

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2013

(our website good-shepherd.us)

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service, in faith and with love, to all people.

From The Pastor

To All the Saints at Good Shepherd,

Now that the Christmas season has concluded and only two Sundays remain in Epiphany, it is time, if you can believe it, to start thinking of Easter which will be celebrated quite early this year on March 31. Before we reach that date, there is the six-week season of Lent which begins on Wednesday, February 13 and concludes with Good Friday, March 29. Perhaps you noted that there was no mention of the word “ash” before Wednesday. Why is that? Let me explain. Following the Congregational Meeting I shared an idea I had with the Church Council which was not to have a midweek service but to incorporate much of what is appointed for the liturgy of that day (even the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them) into the liturgy for the First Sunday in Lent. My rationale is that midweek at the present time is not a convenient time for a good many people who would like worship but are not able to do so either because they are working or attending school during the day, or who find it difficult to drive at night. But Sunday morning is the time they will all be able to take advantage of starting this important season together. With no objections, the council’s response was: let’s give it a try. As Garry Westerweller stated, and I paraphrase: “times have changed.”

In addition to worship on Sundays I call your attention to three opportunities to enrich your observance of the Lenten season.

1. Consider joining the six- week small group series *Faith: Confidence and Doubt in Daily Life*. All the details are in an announcement found on another page of this issue.

2. On your computer go to *ELCA Social Statements*. There you will find a listing for **environment** and the document Caring for Creation. I encourage you to make a copy and spend time reviewing it. What is stated there is extremely important considering how environmental concerns are becoming more and more significant. We as Lutheran Christians need to know how, through a document such as this, our theology helps us connect our faith to our daily life. It also reflects what is in our congregation’s constitution under the section titled Statement of Purpose. There one of nine directives directs us to “*Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and the suffering, and participate responsibly in society.*”

3. Read the Gospel of John in its entirety. That really should not be a daunting task if you consider there are 21 chapters in the gospel and 42 days in Lent. Thus reading just one half a chapter a day does the job. However, as you read please have a pen or pencil available because I want you to mark the instances where Jesus’ critics begin to take note of what he is doing and saying and thus evidence a concern and displeasure that ultimately culminates in his crucifixion. As you do this please know that when the text mentions “the Jews” it means those who are in positions of power and authority only; not the population in general. In no case should it be considered anti-Semitic. After completing this assignment it should be clear that Jesus’ passion began at the very beginning of his ministry when his theme “the Kingdom of God” was just too much for those in authority. I think you will find this to be an interesting and meaningful experience.

Grace and peace to you all,
Pastor Jack

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Lenten Small Group Discussion Series

FAITH

Confidence and Doubts in Daily Life

What does Christian faith have to do with our ordinary, day-to-day life? This question is presented in personal ways for you and your small group. Explore faith in the life-cycle experiences – moods and situations, joy and discouragement, confidence and doubt. These are the matters Dr. Martin E. Marty assists participants with in their time spent together during the Lenten season on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm.

“We are going to talk about faith as it matches the seasons of life. Seasons of life can mean a long time – childhood, adulthood, being elderly are all far apart. However, we also want to know how to get through today. Seasons of life can mean its moods and situations. What does faith have to do with my ordinary, day-to-day life?This course is about confidence and doubt in daily life, about making our way through the seasons of life.” From the Introduction of the participant’s book.

- February 13 – Faith for Seasons of Beginnings
- February 20 – Faith for Seasons of Risk
- February 27 – Faith for Seasons of Seeking
- March 6 – Faith for Seasons of Action
- March 13 – Faith Active in Community
- March 20 – Faith for the Season of Victory

Please use the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex or call the church office at 732-842-4596.

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Council Minutes 01/14/13 by Garry Westerweller

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci, Andy Mathisen, , Mike Carp, Clem Hergenhan, Tom Tehve, Pastor Jack.

