

St. John's Church

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The Newsletter of St. John's Church of Biscay

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REFLECTIONS

The ABCs Of Scripture

by Phyllis J. Sanders

All things work together for good to them that love God. *Romans 8:28.*

Be still, and know that I am God. *Psalms 46:10.*

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28.*

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. *Psalms 37:4.*

Every good and perfect gift is from above. *James 1:17.*

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. *Isaiah 41:10.*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. *Psalms 46:1*

He Who promised is faithful. *Hebrews 10:23.*

I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:13.*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. *Hebrews 13:8.*

Know that the Lord is God. It is He Who made us, and we are His. *Psalms 100:3.*

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. *John 14:1.*

My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. *2 Corinthians 12:9.*

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. *Hebrews 13:5.*

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. *Psalms 34:8.*

Pace I leave with you; My peace I give you. *John 14:27.*

Quietness and confidence shall be your strength. *Isaiah 30:15.*

Run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. *Hebrews 12:1-2.*

Surely goodness and love will follow Me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Psalms 23:6.*

The joy of the Lord is your strength. *Nehemiah 8:10.*

Underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33:27.*

Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. *Romans 12:19.*

When I am afraid, I will trust in You. *Psalms 56:3.*

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. *Psalms 119:114.*

Be **Z**ealous for the fear of the Lord. *Proverbs 23:17.*

Kids' Letters to Their Pastors

by Melanie Olson

Dear Pastor, Do I have to say grace before every meal? Even when I am only having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Wesley, Age 9

Dear Pastor, I think more people would read the Bible if they made it a TV series. Beatrice, Age 9

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert, Age 11

Dear Pastor, Are there any devils on Earth? I think there may be one in my class. Carla, Age 10

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. Ralph, Age 11

Pastor's Notes

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

Let me share with you a few thoughts on this very familiar verse found in Psalm 118.

By nature, we tend to take a lot things for granted. "Today", for example. For most of us "today" is a lot like yesterday. Like yesterday, "today" came and like yesterday, it will soon be gone.

How easy it is to lose sight of how precious "today" is. How unique and special and fleeting "today" is. Soon it will be gone. Gone will be today's experiences and encounters and challenges and opportunities and blessings.

We lose sight of how precious "today" is because we assume that there will be an endless string of tomorrows to live and enjoy. But don't be so sure that there lies before us an endless string of tomorrows. David Swift's business partner and friend Roger Livermore probably made that same assumption that evening a few weeks ago when he joined a number of friends in playing broom ball. That evening Roger suffered an unexpected heart attack and died. To Roger's wife and three young children, that day will stand out from all others because it was their Husband's and Father's last day with them.

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." This is the day that the Lord has made; let us appreciate it for the precious gift it is. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us make the most of it. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us say, "I love you" to those who are most precious to us. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us say "I'm sorry" to those we've hurt. This is the day that the Lord has made; embrace that challenge or that opportunity that we pushed aside yesterday. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us take the time to make the call or write that note or whisper that word of encouragement to someone who needs it.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us love Him and obey Him and thank Him and trust Him and enjoy Him who gave it to us in the first place.

How easy it is to lose sight of how precious "today" is. How unique and special and fleeting "today" is. Please do no assume that there will be an endless string of tomorrows to live and enjoy. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!"
Pastor Bob

DENOMINATIONAL SEARCH UPDATE

At a congregational meeting last fall, the congregation voted to search for a new denomination with which to be affiliated. It was agreed that the United Church of Christ does not share the same values that we do, it does not provide support for issues like pastor searches, and this was a good time to make a move. Pastor Bob Taylor was hired as an interim pastor to help us with this mission. A committee was formed: Jerome Karl, Cory Garoutte, LeaEtte Peters, Dave Sanken, Roxanne Sladek, Celine swift, and Pastor Bob.

Pastor Bob did some research and suggested four denominations to consider that expressed similar values and beliefs as we do. The denominations are: Evangelical Free Church, Evangelical Covenant Church, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (4C's), and the Christian Missionary Alliance. The search committee met with a representative of each church. (A detailed comparison of the four denominations, as well as the UCC, is outlined in the annual report. See Celine Swift if you would like a copy.) All four denominations being considered have a strong view of the Bible, believe in the Deity of Christ, and have very conservative views on issues like homosexuality and abortion. We narrowed the search to the best two choices:--Covenant and 4C's-- mostly due to their positions on baptism and women in leadership.

A representative from both the Covenant and 4C's churches will come speak to the congregation about their respective denominations. Paul Erikson from the Covenant Church will be here at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb 13th, and Ron Hamilton from the 4C's Church will be here at 6 p.m. the following Sunday, Feb 20th. The committee would like to invite everyone to come hear what they have to say, bringing an open ear and any questions you may have.

