

St. John's Church
13372 Nature Avenue
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone: (500) 270-3317



St. John's Messenger August, September, and October 2003

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REFLECTIONS

THE BUTTERFLY

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly.
One day a small opening appeared.

He sat and watched the butterfly for
several hours as it struggled to force
its body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress.
It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could,
and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly.
He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the
remaining bit of cocoon. The butterfly then
emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and
small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly
because he expected that, at any moment,
the wings would enlarge and expand to be
able to support the body, which would
contract in time. Neither happened.

In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life
crawling around with a swollen body and
shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.
What the man, in his kindness and haste,
did not understand was that the restricting
cocoon and the struggle required for the
butterfly to get through the tiny opening
were God's way of forcing fluids from the
the body of the butterfly into its wings so that
it would be ready for flight once it achieved its
freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need
in our lives.

If God allowed us to go through our lives
without any obstacles, it would cripple
us. We would not be strong as what we
could have been. We could never fly!

Author Unknown

REASON FOR LIFE

I don't know how to say it but sometimes it seems to me that maybe we are stationed where God wanted us to be; that the little place I'm filling is the reason for my birth, and just to do the work I do—He sent me down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon He'd have made me just a little different, of a worse or better grade. And since God knows and understands all things of land and sea, I fancy that He knows He placed me just where he wanted me.

Sometimes I get to thinking, as my labors I review that I should like a higher place with greater tasks to do; but I come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled that the post to which God sent me is the post He wanted filled.

So I plod along and struggle in the hope when day is through that I'm really necessary to the things God wants to do. And there isn't any service I can give which I should scorn for it may be just the reason God allowed me to born.

Author Unknown

Submitted by Brenda Garoutte

PASTOR'S NOTES

(Installment #2 of the work and leading of the Lord in the lives of Bob and Mary Taylor)

In 1957 my parents purchased a new home in the newly developing suburb of Bloomington. Maybe you've heard of it? In 1957 there wasn't much there: no Metropolitan Stadium, no Mall of America, no freeways. I can vividly remember riding my bike down the gleaming white pavement of Interstate 35W before it was opened to gas powered automobiles. All kidding aside, at that point in time, Bloomington was still very rural just like Maple Grove when our family moved there in 1984. We'll leave those Maple Grove days for a later edition.

Spiritually, this was a time when the Lord was planting in my heart the seeds of the Gospel. Praise God for young friends like Jack Cummings who invited me to go Sunday School with him at Hope Presbyterian Church. And even though we moved to the distant shores of Bloomington, my Mom and Dad had also received enough spiritual nourishment that they too wanted to continue attending Hope Church. Sunday School, church, church camp, 7th & 8th grade confirmation, I did it all. I didn't know why I was doing it, but I attended most every activity offered.

Following the completion of two years of Confirmation I became a member in good standing of Hope Presbyterian Church. (Take note of this moment for future reference.) And for those approaching confirmation age, two years of confirmation was probably too short. We may have to look at extending confirmation to three or maybe four years. Future and past confirmands let me know what you think.

But during those Junior High and Senior High years there was a growing restlessness in me. I attended youth group activities but found myself questioning, "Why?" I remember going to a youth group dance at Laurie Coupe's house in Bloomington, near where they were building Metropolitan Stadium, and thinking to myself, "Shouldn't there be more to youth group meetings than this? Aren't we suppose to be exploring 'a higher purpose' for our lives, or something?" It wasn't long afterwards that I became a "youth group drop out." I can remember one indication of how far I had fallen in my church involvement. One day my Mom got a call from one of the youth group leaders and said that later that day they were going to come and "kidnap" me for a youth group activity. I was so offended that I took my basketball and went across the street to Bloomington High School to shoot baskets, refusing to be "kidnapped" by the youth group.

During those years I focused my energies on athletic and musical excellence. Shortly before leaving Richfield I decided that I had no real future in music playing the accordion, a conclusion my accordion teacher had reached as well. I traded in my accordion for a pair of drum sticks. (This too would have future significance.) But my real love was athletics, and football in particular. And during those years I was privileged to have quite a bit of success in both arenas. I was a good student, a good drummer, and a good multi-sport athlete. But I was very shy, very insecure, very unhappy and had a hard time figuring out, why. To give you some idea of how shy I was, in junior high I was "going steady" with a girl I never even talked to. The only means of communication was notes that we passed back and forth. Things didn't get much better for me in high school. Now, from my perspective as a parent of five boys, it would have made life if our boys had inherited a little of Dad's shyness around girls. But what could I expect, all five are adopted.

