gathered + Transformed + Sent



FROM THE PADRE'S DESK

Fr. Supple would sometimes comment that "if you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." A clear and concise mission is essential for any parish to thrive. That is why we re-wrote the mission statement for STA a few years ago. It is essentially three words: Gather, Transform, Sent.

In some previous parishes I have asked people what our parish's mission is. Often it was a list of activities which served only those who are present members. Often there was little sense of reaching out to anyone outside of this group.

Lately I have been thinking about an insight I came across a few years ago from the book *Rebuilt*. The authors suggest that all parish decisions should be based on who is not there. That changed the way I look at things. It is too easy to focus all of our resources on those who are already in the pews, and not see the larger mission.

Vibrant parishes think bigger. They make decisions which consider who is often not there: the poor and marginalized, the unchurched and inactive, the alienated and indifferent. Especially at STA, we think of the 8000 Catholic students at ISU, and indeed all 36,000+ students at ISU. This is the mission given to us. We think bigger not just because it is good for them, but because it is good for us.

Because of this, we are establishing a new team of campus missionaries to reach out to campus. With your help in the next few years, we can do this. We need to do this.

It is too easy to fall into taking care of our own because it is more comfortable. As Pope Benedict XVI once said, "The world offers you comfort. You were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." That is true for parishes and student centers, as well as individuals. For STA to be great, we seek to make decisions based on who is not here. Thanks for your prayers for our mission. We need them and appreciate them.

Proud to be your Padre,

Father Jon Seda

Front page continued

Student life grew with the church. Marilee Pavik (Dietetics '54) recalled morning Mass, "This was before Vatican II, remember, and then at 4 o'clock, coffee, a student led Rosary at 5:10, and 'feeding time' at 6." The Newman Club was active organizing dances, socials, and dinners on Sunday evenings. Elaine Scribbins (Home Economics Education '47) recalled one Sunday supper when she met her husband, Ed, who was in school on the GI Bill. "He asked me later what I thought of the supper. I said it was pretty good for 50 cents!"

Religious studies and retreats were important too. Fr. Supple and the associate pastor, Fr. Gregory, would hold retreats



in the original Chapel. Marilee shared that, "People would be sitting on the floors, in the window wells, and on all the stairs going up to the priest's quarters to listen to the talks." She recalled a vigorous schedule of weekly religion classes and a special course for all the seniors

on the sacrament of marriage, and a TV room that doubled as a small nursery.

By 1953 "The Old House" was torn down and construction began on the basement of the new church -- which actually served as a second basement church for a decade. This new basement church seated 400 and was dedicated on May 24, 1954. The old student



center chapel became a lounge, kitchen and social facilities for the growing parish and student population.

The first decades at St. Thomas Aquinas saw a lot of activity, but was just the beginning of what would be to come.

Have stories or memorabilia to share? Contact Joe Leisz, 515-292-3810 or joe@staparish.net to share your recollections of St. Thomas Aquinas. You can read more in our History section and visit our photo archives online: www.staparish.net

A DAY IN THE LIFE

ON A MISSION...AN UPDATE

About a year ago St. Thomas Aquinas launched our new missionary initiative to better reach ISU's growing community of more 8,000 Catholic students. In the Summer issue of STA-In-Touch we introduced you to Kristen Lenhart, who prayerfully answered the call to a one-year commitment as our first Campus Missionary – expanding our outreach efforts to reach more students on campus, invite them to encounter Jesus & His Church and grow as His Disciples.

Being a Missionary is not easy. For many years our Campus Ministry team has done a good job working with the students who come through our doors. "In the '90s it was about having enough pizza," Fr. Jon Seda noted recently, "Now it's about much more than that." Fr. Jon has said he often makes decisions based on who is not here, and among those things we remember is that our outreach is not limited to those who are Catholic and attend Mass regularly. Our mission is to the entirety of ISU's 36,660 students – engaging these individuals in our Catholic faith. Campus Missionaries have a principal focus of reaching out to those we don't see at Thursday Night Liturgy (TNL) or Mass on Sundays. They don't have the home base of an office – they are out with students living a life against the grain of the common campus culture.

"There really is not a typical day, which is one of the things I love about this job. I love that each day brings new opportunities and new challenges," noted Kristen Lenhart.