Absent: Andy Lichter, Karl Tourjussen

The meeting was called to order with a quorum declared.
Pastor led us in devotions with a reading from ACTS, Chapter 3.
Steve reviewed the agenda for the evening
December minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s report was presented by Clem showing a surplus for the year of \$21,843.00. This surplus and what to do with it was discussed later in the meeting. Steve presented a review of surplus for the last three years. Garry motioned that the report be accepted, Tom seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Review of upcoming Congregational meeting.

A review of the committee members was presented highlighting the areas where we need the most help. Those areas were; Fellowship, Altar Guild, and Property, with Jamie noting that we should consider starting to hire people to assist with some of the needed work around the church.

Steve presented the following action item for each committee head: **To define a specific job that we can than ask people to help with.**

Council briefly reviewed the 5 following committees: Nomination, Endowment, Memorial and Thanksgiving, Mutual Ministry and Staff Support, and the Audit Committee. Review consisted of discussion of who serves on each and duties of same.

Suggestion was made to specifically address and answer the suggestions that the congregation presented at last years meeting. **Steve will address this with the assistance of whatever committee head took part in the response.**

Social Ministry Mike presented the council with detailed information of what has been given to social ministry and to where. He also noted that giving was up due to Hurricane Sandy.

Old Business:

- Discussion with our cleaning people took place and they are now adding the sweeping of the floors in the Sanctuary to their list of duties. We will continue to monitor their efficiency and work results.
- Good Shepherd safety policies for youth ministries was once again discussed. It was felt that we should post our policies for all to see. In addition, **Steve will address the Congregation at our annual meeting advising them of the existence of these policies.**
- Steve presented the suggestion that we use some of our surplus as follows: Split \$15,000.00 between Endowment, Benevolence, and Property. A discussion ensued as to how to split the Benevolence portion of the money. Council requested that **Mike and his Committee return with recommendations as to what charities to give to.** Steve suggested that in doing this, we should continue to support the charities we are intimately involved with. Pastor suggested that we should try not to spread our donations too thin – make them bigger to have more impact. Clem moved and Garry seconded that this proposal be accepted. Council then voted to approve.
- ELCA previously had suggested a \$5400.00per year pledge. Council recommended that we meet this pledge and will **forward this to be voted on at the Congregational meeting.**
- Narthex improvement project was briefly discussed and the topic was shelved until the February meeting where Gil will present Council with some recommendations.

New Business:

- **Andy is working on our mission statement that he will present at the Congregational meeting**
- **Karl is in the process of doing a time and talent survey**
- **Steve will get with the audit committee to schedule a meeting.**
- Proposal to revise our website was briefly discussed and was deferred to our March meeting.
- Need representation at the NJ Annual Assembly to elect Bishop. Dates are 6/6-6/8/2013. Table this topic till February meeting.

2013 Budget Review

Tom presented the 2013 Budget to Council for review. After some minor tweaking, Tom will make some presentation changes so that the budget can be more easily read and presented to the Congregation at this years annual meeting.

Steve to supply Tom with actual final numbers for year end.

Pastor asked about the feasibility of bringing in Kurt’s Gettysburg Choir to perform in March. This would entail the congregation supplying housing for the Choir members. **Pastor will reach out to the choir director to get a more accurate number of how many people need to be housed.**

Pastor also brought up the fact that we need an alternate for Pat Dunn should she get sick and be unable to get the bulletins together, etc... Clem volunteered to learn.

Mike mentioned that the Souper Bowl of Caring will take place for 5 weeks, 2 weeks prior and 2 weeks after the Super Bowl.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer

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GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH DONATES TO LUNCH BREAK IN RED BANK

On January 24, 2013, Larry Jackson, (center), delivered a \$1,000 check to Millie Jeter (left), Lunch Break Executive Assistant, while Larry's wife, Shirley (right) looks on,

Lunch Break, located on Drs. James Parker Blvd, Red Bank, serves hot meals 6 days per week (56,000 meals served in 2012), and delivers meals to shut-ins. It also has a food pantry (7600 pickups in 2012), a clothing shop (8,900 pickups in 2012), and has many special programs throughout the year

Larry Jackson, member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holmdel, has volunteered at Lunch Break for over 25 years. Most mornings, Larry can be found at Lunch Break at 7:30AM. The building's 200-person capacity means that a LOT of food is required. Larry checks with the cook and the Executive Director to determine special food needs for the day. Larry then drives to various stores to collect perishable donations such as deli salads or breads.