The next steps will be to review the two denominations carefully, and compare the best choice with the option of staying independent. The committee will make a proposal and the congregation will vote. Please watch the bulletins for an announcement of an upcoming congregational meeting
Submitted by Celine Swift

MEETING NOTES

ANNUAL MEETING

01-16-00

32 Members present

1999 minutes read. Glen Sladek made motion to approve minutes, seconded by LeaEtte Peters.

Cemetery report: Report was read as per annual report (page 4). Election: Mary Paulsen was nominated and elected, motion by Jerome Karl and seconded by Tom Senske.

Treasurer report and 2000 Budget were given by Celine Swift. Motion made by Elaine Carrigan and seconded by Mary Groutte to approve reports.

Building fund report was read by Duane Wigern. He also said the church land was rented to David Sanken for a 3 year contract. Duane also talked about the basement project, gutters, and window repairs needed. Doug Block made motion to approve report. David Sanken seconded it.

Women's Guild report: The new cabinets will be paid for with the profits from the 1999 Ice Cream Social. Also talked about 135 year anniversary celebration for the church this up coming year. We will talk more about this at a later date.

Celine Swift gave a report on the denominational search, asked each to read through report on page 10 and 11.

Ice Cream Social committee: Celine Swift, Sue Rose, Doug and Carol Block, Elaine Carrigan. Date June 8th.

Summer Service: David Sanken made a motion to start church services at 9:30 am beginning memorial Day and through Labor Day. This motion was seconded by Julie Karl.

Lenten service this year will be held every other Wednesday. Service starts at 7:00 pm.

Celine Swift is planning on starting up a church newsletter in February. Calendar of events, pastor's notes, and meeting reports will be some of the things Celine will put in this newsletter.

Elections: 2 council terms are up this year: Roger and Cory cannot be reelected. Nominations were Roxanne Sladek and Jerome Karl. David Sanken made a motion to cease nominations and elect Roxanne and Jerome. Doug Block seconded this motion. Roxanne Sladek and Jerome Karl elected.

Doug Block made motion to close meeting and Elaine Carrigan seconded motion. Meeting closed.

Submitted by Roger Trimbo

NOTE: If anyone would like a copy of the annual report, please contact Celine Swift.

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

January 5, 2000

The Christmas decorations were taken down. A big THANK YOU is extended to all those who helped.

Officers for the year 2000 are as follows:
President: Lillian Nemitz, Vice Pres.: LeaEtte Peters, Secretary: Betty Sanken, Treasurer: Mavis Mielke, Sunshine Chairman: Elaine Carrigan.

Valentine plates will be delivered to the shut-ins on February 13th. We will ask for volunteers to donate 1 dozen cookies, or to deliver plates as a special opportunity to visit with the shut-ins.

Reminder: The Women's Guild is looking for new members. If you are interested, talk to someone on the Guild, or just show up to a meeting.

Submitted by LeaEtte Peters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION

Our first issue of this Newsletter is dedicated to our elderly shut-ins. We want you to know that we are thinking of you and praying for you. We are grateful for your many years of service to God and our church family.

NAME CONTEST... WIN A PRIZE!

Put on your thinking cap.... We're looking for ideas to name our newsletter. Let your creativity shine! Submit your entries to Celine Swift by Feb 29. The council will vote on the new title from those submitted and a prize will be given to the winner. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lenten services will be every other Wednesday during lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, March 8th. The service will be at 7pm, followed by lunch and fellowship. Holy Week service will be on Good Friday, April 21, at 7pm.
- Reminder that on Feb 13th and Feb 20th we will have representatives from the Covenant and 4C's churches come speak to us about their respective denominations. Paul Erikson from the Covenant Church will be here at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb 13th, and Ron Hamilton from the 4C's Church will be here at 6 p.m. the following Sunday, Feb 20th. Please come with questions and concerns. This is a great opportunity to participate in your future! Bars and coffee will be served.
- Because Pastor Bob has other obligations on the first Sunday of both February and March, Communion will be celebrated on the second Sunday of both months.

A WORD OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the custodian, altar guild, and ushering duties. It is such a pleasure to see the schedules nearly completely filled so early in the year!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of our new newsletter. The intent of this letter is to help keep everyone up to date on all the important issues dealing with the church, especially for those who may not be able to attend church or meetings regularly. It will be mailed quarterly.

Reports, ideas, feedback, calendar information, etc. for next Newsletter issue is due to Celine by April 15. The next issue will be mailed May 1st.