In the meantime, Hope Church was growing like crazy. It seemed like every year they were adding on to the church. People just kept flocking to the church. During that time, the church called a new Senior Pastor by the name of Bob Dickson. There was something different about his preaching. Even at that age I could tell that he was talking more about the Bible, more about faith and commitment. Soon after Bob Dickson arrived so did a new, flamboyant youth pastor and his family: Alan and Flossie Talley and their two boys Kirk and Keith. Little did I know at the time, what a tremendous spiritual influence and impact these two men would have on my life and Mary's. I'd like to tell you about it, the next time.

Pastor Bob Taylor

MEETING NOTES

Council Report:

Summarized for June and July 2003

Council Members: Pastor Bob Taylor, Randy Blake, LeaEtte Peters, Cory Garoutte, Sue Rose, Dave Swift, and Roxanne Sladek

June 3, 2003

- Sue was absent.
- Visitations are up to date. Council will try to continue to visit shut-ins every other month and Pastor Bob will give communion visitations every other month also. Council may also begin some other visitations in the upcoming year.
- By laws and constitution update- Dave will work on drafting changes based on congregational input received at the congregational meeting.
- Memorial book and plaque are both up to date.
- Blacktopping the parking lot. We will draft a letter to the congregation and have a congregational meeting June 29th to discuss and vote on the blacktopping project. The letter will be ready and handed out to anyone at church this Sunday and then mailed to those who were unable to attend church this week.
- Visitations – Council will continue to do visitations of our shut-ins every other month. Council may also begin doing additional visitations over the next year.
- Handrail on opposite side of basement stairway would be helpful. Council approved adding a handrail and replacing the current one if necessary to match them. Roxanne will ask Glen to put it up.
- Landscape project – Andrea Wigern is willing to organize a group, plant some perennials and putting edging along the south side of the church. Council approved and Lea Ette will talk to the ladies guild and get any input they may have. Roxanne will get back to Andrea to let her know that we would like her to go ahead with this project.
- Adult Sunday school is being discussed for this fall.
- New member Sunday was discussed.
- Outdoor service will be Aug. 24th with a potluck picnic to follow the service.
- Headstones – Randy and Dick have a plan it will be done later this summer.
- Installation service – We are tentatively planning an installation service to welcome Pastor Bob in early Sept. More details later.

July 1, 2003

- Roxanne was absent.
- Pastor Bob has been working hard to call on those in need.
- Sunday School Curriculum has been discussed and evaluated. A number of sample packets and have been looked at and Standard Publishing has been chosen for the upcoming year.
- Pastor Bob preformed a wedding service at St. John's for a friend of his, Mary Konrad and Doug Ewald.
- Shed contents – Inventory of the shed was discussed and items no longer used will be removed. Dave will make a list of unwanted items and post it on the bulletin board.
- Folding doors – Cory has found new parts for \$9. X 21 needed. Council approved and Cory will order.
- TV-VCR cover - LeaEtte checked with Women's guild and also checked at several stores. Dave will check on getting a cover from AV store and council will keep our eyes open for other option.
- Visitations are up to date.
- Statement of Faith, Apostle's Creed and The Nicene Creed were inserted in the hymnals.
- Headstones – Dick and Randy will work on them. They will let the cemetery board know what they plan to do it.
- Front bulletin board needs some new letters.
- Pastor Fisher – 60 years ordained – July 20th at St. Paul's UCC in Henderson, MN. A card was sent from St. John's.
- Handicap accessibility – Cory knows of someone and will invite him to attend the September meeting to help advise the council on possible solutions.
- Some ideas for possible memorial items are: Handicap access items, basketball hoop and sound system.
- CCCC's has hired a new pastor and have sent out a plea for money. A motion was made by Sue and second to give \$300. to CCCC's. Motion carried.

All meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek, Secretary

(Note: Unsummarized versions of council notes are available by request. Contact Roxanne Sladek if you would like the complete official minutes.