She has to be well organized (and her day-planer shows it) to give her full attention to those she reaches out to. "In a week I typically meet with anywhere from 6 to 10 student leaders for one on one discipleship and usually I meet with more students



on the spur of the moment to get lunch or coffee and talk with them about whatever is going on in their life." That availability is important for students who are struggling and just need someone to talk with right then, and to pray with. "For each discipleship meeting with the student leaders I take time to plan out scripture and supplemental reading to go over different areas such as the sacraments,



prayer, evangelization, scripture, etc." It takes time to work deeply with students, and discipline and focus to balance the needs of these one-on-one sessions and responsibilities coordinating small group leaders meetings each week, larger events that attract new people to STA, and be visible reaching out to others on the ISU campus.

Throughout the year Kristen has relied for support on our Campus Ministers, and a robust prayer life. "Two very important parts of my schedule are my prayer hour and daily mass," Kristen said. "I love that I get to spend an hour a day in prayer personally with God to grow deeper and pray for more encounters with students. Daily mass is

also very important to my schedule because I not only get to experience the Eucharist each day but get to experience with the community of students and meet new people." Kristen's example and outreach is contributing to the continued growth



of daily Mass attendance, Adoration, and the extended Reconciliation times we're seeing at STA. It is making a difference.

With continued funding from a grant from the Lilly Endowment we're expanding our Missionary Initiative with two new Campus Missionaries this summer. It is important work, and we ask for your prayerful support.

Support from alumni, parents and friends makes our Campus Ministry possible. You can give online at www.staparish.net, send contributions to St. Thomas Aquinas, 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames IA 50014, and even remember STA in your will or estate plan to provide perpetual support for our mission to be the presence of God in Ames, Iowa State University, and the world. Thank you.

ALUMN<u>I UP</u>DATES

Fr. Jon Herzog, retired priest in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and active STA parishioner celebrated his 61st Anniversary of Ordination on February 4th. Congratulations and Blessings Father John!

Dean Emeritus James Melsa (Electrical Engineering '60) was inducted into the Pi Kappa Alpha Order of West Range, recognizing outstanding alumni of the fraternity for achievement in their careers and service.



Longtime parishioner and Story-Wall artist Jo Myers-Walker (Applied Arts '71) is living in Iowa City and working with projects around the state. She recently completed and installed her skywalk sculpture "Crossroads" in Cedar Rapids and has been holding painting workshops and working with art therapy.

Trish Stauble (Journalism & Mass Communications '80), STA's original alumni guru in the 1980s, coordinates grad students in ISU's Bioinformatics & Computational Biology program – becoming a "second mom" to many students in the multi-disciplinary program. She's also continued to be active with many social justice issues in the Ames area, like affordable housing with the Story County Community Housing Corporation.

James Meehan (Veterinary Pathology & DVM '84) is now up in the north-east corner of New York and shared some memories of his time on campus, noting that the pastors and associates at "St. Toms" were great. "Fathers Supple, Geary, Tilp, Engler and Msgr Tarrant -- what a combo! What moving and provoking homilies they would give... Fr. Supple was as entertaining as a stand-up performer giving a monologue but with a message that would stick. Msgr. Tarrant had a manner about him that was as if he was in your living room delivering his homily to you and when he and Fr. Supple were on the altar together the 'hand-off' of lines and 'improv' was without a glitch. The Saturday evening folk service, uplifting Easter service, stopping in for some reflection and quite any time of the day with the doors open to find pleasantly someone playing a hymn in the empty candle lit church..."

Former Peer Minister Phil McAndrew (Psychology '86) entered med school at the University of Iowa after his time in Ames. He is now a family medicine physician in Chicago.

After many years in Washington, DC, former Peer Minister Gentry Collins ('98) moved back to Ankeny with his wife Kristy and family and is partner at Collins Anderson Philip Public Affairs.

Former Peer Minister Lisa Sinnott (English '01) is now in the Chicago area working in a rehabilitation hospital. She went to Loyola Chicago for two degrees in divinity and spirituality and trained as a hospital chaplain. She shared, "STA www.staparish.net gave me a chance for some years to be in leadership. My passion for ministry was engaged with, and taken seriously. I remember the TNL masses and Sunday night masses most. I felt alive in my worship and able to create a unique prayer time with others that was exciting and honoring to be a part of."

Justin Doyle (Electrical Engineering '02) is a managing partner at MODUS Engineering and founding partner of Blackbird Investments in Des Moines. His firm is responsible for some of the biggest re-development projects in Des Moines' East Village and responsible for Iowa's first "net zero" building – resulting in significant energy savings. He's active with promoting and supporting affordable housing and recently shared his experiences in faith, family and business at STA's "Come Awake."

