

# St. John's Church

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## St. John's Messenger February/March/April 2002

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## Pastor's Notes:

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My father's death has provided me with a wealth of important lessons. In a way, those lessons are a living memorial, though intangible. However, I am planning for a more visible memorial gift for St. John's Church drawn from your thoughtful gifts, which I have set aside for this.

Someone told my brother Scott that because my dad never knew Jesus Christ as Savior, that my father now burns in Hell. Whoever that tactless person was, he apparently didn't know Christ either--not the same Christ I know anyway. Nor did he know my dad.

When I was called upon to bury my father, I knew my family members and friends would come with a variety of beliefs. What my dad believed is mostly a mystery, but he clearly believed in God. Maybe not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but the God Who is responsible for this beautiful world. And so His way of worship was to honor that beauty through his art. Because of his modesty and fear of mediocrity, his vast number of oil paintings, done over many decades, have only rarely been exhibited. Perhaps now, this great legacy can be seen by the public.

Yesterday I passed a local Assembly of God Church, and noticed the thought posted on the sign by the highway: "It Takes Courage To Believe We Are Forgiven." My father was a courageous man. He was indomitable but not immortal. His final days were spent thrashing, while sedated and restrained against his will. Some believe that this thrashing was due to his inability to verbalize his final thoughts to my family. I am not so sure about that. I rather suspect that a great war raged within his soul, as he fought valiantly to find the courage to believe the unbelievable: God Loved Irving Gould.

Ash Wednesday is February 13th, the service is at 7 pm. We will again be having weekly services this year, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. I am requesting all Pastor's Confirmands to attend the February 13th Service, and Good Friday as well. May God Bless you, and reward you for your many kindnesses and sympathies to Holli and I.



*Pastor Paul*

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## **REFLECTIONS**

### *God is Left Handed*

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in kindergarten. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked..."doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

## REFLECTIONS (continued)

A Nun asked her class to write notes to God... Here are some of the notes they handed in:

Dear God:

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool.

Dear God:

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have.

Dear God:

Maybe Cain and Abel would not have killed each other so much if they had their own rooms. That's what my Mom did for me and my brother.

Dear God:

If you watch me in church on Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes.

Dear God:

I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the world. There are only 4 people in our family and I'm having a hard time loving all of them.

Dear God:

In school they told us what you do. Who does it when you're on vacation?

Dear God:

Are you really invisible or is it just a trick?

Dear God:

Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his bowling words in the house?

Dear God:

Did you mean for the Giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

Dear God:

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in the church. Is that okay?

Dear God:

Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you?" because if you did, then I'm gonna get my brother good.

Dear God:

Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

Dear God:

Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

Dear God:

I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over.

Dear God:

You don't have to worry about me, I always look both ways.

Dear God:

I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying.

Dear God:

Of all the people who work for you, I like Noah and David the best.

Dear God:

My brother told me about being born but it doesn't sound right. They're just kidding, aren't they?

Dear God:

I would like to live 900 years just like the guy in the Bible.

Dear God:

We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School they said you did it. So, I bet he stole your idea.

*Submitted by LeaEtte Peters*

# MEETING NOTES

## WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

### *Highlights of 2001:*

The first project of the year 2001 was to assemble and deliver Valentine plates to 12 shut-ins from our church. Easter lilies were brought for Easter for the altar. One more Electric roaster was purchased so that we don't have to borrow any. Irene made an afghan for the Ice cream Social Raffle. Dick Swift also donated an oak children's rocker and other wood items for the raffle. Mary purchased graduation gifts for the graduates. Marge donated some shelves to church and Dick installed them. Purchased a new adding machine. We are saving and counting EconoFood grocery slips. To get \$1000 for the church, we need to count 150,000 tickets. We helped run the Brat stand Aug 2-3-4<sup>th</sup>. Paid a percentage of Bible Camp for 2 students. Purchased baptism markers and had the cross cleaned. Sent \$100 to the New York Relief fund. Organized the Family Advent Christmas Night and got the entertainment. Purchased and Mary baked a ham for the potluck. Bought poinsettias for the Altar for Christmas.