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AROUND THE PARISH

By Gil Vatter

Good Shepherd - The Friendly Church

1. *Pastor Niel Jagge* preached at Good Shepherd on Sunday December 30, while Pastor Jack was away. His sermon topic was - "*Searching for Jesus*"

2. You can mark your calendar - Winter as arrived - *Paul and Janice Kraus* have gone to Florida until spring and *Bill Wehrli* is commuting to Boynton Beach for the winter.

I was in Florida...and I saw a bumper sticker on a parked car that read, "I MISS THE BRONX". So, I broke the window, stole the radio and left a note that read, "I hopes this helps." (Dick Alberti)

Our Pastor came to call the other day. He said that, at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, Oh, I think about the hereafter all the time, no matter where I am...in the parlor....upstairs...in the kitchen...down in the basement. I ask myself the same question, "Now what am I here after?" (Bunny Kuhl)

3. Thanks and an annual tip of the Good Shepherd ball cap to *Maureen Bartlett*, who does a wonderful job of preparing coffee for the fellowship time after the service....and it's delicious coffee too.

4. Congratulations to *Bob Stetz*, who was recently elected president of the local Sons of Norway group. And, congrats to wife, *Randi*, who has entered the 21st century. She now has a computer.

A Swedish factory put in a sandwich machine for its workers. Sven didn't understand how it worked, so he put in 10 Kroner and, to his surprise, out came a sandwich. All excited, he put another coin in the machine and got another sandwich. When he had a pile of sandwiches in front of him, his friend Ole said, "Sven, don't you think you should stop now?" "Stop?", said Sven, "when I'm winning big?"

5. *Katie Brundage Brautner* (*Debbie Blackburn's* niece and *Gina and Pete Blackburn's* granddaughter), was installed as Pastor of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.

6. Happy birthday to *Andy Mathisen, Pam (Everett) Baglieri, George Frank, Tom Tehve and Pam Brown*.

One morning, my wife and I were quiet and thoughtful, sitting at the breakfast table, when I said to her, "When I die, I want you to sell all my stuff immediately". " Now, why would you want me to do something like that", she said. I replied, "I figure that a woman as fine as you will eventually remarry and I don't want some other idiot using my stuff." She looked at me intently and said, "What makes you think I'd marry another idiot?"

7. *Walter Kyle* was hospitalized over Christmas, but he was back in church on January 6, doing quite well.

8. A very happy 60th wedding anniversary to *Barbara and John Hafer* and happy 36th wedding anniversary to *Pam and Al Brown*.

Did you know that it's the law - to operate a vehicle while blindfolded in Alabama?to operate a bicycle faster than 65 miles per hour in Connecticut?.....for an unmarried woman to parachute jump on a Sunday in Florida?.....to sing in a public place while attired in a swim suit in Sarasota?...to leave an elephant tied to a parking meter in Florida? (Bill Wehrli)

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one. (Bill theune)

9. The SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE took over 465 cans of food to the *Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church* in Keyport in early January. Also among the food donated was pasta and sauce, lots of baby food, cereal and a frozen turkey. Thanks to *Clem Hergenhan* for allowing the committee to use his truck to deliver the food. The committee also sent 12 cans of coffee to LUNCH BREAK in Red Bank during 2012 with the help of *Larry Jackson*.

10. *Kurt and Andy Mathisen* both qualified as "ZERO HEROS" at "Northern Tier", a Boy Scout exercise on the ice in Minnesota during January. The smart one was *Diane* who stayed home where it was warm.

LATE BULLETIN FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Andy has shaved his beard, grown for Northern Tier. Too many people thought he was "Grizzly Adams".

A couple got separated at the mall while Christmas shopping. The wife was quite upset because they still had a lot of shopping to do. She called him on her cell phone to find out where he was.