Nicole Pfab-Johnson (Dietetics '06) and Wade Johnson (Aerospace Engineering '06) are enjoying life in Cedar Rapids with their children Addison (5) and Henry (3). Addison is now in kindergarten at their parish school (All Saints), and Nicole is quickly becoming a local celebrity as the Hy-Vee Dietitian featured on CBS2's "New Year New You" personalized nutrition segment.

Jessica Crawford (Child, Adult & Family Service '10) recently e-mailed that she's working overseas again – she moved to France in January!

Megan Bottalla (Apparel Merchandising, Design & Production '11) wrote that she'd love to get back to visit STA but now that she's living in San Francisco it is more difficult to travel back. She's now working as an Associate Production Manager at the Gap.



Brittany Tielbur (Biology '12) wrote, "Since leaving Iowa State, I had the extraordinary opportunity to attend medical school at Vanderbilt University. During that time, I met my future husband, Luke, at a Catholic medical ethics conference in Philly. In the spring of 2016 we both graduated from our respective medical schools, got married, and went on a honeymoon to Iceland!

Then, in July of this past year, we both started residency at Duke University Medical Center -- Brittany in Internal Medicine and Luke in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I will be forever grateful for the formation I received at St. Thomas, and how my experiences there led me into a vocation in medicine!"

David (Agronomy & Ag Business '15) & Bethany

(International Ag & Ag Business '14) Drendel make their home in Ankeny but were up in Ames for a Progressive Farmer Conference and decided to stop in to catch up with Campus Minister Shari Reilly and other friends.



5TH ANNUAL TOMS EVENT

The 5th Annual "Together Our Mission is Service" (TOMS) Event gathered some 200 students, parishioners, alumni and friends at the Iowa State Alumni Center on January 28th to raise some \$20,000 supporting STA's Spring Break Service & Immersion Trips.



It was a fun evening with spirited bidding for auction items that included a signed Chicago Bulls Basketball from Carol and Fred Hoiberg, ISU sports memorabilia, a Weekend Getaway in Branson, MO, a Fat Tuesday Party with Fr. Jon Seda, Chocolate and Coffee from our Sister Parish, Home-made Pies, Handmade Rosaries, and more than 20 other items. Attendees could buy "Bear Insurance" (a must-purchase item that night) and 50/50

raffle tickets. Nick Davis (Ag Systems Technology '15) served as auctioneer for the event and kept the banter going with MC (and soon to be Deacon) Frank Montabon, whose zingers and stand-up routine had a few people laughing to the point of tears.

A touching tribute in the evening featured the announcement of the



Randy and Jo Snyder Memorial Endowment to help support Service & Immersion Trips. Randy & Jo's son, Eric "Hank" Snyder (Mechanical Engineering '07), and Jo's sister, Eva Moritz (Ag Engineering '94) both attended STA's Service & Immersion Trips to help those in need in Appalachia. They remembered the trips as



life changing experiences. Because of this they, and the rest of the family, established this endowment in memory of Randy and Jo to provide continued support for STA's Service & Immersion Trips.

This year's trips are scheduled to take students to Appalachia, Chicago, Washington DC, San Isidro, Nicaragua, and on a Monastic Experience at Conception Abbey in Missouri.

You can learn more about these trips at -- http://staparish.net/ campus-ministry/service-andimmersion-break-trips

To learn how you can help support these experiences in perpetuity, please contact Joe Leisz, Director of Development, at 515-292-3810 or joe@ staparish.net



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO

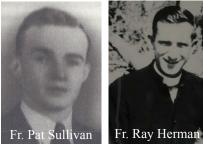
Fr. Ernest J. Engler

Fr. Engler served as Associate Pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas from 1976-1984. Born July 14, 1927 to Laurine (Jaeger) and Ralph Engler in Hopkinton, IA, he attended Loras College in Dubuque and St. Paul Seminary in St Paul, MN. Ordained on June 2, 1951, he was one of three brothers who all became priests. Fr. Ernie spent most of his priesthood in education, teaching at Loras Academy, Wahlert High School, and in 1960 was appointed principal of Regis High School in Cedar Rapids. He was pastor in Springerville and Waterloo before moving to become pastor at Sts Peter & Paul in Gilbert and associate here at STA working with Campus Ministry. After STA he served as pastor in Tama and Fairfax before retiring from Holy Trinity in Walford and moving to Arizona. He passed away February 20, 2017 in Dubuque and details for a Memorial Mass are pending.