MEETING NOTES, CONTINUED

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING , JUNE 29,2003

- 32 members of the congregation attended.
- Randy Blake opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Mark Wigern expressed concerns about handicap accessibility within the church and that we should be considering making the church more accessible and that should be a high priority.
- Pastor Bob added that is often a concern for small churches.
- Eileen Moehring stated that Glen loves this church and wants to continue to attend once he recovers from his surgery.
- Women's Guild would like to contribute \$7000 to the blacktopping project from Ice Cream Socials and Brat Stand fundraisers.
- Sue Rose said that handicap needs to get into the church and that the blacktopping the parking lot is the first step towards making our church accessible.
- LeaEtte Peters expressed we can get people in the church if we want to. Everyone has always been very helpful whenever lifting or assistance has been needed.
- It was stated that we should have ongoing projects in our church that we are working towards. Our goal should be continue to maintain and improve our church.
- A question was asked about how we would finish the edges of the blacktop? We should be able to do that ourselves with black dirt and grass seed.
- We talked about the expense of maintaining blacktop. We will need to seal coat next year and that will be an additional expense.
- Pastor Bob talked about how there is always some uncertainty and it is challenging with the entire congregation being involved in a decision.
- Jerome Karl made a motion to give council discretion to choose the best bid for having the parking lot blacktopped based on the information they have and to have the project done this year. Plus \$1000. towards additional expense needed to complete the project. August 1, 2003 is to be a deadline for members of the congregation to make pledges and contributions are to be made by Dec. 31, 2003 to help fund the project. Celine Swift seconded that motion and a vote was taken. 28 YES votes and 0 NO votes.
- Roxanne Sladek made a motion to have our church service held at Heatwole Threshing site on Aug. 10, 2003. Dave Swift seconded that motion and it was approved with a majority vote by show of hands.
- Dave Swift made a motion seconded by Duane Wigern to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek, Secretary

MEETING NOTES, CONTINUED

WOMEN'S GUILD

May: LeaEtte called our May meeting to order with a prayer. Bernetta read a poem about "Mother Rocking in her Chair." Roll call was answered by remembering special moments of our Moms.

May 18th, will be our church cleaning after service. Bring a snack for lunch and your cleaning supplies.

May 25th, was a potluck farewell for Pastor Bill & Nancy Hyndman.

We received an invitation to Congo Church in Brownton, but it wasn't received in time so we couldn't attend.

June: The first Sunday in June we acknowledged the graduates, Emily Rose, Jenna Trimbo, Aaron Blake, and Angela Kaufman.

Our meeting opened with a prayer. Roll call answered by memory of our fathers. Secretary minutes and treasurers report were read.

New business; Irene has the afghan finished and Dick has several wood projects all ready to go for the raffle for the social. Andrea had crushed rock put by the perennials, hosta and water facet for easier access. Suggestion made to buy a cover for the new TV, VCR-DVD, and cart, LeaEtte will look for one. Dave & Bettys Tri-Minic will do the basement floors after VBS.

A suggestion was made to use turkey breasts instead of the whole turkeys for less waste. Does anyone have an old fashioned coffee pot(40 cup)??? We'll keep on the look out for one at an auction etc. 2 cutting boards were purchased for cutting onions and celery. LeaEtte handed in a bill for graduation gifts. LeaEtte typed up the Nicene creed, Apostles Creed, and Statement of Faith. Elaine, Marge, Betty, and LeaEtte put them in the Hymnals.

July: No Treas. or Sec. reports. Roll call answered by 4th of July plans.

Social was discussed and turkey breasts will be tired next year. Also try to cover the west windows with something as it was pretty bright for the workers. LeaEtte has some plastic that might work. Thank you's sent to Irene and Dick for their wonderful contributions to the raffle. LeaEtte could not find a cover for the TV, VCR-DVD, & cart.

A bill was turned in for the cutting boards, the rose for Ueckers baptism, and for the flowers in front of church. LeaEtte also purchased a graduation gift for Pastor Taylor's son Keith who also graduated this year.

Ice Cream Social Winners: Foot Bench-Gloria Wigern
2-Step Stool-Jean Volker
Library Chairs-Dawn Hartwig & Terri Schuft
Garden Bench-Burton Zimmerman
Afghan-Susan Brichaek

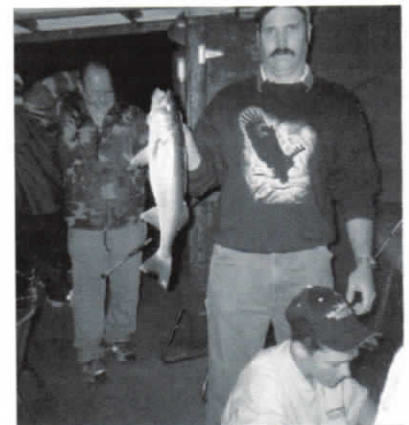
Thank you to all the members for making this Ice Cream Social the Greatest. Money made on this years ice cream social was \$1,763.73. Brats stand went well too, thank you to all who helped, we made \$508.72 on this.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

The Youth Page

What we have been doing:

On June 5th we went to Mille Lacs fishing for walleyes. We enjoyed a wonderful evening on the lake. Warren Kaufmann was the only one to catch a fish in our group. It was a very nice walleye that was released after we got a picture.



