

From Pastor Dan

As I shared in a recent sermon, I am in the process of moving from my home into a 2-bedroom apartment; a process which involves a bunch of lifting, much elbow grease (my house was never that clean when I lived there), a few garage sales, many trips to Goodwill and the like, and a trash dumpster or two. This move, in addition to being a lot of work, has revealed a few things about my life:

1. I accumulated way too much stuff and much needed to go.
2. Of the things I kept, the precious items for me were photographs and a few personal gifts.

Now neither of the above-named revelations is extraordinary; one would probably expect that situation to be the case for most folks. However, what was extraordinary for me was how often God showed up in the treasured reminders I uncovered among all the stuff. I found photographs replete with family and friends gathered at weddings, baptisms, confirmations, and even funerals. In mining through those photos I uncovered the presence of at least 8 pastors who were a part of my life.

I wasn't totally shocked by the God-related activities in all those photographs and memorabilia; after all, I spent most of my life in church-going households. But I was pleasantly surprised by the appearance of God in a totally unexpected place; the back of a framed picture from a friend.

You see, after my divorce, I moved from North Carolina to Montana to begin a new life adventure and a new business venture, Burger Town, with good friends Bruce and Marge. Upon my arrival in Big Fork, Montana, Bruce presented me with a framed painting of a country scene with a bird sitting on a sign which read, "Welcome to Big Fork." After my subsequent move from Big Fork to Iowa, this painting had been stored away and had not since seen the light of day because it wasn't, truth be told, my favorite painting. However, encountering this painting during the recent move I was reacquainted with what Bruce had written on the back. And in seeing it again after so many years I realized it should have been prominently displayed this whole time. For you see, my friend Bruce, who never ever had much of anything to do with church or God had written.

I know you have been through a lot, but it is going to be okay my friend; it is going to be okay.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7 – KJV)

In the recent sermon to which I alluded at the beginning of this article, I also reminded you that there is nothing inherently wrong with all the “stuff” that fills our lives as long as it doesn’t get in the way of what really matters. And what really matters in life, as I have been so gently reminded, is positive and nurturing relationships with family and friends and a sustaining relationship with God in Jesus Christ. And each day as you try to live fully in the power of those relationships even in the midst of challenges, doubts, and fear, you will be consistently reminded that no matter what happens in your life, *...it is going to be okay my friend; it is going to be okay... “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

Pastor Dan

“Council Corner”

Arden Mikich, Treasurer

Greetings all! In addition to addressing the day-to-day needs of St. John’s, your Council wants you to be aware that some additional projects are in the future plans that need our utmost consideration. The Building Committee, with Laverne enthusiastically spearheading these proposals, i.e., re-surfacing the parking lot, lighting improvements, building security measures, as well as eliminating notable safety hazards, will require additional financial resources to complete.

Soon the Executive Committee will be preparing the budget for the coming year. While we endeavor to control costs as closely as possible, we cannot control the contributions from our membership. Only you, the congregation, can do that and God and St. John’s are relying on each of us to do our part.

There are many good things that are apparent that have happened and are happening at St. John's

- The excellent pastoral leadership portrayed in directing and involving our youth in all activities knowing they are the future of this church, thus making their commitment to Jesus Christ.
- The recent renovations and improvements to the sanctuary (God's house) make it a special worship experience and certainly a recipe for our visitors and prospective members and as a formula for continued growth.
- The various committees working tirelessly to carry out their assigned responsibilities within their stated budgetary requirements are noteworthy.

However, with that being said, we must not rest on our laurels and become complacent – especially in our support in financial giving. I know how vital this support is for those who serve as church leaders. Bearing this in mind, we encourage each of you to prayerfully consider giving generously, to the extent you are able, without material injury to yourself.

May the Lord bless your giving – I know he will! Thank you for this honor of serving you. I welcome your calls and comments. Enjoy the fall season and may God continue to bless the ministry of St. John's.

Council Members. Here is a list of Council Members. Please contact them with any concerns or issues you may have. Council meets once a month and welcomes input from the congregation.

President: Randy Knapp – 715-581-5558; rknappeoj@gmail.com

Vice President: Sue Cooley – 715-675-8566; cooley1512@outlook.com

Treasurer: Arden Mikich – 715-298-3220; ardenmikich@frontier.com

Secretary: Sue Rakow – 715-675-7213; suszir@aol.com

Trustees: Laverne Grunenwald – 715-675-6880; mgrunen@yahoo.com

Don Voelker – 715-675-7062; midmainefarms@hotmail.com

Evangelism: Duane Askew – 75-675-4111; daskew@airrun.net

Fellowship: Mike Kluetz – 715-218-1357; mdk@airrun.net

Education: Connie Nowak – 715-675-1577; bcdenowak@gmail.com

Worship: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Mission Statement: “We are called to serve God; serve each other; serve the community; serve the wider church.”

Serve God through worship, prayer, and the dedication of our lives to His kingdom.

Serve Each Other by mutual care and support to encourage everyone to fulfill their God-given potential. **Serve the Community** by making known the good news about Jesus and the love of God by word and deed. **Serve the Wider Church** through prayer and practical support to help spread the good news about Jesus throughout the world.

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings

**6:30 p.m. Thursday Worship Service -
(September 15 - October 27)**

Please join us as we worship our Lord!

Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. I visit them to remind them that they are loved by God and loved by their community of faith, St. John. Sometimes it is helpful to hear those reminders from someone in addition to me.

Betty Tietz
4602 Barbican Ave., Room 106
Weston, WI 54476
715-393-0215

Ann Kieckhafer
1347 Crystal Avenue
Room 236-1
Naperville, IL 60563

Orville Anklam
Rennes Health Center
4605 Valdres Springs Ct.
#511
Schofield, WI 54476

Ellen Kruit
3312 Terrace Court #19
Wausau, WI 54401

POLKA SERVICE – CHILI LUNCHEON/RAFFLE - October 2, 2016 –

10:00 a.m. The polka worship service with Gene Lettau & the II Edition Band will be on October 2nd at 10:00 a.m. (note time change!), followed immediately by our annual Chili Lunch and Raffle. Tickets may be purchased over the next several weeks. The chili tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 4 through 10, with those 3 or younger free. Proceeds will go to the Neighbors' Place.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends –
November 6.**

Reminder! If you are in the hospital and would like Pastor Dan to visit, **PLEASE CALL** and let him know. Because of privacy issues, the hospital will not notify him or the church that you are there.

Food Pantry. The food items collected for the food pantry in October will be donated to The Women's Community Center. Your donations are appreciated. If you are able to help out with delivering these items to the local organizations, please contact the church office.

Council Meeting Minutes. Copies of the minutes from the most recently held Council meeting are by the mailboxes. Please feel free to pick up a copy. If more are needed, please contact the church office.

Announcements. If you would like to have an announcement included in our weekly bulletin or newsletter, please submit the information in writing and put it in either Pastor Dan's mailbox or the administrative assistant's mailbox located in the narthex. If it is more convenient for you, you can submit your announcements via e-mail to stjohnwausau@msn.com. The deadline for submitting announcements for the Sunday bulletin is the Thursday before by 9:00 a.m. The deadline for the newsletter is indicated on the monthly calendar