Please contact us if you've lost someone you'd like us to remember in our prayer network. We'll note all STA alumni and friends who've passed this year in our "In Memorium" feature in the fall newsletter.

ERE ARE THEY NOV

Over the years St. Thomas Aquinas and our pastors have worked with dozens of men who've gone on to the Priesthood, serving the church around the country, and around the world. Fr. Pat Sullivan (Engineering '48) was one of the first to go into



the seminary after his involvement here as a student parishioner. and he served for many years as a priest in St. Louis and Denver before passing away in 2004. Fr. Ray Herman (Farm Management (51) was mentored by

Fr. Supple and martyred in Boliva on October 20, 1975. He loved cigars, and apart from his books and clothes, all of his possessions fit into a cigar box. He is remembered with the

"Cigar Box Ray" room here at STA. Msgr. Thomas Fryar Psychology '74) grew up in Ames and is now pastor of St. Thomas Moore in Centennial, CO. Fr. Andrew Vogel (Computer Engineering '99), who was a Peer Minister, recalled that he, Ryan Larson, and Castor Armesto started meeting with John Donaghy once a week in the fall of 1997 to discuss Catholic theology and teachings. "We learned a lot that year,"

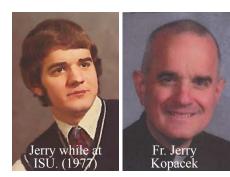


Msgr. Thomas Fryar

he said, and some of those things have helped him as now he serves three parishes in the Diocese of Winona, MN.

Closer to home, some 20% of the active priests in the Archdiocese of Dubuque are ISU alumni. You might remember some of these individuals from their time on campus, and we thought you might like to hear some of their recollections and know where they are now...

"I attended Iowa State and lived in Bergman House, Welch Hall – just a couple of blocks east of St. Thomas Aquinas on Lincoln Way," remembers Fr. Jerry Kopacek (Political Science & History '77), now the Director of Spiritual Formation in



Dubuque. He attended the Saturday evening Mass and sang with the folk group with Tom Cordaro his senior year. He began attending daily Mass at STA and said, "I got to know the priests a bit more - especially Msgr. Tarrant and Fr.

(later Msgr.) Supple. That was an important time for growth and maturing in my faith life, and I really appreciated STA's presence on campus." He remembers first beginning to seriously think about the priesthood at ISU, and his history classes sparked a renewed interest in the Catholic Church – playing an important role in his vocational discernment. "I have always been grateful for my time at Iowa State - I'm convinced that the Holy Spirit was truly guiding me during my time there to be open to the priesthood, even if I wasn't completely aware of it! And I'm grateful also for the solid Catholic presence of St. Thomas Aquinas on campus that kept me mindful of Jesus Christ and his call to holiness and discipleship. GO CYCLONES!"

Fr. Jim Dubert (Public Service & Administration and Ag Journalism '79) was active as an undergraduate and graduate student while at ISU, and then returned as associate pastor. He recently stopped in to visit and recalled the work that STA parishioners and staff did establishing several non-profits in the Ames area, like Loaves and Fishes, that are still serving individuals in need today and making a positive difference in central Iowa, and beyond. He's currently the pastor of Archangels Catholic Cluster of North Iowa serving St. Patrick in Britt, St. Patrick in Buffalo Center, St. Wenceslaus in Duncan, St. James in Forest City, St. Boniface in Garner, St. Patrick in Lake Mills.

Fr. Thomas McDermott has been pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Waterloo since 2011. He attended ISU to take Farm Operations Classes from fall 1980 until the end of 1981. He lived on the 6th floor of Wallace Hall ("an easy walk to church at St. Tom's") for three guarters (he commented that it was "the OLD days") and then one semester before farming on his grandfather's farm for eleven years, and then entering Seminary in 1991. Ordained in 1997, Fr. McDermott has served as associate pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Dubuque and St. Edward Parish in Waterloo, and as pastor at Sacred Heard Parish in Maguoketa and St. Ludmilla Parish in Cedar Rapids.



on the service trip to Kentucky

Fr. Mark Murphy

"I remember being part of the priesthood discernment group at STA with Fr. Jim Hayes and Fr. Ev Hemann, meeting other