July 1st our youth group help with clean up in the Buffalo Lake area. We walked a bean field picking up debris that had been scattered by a tornado a week earlier. I am please to say that we had as many youth show up to help out and work in our neighboring community as we have going to Valley Fair. (Pictures next page.)

July 17th we spent the day at Valley Fair. We had beautiful weather and everyone had a good time going on rides. Angela won this huge monkey by throwing a ring onto a bottle.

Upcoming events:

Aug 14th we are planning to go to St. Cloud to the water park.
Sept 19 and 20 are tentative dates for a fall garage sale. The youth group plans to hold our fall sale at Applied Kinetics because we have run out of space at the Kaufmanns. So once again if you are cleaning out closets, garages, etc keep the youth group in mind and contact Roxanne Sladek if you have items you are willing to donate. Thanks for your continued support of our Youth!



Youth Cleanup after Buffalo Lake Tornado



Clean up begins



Break time



Rest time



Walking through fields



Great job done! We are all very proud of all you did!

Recent Events Recorded on Film....

Last Day of Sunday School – May 19, 2003



Some outdoor fun and a Veggie Tale video.



Church Clean Up Day May 18, 2003



OK, Loretta, you can let Andrea back in now...



About 25 adults and children came to help with the cleanup project.



Gosh, that looks heavy....

More Recent Events....



Pastor Bill and Nancy Hyndman – May 25, 2003
Thanks for sharing your many talents with us!



**EconoFoods
Brat Stand
June 19-21, 2003**

We made \$508

Shown: Dave Swift,
Julie Karl and
Randy Blake



Ice Cream Social – June 12, 2003



(Left) Prepping the night before.

(Below) A steady stream of customers.



(Below) Notice the cashier's helper got a little tired....



(Above and Below) The serving lines....

(Below) Kitchen helpers.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

We're beginning to plan for the 2003-2004 Sunday School year. We are still looking for full time or part-time teachers. Anyone that's interested please contact Brenda Garoutte at 864-4646. We're planning a exciting year as we try out a new fun curriculum.

Notes from Pastor Bob:

A special invitation on Sunday, October 5th. We will recognize new members during our service of worship. Please call Bob Taylor 763-420-6800 if you are interested in membership. All those desiring to be received into membership on October 5th need to attend a special new member class on Sunday, September 28th at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The Council would like your ideas!!

How can we make our church building more inviting and accessible? We need your thoughts and ideas. Also share with us your dreams and desires for the church as we move into the future. It doesn't cost anything to dream! Get your ideas to any council members by Sunday, October 5th for discussion at the October council meeting.

Notes from the Council :

Constitution Update:

Following the congregational meeting where a lot of good information was gathered about the congregation's feeling on several issues, the council is continuing its work on the constitution. A revised draft should be sent out early this fall for your review so it can be voted on shortly thereafter. If you have any further comments or ideas, feel free to share them with a council member.

Granary Cleanup:

As part the spring cleanup, the granary was emptied out, cleaned and everything put back. Many things in the granary are no longer used or are of value to the church. The following list is of the items that are planned to be disposed. If you have any thoughts on why these items should be kept, please let a council member know. Otherwise, later this fall there will be an announcement about how you can get any of these items if you are interested.

- 11 - folding chairs - old, non-matching to others.
- various carpet remnants
- rectangular planter (from entry) with greens
- various steel posts
- old ice cream social signs
- 1 interior door in frame
- 1 exterior door in frame
- various sanctuary paneling scraps
- old church signs

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Parking Lot

The church council has awarded the paving contract to mid-Minnesota Hot Mix Inc. from Litchfield Mn. The completed cost which includes the striping of the parking spots will be around \$16,000. Anyone wishing to make donations at this time would be greatly appreciated as we are trying to gather as much money as we can by Aug.31. Also, anyone wishing to make pledges that can be paid at your convenience may do so to any council member. May God bless you all.

Please remember all of our church members who are in need of your thoughts, prayers, and kind deeds.

Mary Paulsen

Marriott Town Place Suite

525 2nd St. N., Room 224 Minneapolis, MN 55401

Tel. 612 340 1000 (Call evenings)

Mary plans to be at the above location during weekdays for treatment and home for weekends. Please contact LeaEtte @ 864-3282, if you would be interested in preparing some food that could be shared.