In a calm voice, the husband said, "Do you remember the jewelry store we went into about 5 years ago where you fell in love with a diamond necklace that we could not afford and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"

The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I remember that jewelry store."

"Well", he said, "I'm in the bar right next to it."

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd coon skin cap to *Bill Wehrli* for bringing 10 cases (that's 120 cans, folks) of food to church.

12. *Ernie* (broken ribs) and *Grace Brinkman* have been ill for several weeks. We miss you guys.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around,. you're not going anywhere. (Bill Theune)

Is it me....or do buffalo wings taste like chicken? (Bill Wehrli)

13. The congregation sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY to *Kim Wehrli* before the service on Sunday January 20.

14. *Walter Kyle* is reading "The Generals: America's Military Commanders from World War II to Today." by Thomas E. Ricks.

15. *Elaine and Lou Medici* have begun painting their home as part of the rehab from Hurricane Sandy.

Golfer - "Do you think it's a sin to play golf on Sunday?"

Caddy - "I'm afraid the way you play, it's a sin on any day of the week."

16. Mark your calendar - Concerts coming up:

New Jersey State Youth Orchestra - March 23

Miae Park student concert - April date to be confirmed.

Gettysburg College Choir - March 11

17. Ask *Nancy Fitch* about her ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE.

18. Thanks and a tip of the Good shepherd fez to every member of the congregation who helped the church give away more than \$21,500 last year to "Outreach". Great job folks.

"Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf." (Mark Twain)

19. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to all the kids and adults from the Vacation Bible School, who provided 10 nets for Africa to help stop deaths from malaria.

20. *Fred Oberkehr* is picking the Baltimore Ravens to win the Super Bowl.

21. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd yarmalke to the Congregation Council for providing an extra \$5,000 for yearend "Outreach".

22. *Pat and Steve Miller* will spend most of February in South America and Antarctica.

23. *Kirsten Mathisen* is studying in Santiago, Chile.

24. *Karen and Andy Lichter* just returned from a stay in North Carolina.

25. Don't forget the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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GOOD SHEPHERD ADDS TO RECOVERY FROM "SANDY" by Gil Vatter

Members of the congregation's Social Ministry Committee drove to nearby Keansburg on Thursday January 10 to present a check for \$2,800 to the officials of PROJECT PAUL, a key player in the care of our needy neighbors in that area. PROJECT PAUL was founded in 1980 by St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church of Keansburg as a food pantry and has since expanded to include a wide variety of services to the community.

Good shepherd has been supporting the work of PROJECT PAUL for several years with both food contributions as well as cash. The January check, enhanced by the good work of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, has been designated totally for use in the local campaign to help the shore area recover from Hurricane "Sandy". Sister Kathleen O'Halloran, Director of Client Services, explained that there is such a need for recovery assistance in Keansburg, the money will be assigned to a needy neighbor at once and will help solve at least one hurricane problem.

The building in which PROJECT PAUL is housed was badly damaged by the storm and the first floor, which includes the food pantry and thrift shop, is undergoing total renovation. The freezers in the food pantry were returned to service just a few days before the presentation of the check. Up to 80,000 people a year are fed through this program at the rate of 200 to 250 bags of food per day, three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"Sandy changed everything around here and it will take a long time for us to recover from its effects", said Sister Kathleen.