Please let Celine Swift know if your address is incorrect on this newsletter or if it changes, or if you would like to be added or subtracted from the mailing list. Also, think about others who may want to receive copies of our Newsletter, and let Celine know.

POINTS TO PONDER

January Income reported by Sue Rose:

2000: \$2390.05

1999: \$2525.60

1998: \$2489.00

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Do you have an interest in our youth? Please consider being a Youth Leader. Can't make a long term commitment? How about organizing one fun activity? It would be very much appreciated by the youth and the congregation as a whole.
- The Choir is looking for new members. Practice is every Wednesday night at 6pm. Don't worry if you have no singing training. Many of us don't. It's fun and a good way to minister to the Church. Questions? See Genise Quast.
- There are still a few openings in the altar guild sign up sheet. Please consider volunteering. It's really quite easy.

Our Church Leaders for 2000

PASTOR:

Rev. Robert Taylor (800) 520-2470

COUNCIL

President: Tom Senske 864-5924
 Vice President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Treasurer: Celine Swift 864-6188
 Finance Secretary: Sue Rose 864-6862
 Building Fund Admin: Duane Wigern . 864-5336

WOMEN'S GUILD

President: Lillian Nemitz 587-8748
 Vice President: LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Secretary: Betty Sanken 587-4956
 Treasurer: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Sunshine Chairman: Elaine Carrigan .. 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Mary Paulsen 587-4684
 David Sanken 328-4164
 David Swift 864-6188

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Clerical: Celine Swift 864-6188

DENOMINATIONAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Cory Garoutte 864-4646
 LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Dave Sanken 328-4164
 Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Celine Swift 864-6188
 Pastor Bob (800) 520-2470

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 David Swift 864-6188
 Duane Wigern 864-5336

CONFIRMATION LEADER

Rev. LaDon Rydberg 275-2917

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool & Kindergarten: Angela Kaufmann & Annie Senske
 1st-3rd grades: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 4th-5th grades: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 6th-8th grades: Julie Karl
 Subs: Roxanne Sladek, Sue Rose, LeaEtte Peters

Job Sign-ups for 2000

ALTAR GUILD

(NOTE: please consider volunteering for the unassigned months. It's easy!)

January Sanken
 February Sladek
 March
 April Alan Mielke
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Swift
 September
 October Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 November
 December Kathy Trimbo

CUSTODIANS

January Duane Wigern
 February Sladek
 March Sankens
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Mavis, Elaine, Eileen
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Swift
 September Senske Family
 October Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 November Mary & Jim Garoutte
 December
 1st week .. Mary & Jim Garoutte
 2nd week . David & Celine Swift
 3rd week Kathy Trimbo
 4th week Kathy Trimbo

USHERS

January D. Wigern & C. Paulsen
 February Roger & Kathy Trimbo
 March Tom & Annie Senske
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 June Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 July W. Kaufmann & D. Block
 August David & Celine Swift
 September Jerome & Julie Karl
 October Troy & Angela Uecker
 November Randy & Molly Blake
 December David & Jodi Sanken

February 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: Trimbo CUSTODIANS: Sladek ALTAR: Sladek		1	2 Council 7pm	3	4	5
	6 Guest Pastor: Vern Damm	7	8	9 Women's Guild 7pm	10	11
13 Communion Sunday Valentine plates delivered Covenant Church Rep. 6pm	14 ♥	15	16	17	18	19
20 4 C's Church Rep. 6pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

March 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: Senske's CUSTODIANS: Sankens ALTAR: (OPEN)			1 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	2	3	4
	5 Guest Pastor: LaDon Rydberg	6	7	8 Ash Wed. Lent Service 7pm followed by lunch	9	10
12 Communion Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Lent Service 7pm followed by lunch	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: Peters CUSTODIANS: Peters ALTAR: Alan Mielke						1
2 Communion Sunday 6pm Covenant Church Rep.	3	4	5 Lent Service 7pm followed by lunch	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter reports due.
16 Palm Sunday S.S. Children sing.	17	18	19	20	21 Good Friday Service 7pm	22
23 Easter 9:30am Service no Sunday school	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Remember to pick up the next issue of Upper Room						

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 14: Mother's Day:
 May 21: Confirmation,
 Last day of Sunday School
 May 28: Summer hours begin with 9:30 Service

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School:	9:15 a.m. Sunday
Bible Study:	9:15 a.m. Sunday
Worship Hour:	10:30 a.m. Sunday
Confirmation Class:	5-6 p.m. Wednesday
Choir Practice:	6 p.m. Wednesday
Women's Guild:	7 p.m. 1 st Wednesday of the month (check bulletin for changes)
Council:	7 p.m. 1 st Wednesday of the month