Glen Moehring

% Burns Manor Nursing Home

135 N. High Drive N.E.

Hutchinson, MN 55350

Glen is at this location on a temporary basis. He will enjoy cards and visits. Please contact Sue Rose @ 864-6862 if you are interested in supporting Eileen with transportation needs, or prepared food. Thank you!!

Let us also remember Rosie Ziemer at Glencoe Long Term Care, Myrtle Sanken at Burns Manor, and Lowell Block, who is at home but not able to get out as much as he would like.

In June we had baptism for Jaden Uecker, son of Troy and Angela Uecker. Blessing to the new member to the family.

We welcomed Pastor Bob & Mary to our congregation as our new pastor. Duties began on June 1st.

I think all the members of this congregation are so very proud of our youth. To see a small church have youth that are interested in helping others in a time of need. We have wonderful leaders to take on this job also. Good job done to all of you.

Coming into church on Sunday, and seeing what all the workers had done for preparing for Vacation Bible School, made me wish I could come too! Thank you to all that are teaching our young children and making them want to come and learn.

Our Church Leaders for 2003

PASTOR

Rev. Bob Taylor..... 763-420-6800

COUNCIL

President: Randy Blake 587-5472
 Vice President: LeaEtte Peters..... 864-3282
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek..... 587-7394
 Treasurer: David Swift..... 864-6188
 Financial Secretary: Cory Garoutte..... 864-4646
 Building Fund Cord: Sue Rose..... 864-6862

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

Curt Paulsen..... 587-4684
 David Sanken..... 328-4164
 Dale Peters..... 864-6232

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool – 1st grade: Julie Karl & Mandy Mielke
 2nd-4th grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 5th-6th grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 7th-8th grade: Confirmation: Nancy Hyndman
 7th-8th grade: Sunday School: Julie Karl

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke..... 328-5339
 Clerical: Karen Konerza 864-4554

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 David Sanken..... 328-4164
 Dennis Schwanke..... 864-4597

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

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

CCCC

Area Rep.: Ron Stewart..... 320-356-9001
 Conf. Minister: Cliff Christenson ... 651-739-147

Job Sign-ups for 2003

ALTAR GUILD

January Senske
 February Sladek
 March (open)
 April Block
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Elaine, Mavis
 July Peters
 August (open)
 September Trimbo
 October Swift
 November .. Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 December..... (open)
 Jan 2004..... (open)

CUSTODIANS

January Senske
 February Sladek
 March Al Mielke
 April Block
 May Sue Rose
 June Mavis, Elaine
 July Peters
 August Sanken
 September Trimbo
 October Swift
 November Cory Garoutte
 December
 1st week..... R & B Swift
 2nd week..... (open)
 3rd week (open)
 4th week (open)
 5th week (open)
 Jan 2004..... (open)

USHERS

January Duane & Mark Wigern
 February Sladek
 March Kaufmann
 April Senske
 May C Garoutte
 June Konerza
 July Peters
 August (open)
 September Trimbo
 October Swift
 November Garoutte
 December..... (open)
 Jan 2004..... (open)

There are many openings to be filled. Please consider volunteering to fill another slot.

AUGUST 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 VBS children sing Communion	4	5 Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.	6 Women's Guild at 7:00 p.m at Elaine Cariagan in Biscay	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Council Meeting 7:00p.m.	3 Women's Guild Choir Practice 6:15	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday School begins 9:15 Bible Study begins 9:15	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Women's Guild	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	7	8 Council Meeting 7:00p.m.	9	10	11	12
12 Newsletter material due	14	15	16	17	18	19
19 No Sunday School MEA vacation	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School:	9:15 a.m. Sunday (beginning Sept 7 th)
Adult Bible Study:	9:15 a.m. at Dick and Bernetta Swift's home
Worship Hour:	10:30 a.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. (ending Sept 7 th)
Choir Practice:	6:15 p.m. Wednesday
Women's Guild:	1 st Wed. of the month after choir
Council:	7:00 p.m. 1 st Tuesday of the month

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next newsletter will be due October 15th. You can bring your input to me at the church, or mail it to me (821 Baxter Ave, Glencoe) or email me at stjmail@hutchtel.net.

Karen Konezka

QUARTERLY INCOME

	2001	2002	2003
Apr	2687.05	3444.26	2505.57
May	3048.68	2454.32	3104.74
Jun	2348.97	2862.06	2233.66
Quarter	8084.70	8760.64	7843.97