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young men who were open to God's call, praying together, and eating pizza together on Sunday nights after Mass," recalls Fr. Mark Murphy (Chemical Engineering '02). He remembered visiting with Deacon John Donaghy, PhD, and discussing everything from Gandhi, to the Navy, to great books, vegetarian pizza, Jesuits, Franciscans, Archbishop Romero, St. Paul, and finally Jesus. "Sometimes the discussion would be at Welsh Avenue Station after TNL." Fr. Mark went on a service trip to Kentucky with STA people on Fall Break, attended a busy persons retreat, and making a great connection with his academic adviser, Doctor Peter Reilly (a parishioner at STA) who later wrote a recommendation letter for Seminary. After graduation Fr. Mark was commissioned as an officer in the US Navy, but he says "I am grateful God gave me the opportunity to make my faith my own during my time at ISU through STA. My time there launched me into my ultimate vocation as a priest..." Fr. Mark is now at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elma.

"It is incredible to consider the full impact that my time at St. Thomas Aquinas has had on me," commented Fr. Jeffrey Dole (Civil Engineering '08), now at the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville. "Those days, the people, those relationships, that discernment—they all contributed to who I am today. Or, perhaps better put: they were all ways that God was actively leading me to discover who He was calling me to be. And I'm ever thankful that He did!" Fr. Jeff began the College of Design but quickly moved to Engineering and when he left ISU he was destined for seminary in the Archdiocese

OH BABY!

STA has brought many couples together in our 70 years as a parish and Catholic Student Center, celebrated many marriages, and our students, alumni and parishioners have welcomed many children into God's Creation. Here are a few of the "new additions" to our extended family:

Lucy Faustina was born Dec 29, 2016 to Crysta (Spanish '11) and David (MBA '09) Green, and welcomed by her two older sisters to their home in Olathe, KS.

John and Katie (Kolega) Hejkal (Spanish '10) welcomed their first baby, John Paul Joseph, on March 18, 2016.



of Dubuque. "Without STA, that road would have been very different—and probably a lot less interesting—and so would have my destination: I mean, who would have imagined that I was going to become a priest?" He recalls getting involved first by simply going to Mass, then to a TNL or two, and then by making that fateful (providential) decision to go on a student retreat: Antioch. "Antioch was a new beginning for me... a beginning of seeing Christ in a new way, of seeing college in a new light, and of appreciating the St. Thomas community and the Catholic Church in a much bigger way."

Right now 17 ISU alumni are in Seminary in five different diocese. Please pray for these men, and the young men who are part of Fr. Jon Seda's Priesthood Discernment Group here at STA, so that we may continue to do God's works through the Church.

Phil (Finance '13) and Brandi (Chemical Engineering '13) Downey of Clive, IA, welcomed their son Samuel in November.

Gayle was born on January 31 at 30 weeks and 4 days and right now she is in the NICU at Mercy hospital. Her parents Kendall (Public Relations '16) and Joe (Interdisciplinary Studies '16) Begnoche are praying they will be able take her home late March/early April.

Know of more "Alumni Babies" – we'd love to help share the good news! More baby news and photos will be posted in our alumni updates online and next spring's newsletter.





St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center 2210 Lincoln Way Ames, IA 50010 515-292-3810 www.staparish.net

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SEEK Conference



Fr. Jon and more than a dozen STA students joined more than 13,000 college students from more than 100 colleges and universities at the annual SEEK Conference in San Antonio, TX. A long bus trip. Fabulous speakers. Cool artists. Amazing worship. Five incredible days. Prayers and energy to continue our mission at Iowa State for the future.

Upcoming Events

March 30

Msgr. Supple Lecture: Dr. Mary Healy, Sacred Heard Seminary, Detroit, MI: "How to Interpret the Bible"

April 8-9

Palm Sunday Weekend STA's 70th Anniversary

April 16 Easter Sunday

April 19 Come Awake: Alive to God! Our final large group event of the school year.

April 20 Graduation Seniors Dinner

April 22 "Gather & Enjoy" Stewardship Party

May 2 Pancake Study Break

May 5-6 ISU Spring Commencement Congratulations to our graduates!

STA In Touch is the quarterly alumni newsletter for St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center. Writer and editor is Megan Kalb. If you have information to share in the next issue, please contact STA by mail, phone or email: 2210 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014 or 515-292-3810 or joe@staparish.net.

Look for current and past issues online at: www.staparish.net - under "Resources."