*Respectfully submitted, Betty Sanken, Secretary*



## COUNCIL REPORT:

(summarized) for Nov. Dec. & Jan

Council members: Tom Senske, Mark Wigern, Celine Swift, Randy Blake, Jerome Karl & Roxanne Sladek

Nov 7, 2001

- Snow Removal – Jerome made a motion and Mark seconded that Glencoe Garden Center does our snow removal for \$60. Pro rated.
- There has been a request for communion loaves. Pastor Paul may on occasion choose to do something different as far as bread, but we will not change on a regular basis.

Dec. 5, 2001

- Pastor Paul on vacation.
- Snow cancellation list has been updated.
- Sue and Amy Block have changed churches.
- Benevolence Committee wants to put up a bulletin board. Council approved.
- Pastoral contract – Discussed and added more detail to the job description.

Jan. 2, 2002

- Pastor Paul and Mark Wigern absent.
- Tim Hahn has completed the exterior building maintenance he agreed to do but suggested that we need to caulk the basement windows.
- The plate offering this next Sunday will be given to Pastor Paul and Holli for emergency expenses.
- Web site – Pastor Doug Yost would like to set up a web site for us. He will do the work free but we would have about \$40 cost annually to maintain the site. Council approved.
- Floral arrangement will be sent from the church to the funeral home.

All meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Submitted by Roxanne Sladek*

## St. John's Church Annual Meeting

January 20, 2002

**Council members present:** Tom Senske, Mark Wigern, Celine Swift and Roxanne Sladek

**Absent:** Randy Blake and Jerome Karl

**34 members of the congregation present.**



- Pastor Paul gave an opening prayer.
- President Tom Senske opened the meeting.
- 2001 annual meeting minutes were read. Dennis Schwanke made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Elaine Carrigan. Motion carried.
- Review annual report: Celine reviewed the 2001 income, expenses, investments and the proposed budget for 2002. Doug Block made a motion to accept those reports and approve the 2002 budget, seconded by Dale Peters. Motion carried.
- Celine Swift gave benevolence report on Dave's behalf.
- Cemetery Board: Dave Swift's term is up. He is willing to continue for another 3 years. Roxanne Sladek asked about a map of the cemetery. Mary Paulson is working one updating it.
- Mark Wigern gave the building fund report. It was approved as read.
- Women's Guild, Sunday School, and Youth Group reports were reviewed.
- Membership and attendance report was reviewed by Celine Swift.
- Duane Wigern made a motion and Dave Sanken seconded to give council authority to make changes to the memorial plaque policy.
- Pastor Paul presented having a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Dale Peters made a motion to have a 5:00pm Candlelight service on Christmas Eve instead of the Christmas Day service, seconded by Doug Block, approved. Pastor Paul expressed that he may be willing to have both services if people felt we should not discontinue the Christmas Day service, but they would have to let him know otherwise there will be just Christmas Eve.
- Lenten Services will begin Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and will be weekly at 7PM.
- Possible dates for confirmation have been discussed, but a final decision will be made at a later date.
- Thanksgiving and Easter services will be at 9:30am.
- Summer hours will be 9:30am again this year.
- Land rent contract with Dave Sanken is current.
- Lawn mowing is open to bids until Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. If no other bids are received we will continue with Glencoe Garden Center.
- Ushers/Greeters list – Council asked all ushers to review the list of responsibilities. Our ushers also serve as greeters and a positive first impression is very important to us.
- Some volunteers are still needed for Ushers/greeters, church cleaning and altar duties. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board at church if you can help out with any of these responsibilities.
- Ice Cream Social is set for June 13<sup>th</sup>. Celine will again do the paperwork. The Ice Cream Social will be Gene & Karen Konerza, Cory Garoutte, and Roxanne Sladek.
- All members of the Benevolence Committee are willing to continue.
- Council members Roxanne Sladek and Jerome Karl are up for reelection and are willing to continue for another term. Tom Senske's term is up and Tom is not eligible for reelection. Cory Garoutte made a motion to nominate Gene Konerza, seconded by Glen Sladek. Voted to elect Gene to join the council.
- The meeting was closed by Tom Senske.

Roxanne Sladek  
Council secretary

# The Youth Page

## What we have been doing:

In late November the youth met and baked Christmas goodies and decorated gift bags to put the goodies in. Some of these goodies went to the Kurth family along with movie and pizza gift certificates, and others were delivered to the shut-ins when the youth group, along with several other members of our church went caroling. What a fun way to enjoy the holidays! Also, in Dec, the youth group had the opportunity to supply a live, outdoor, nativity scene on the evening of the family night. Most recently, we had the opportunity to spend the evening together enjoying pizza, bowling and each other's company. We have decided that we all love bowling (some of us just can't hit those pins) and may need to make bowling an annual youth group activity.



## Looking ahead: Fishermen wanted!!!!

On Sunday, Feb. 10th (weather permitting) we are planning to take the youth group Ice fishing. This is something that the youth would really like to do, but is not an area of expertise for either Kathy or Roxanne so if there is any adult out there who enjoys fishing and would like to help us out we would appreciate it! It will be a fun day!

## Save that Stuff!

We are looking forward to another great year in 2002. Once again we are hoping to have garage sale. Please keep that in mind as you clean out your closets, etc.

*Submitted by Roxanne Sladek*

## RECENT EVENTS RECORDED ON FILM....

### New Arrivals



Autumn Skye Borg

Daughter of Allan and Sonya Borg  
Born November 8, 2001, at 8:45pm  
7 lbs, 1oz; 19 inches



Gabriel Alexander Kowarsch

Son of Korry and Korrine Kowarsch  
Born December 22, at 11:15pm  
7 lbs, 14 oz; 20 inches

### Happy Birthday Myrtle!



Myrtle Sanken celebrating  
her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday  
on November 24, 2001



### Sunday School Christmas Program

December 23, 2001



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES:**

- The Annual Meeting was held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you were unable to attend, there are extra copies of the annual report at the church.
- November was Food Shelf month. St. John's collected \$35 plus 73½ lbs of food. Thanks to all who donated.
- The Christmas Family Fun Night was held on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks to the Women's Guild for coordinating the food and entertainment, to the youth group for providing the live Nativity Scene, and to Dick and Bernetta Swift for making the nativity back drop.

## **COMING UP:**

- Valentine plates will be packed after church on Sunday, Feb. 10th. Anyone from the congregation wishing to donate a dozen of cookies for our shut-ins may do so, or volunteer to help deliver them. It's a fun afternoon visiting with our shut-ins. Please contact Lillian Nemitz if you wish to participate. Thank you.
- Lenten services begin on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday) at 7pm each Wednesday, with a lunch and fellowship in the basement following the services.
- Holy Week: There will be a Good Friday service at 7pm. Easter service is at 9:30 a.m.
- There will be no Sunday School on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Sunday School choir will be singing at the Palm Sunday Service (March 24<sup>th</sup>). There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.
- Watch the bulletins for announcement on a Confirmation date this Spring.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

- Watch the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet to serve lunches after the Lenten services.
- There are a few slots left for volunteers for Altar Guild and Custodians. Please consider signing up. Thanks for all who have signed up already.

## **NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

- Ensign James Peters has recently been deployed for 6 months on the USS John F. Kennedy. Anyone wishing to send him a greeting can do so by email at [petersjd@kennedy.navy.mil](mailto:petersjd@kennedy.navy.mil). Letters can also be sent to Ens. James D. Peters / U.S.S. John F. Kennedy / CV 67, F.P.O. Base AA / 34095-2800.
- Pastor Doug Yost has recently been accepted as Pastor for Goshen Congregational Church in Goshen Mass. If you would like to send him a note, you may do so at: Pastor Douglas Yost, Goshen Congregational Church, 45 Main St., Goshen, MA 01032; Ph: (413)268-7427. Link to his Christmas letter at: <http://yotek.net/yostfamily>.

## **REMINDER:**

- Turn in cash receipts from purchases at Econofoods to the box in the back of the church. When the receipts total \$150,000.00, the church will receive a check for \$1,000.00. Please remind your friends to share their receipts with us. Receipts can include grocery items, prescriptions, postage, cigarettes, and lottery. We now have receipts for over \$30,000.00!! It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!

## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

- Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by April 14th. You may bring them to the church, or mail them to me (13902 125th St., Glencoe, 55336) or email to [swift@hutchtel.net](mailto:swift@hutchtel.net). Thanks for all the input we've received to date!

## **QUARTERLY INCOME**

	1999	2000	2001
Oct	\$2813.10	\$2903.23	\$2315.78
Nov	\$1241.85	\$2086.68	\$2522.44
Dec	\$2722.38	\$3217.95	\$2934.73
Quarter	\$6777.33	\$8207.86	\$7772.95



## Our Church Leaders for 2002

### PASTOR:

Rev. Paul Gould ..... 328-5330

### COUNCIL

President: Jerome Karl ..... 587-7702  
 Vice President: Gene Konerza.....`864-4554  
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek..... 587-7394  
 Treasurer: Celine Swift..... 864-6188  
 Financial Secretary: Randy Blake ..... 587-5472  
 Building Fund Coord: Mark Wigern .... 234-6454  
*(roles may change after next council meeting)*

### WOMEN'S GUILD

President: LeaEtte Peters..... 864-3282  
 Vice President: Lillian Nemitz ..... 587-8748  
 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

### BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl..... 587-7702  
 David Swift..... 864-6188  
 Dennis Schwanke ..... 864-4597

### YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Roxanne Sladek ..... 587-7394  
 Kathy Trimbo ..... 328-4241

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Julie Karl  
 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte  
 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken  
 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade: Mary Garoutte

### CCCC

Area Rep.: Ron Stewart ..... 320-356-9001  
 Conf. Minister: Cliff Christenson .. 651-739-1474

## Job Sign-ups for 2002

### ALTAR GUILD

January ..... Garoutte/Sladek  
 February ..... Sladek  
 March ..... Peters  
 April ..... Swift  
 May ..... (Open)  
 June ..... Elaine, Mavis  
 July ..... Block  
 August ..... Sanken  
 September ..... Trimbo  
 October ..... Swift  
 November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte  
 December ..... (Open)  
 Jan 2003 ..... Senske

### CUSTODIANS

January ..... Garoutte/Sladek  
 February ..... Sladek  
 March ..... Peters  
 April ..... (Open)  
 May .... Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin  
 June ..... Mavis, Elaine  
 July ..... Block  
 August ..... Sanken  
 September..... Trimbo  
 October ..... Swift  
 November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte  
 December  
     1<sup>st</sup> week ..... Cory Garoutte  
     2<sup>nd</sup> week ..... Trimbo  
     3<sup>rd</sup> week..... Trimbo  
     4<sup>th</sup> week..... Dick Swift  
     5<sup>th</sup> week..... (Open)  
 Jan 2003 ..... Senske

### USHERS

January ..... Duane & Mark Wigern  
 February ... Glen & Roxanne Sladek  
 March ..... Peters  
 April ..... Karls  
 May..... Dick Swift  
 June..... Konerza  
 July ..... W. Kaufmann & D. Block  
 August ..... Senske  
 September..... Trimbo  
 October ..... Swift's  
 November ..... Garoutte  
 December ..... Konerza  
 Jan 2003..... Duane & Mark Wigern

# February 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>ALTAR: <i>Sladek</i></b> <b>CUSTODIANS <i>Sladek</i></b> <b>USHERS: <i>Sladek</i></b>					1	2
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday  Baptism of Gabriel Alexander Kowarsch	4	5	6  Council 7pm Women's Guild 7:30	7	8	9
<b>10</b>  Youth Ice Fishing Valentine Plate packing	11	12	<b>13</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7 pm Service	14	15	16
<b>17</b>  No Sunday School	18	19	<b>20</b>  7 pm Lent service followed by lunch	21	22	23
<b>24</b>  Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	25	26	<b>27</b>  7 pm Lent service followed by lunch	28		

# March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>ALTAR: <i>Peters</i></b> <b>CUSTOD: <i>Peters</i></b> <b>USHERS: <i>Peters</i></b>					1	2
<b>3</b>  Communion Sunday	4	5	<b>6</b> 7 pm Lent service followed by lunch  (Council to be rescheduled)	7	8	9
<b>10</b>	11	12	<b>13</b>  7 pm Lent service followed by lunch	14	15	16
<b>17</b>	18	19	<b>20</b>  7 pm Lent service followed by lunch	21	22	23
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b>  Sunday School choir sings	25	26	<b>27</b>  7 pm Lent service followed by lunch	28	29	30
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 am service No Sunday School					Good Friday 7 pm Service	

# April 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Women's Guild 7:30 Council 7pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Communion Sunday  Daylight Savings time chng.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Newsletter Reports due	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			<b>ALTAR: <i>Swift</i></b> <b>CUSTODIANS (<i>Open</i>)</b> <b>USHERS: <i>Karl</i></b>	

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday  
 Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a.m. at Richard and Bernetta Swift's home.  
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
 Confirmation class: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday  
 Choir Practice: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday  
 Women's Guild: 7:30 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month  
 Council: 7 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month