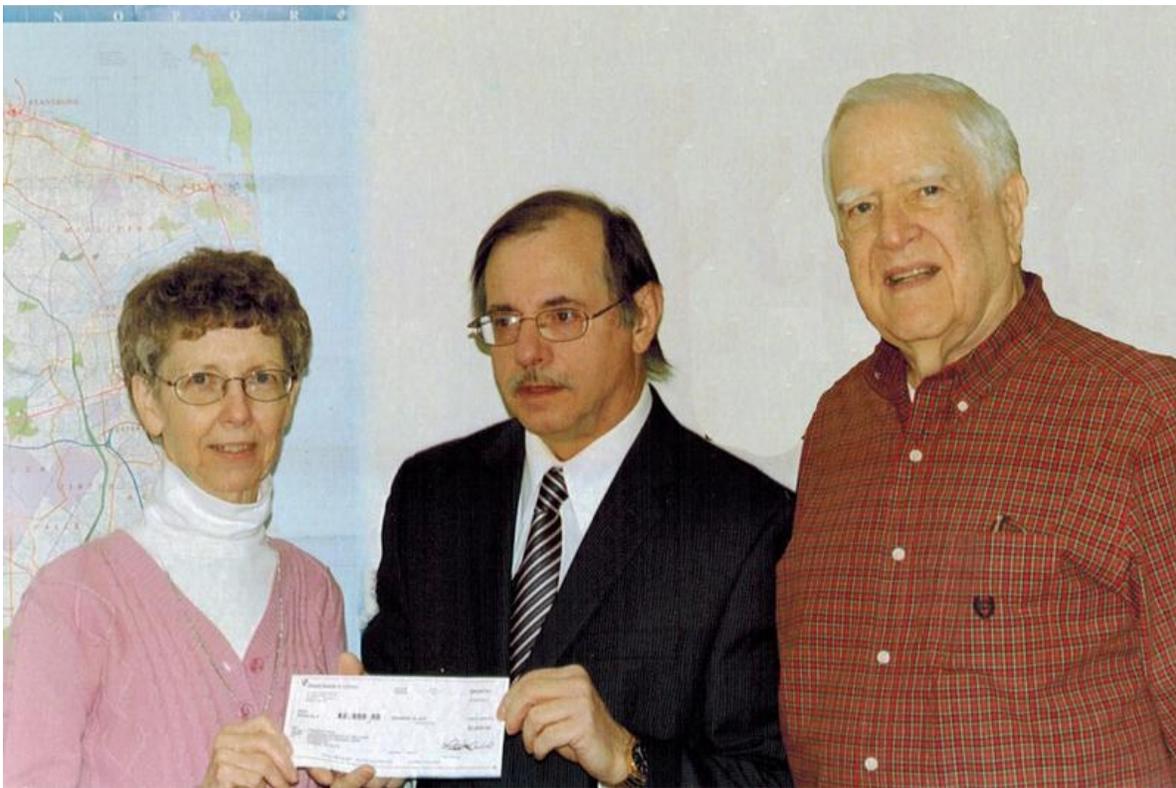


Photo - left to right - Sister Kathleen O'Halloran, Director of Client Services, Project Paul, Keansburg - Michael Carp, Gilbert Vatter, Social Ministry Committee, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

By Gil Vatter

" We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you....we are an offering.
Miae Park - Minister of Music

January 6 - "You are My Light" - D. Perry
January 13 - "The Beauty of the Lord" - D. Lantz
January 20 - "Within This House of Worship" - L. Larson
January 27 - "Glory to Thy Name, Most Holy" - M. McDonald

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FOOD COLLECTION DELIVERED TO KEYPORT by Gil Vatter

In early November the church was informed that Saint Mark's Food Kitchen and Pantry was no longer going to be located at the Episcopal Church in Keansburg. After more than fifteen years, the private corporation, which operates both the kitchen and pantry was looking for a new location in which to offer their services to the local area. For several years, it has been the practice of the Social Ministry Committee to deliver Good Shepherd's accumulated food each month to Saint Mark's. By middle December, it was announced that a location had been found at Calvary United Methodist Church in Keyport and the new enterprise would open in January.

When the opening was delayed until late January or early February, the accumulated food in Good Shepherd's narthex had already overflowed into the kitchen and the Social Ministry Committee decided to make an alternative move to clear out the narthex and get the food to some pantry for distribution to needy families. With the advice of the St. Mark's Kitchen Directors, Nancy Mester and Doreen Minutella, the committee elected to take the food to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Keyport, where the Ministerium of Keyport has a Food Pantry, which is open weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

On Tuesday January 8, Patty Vatter, Clem Hergenhan and Gil Vatter piled 465 cans of food (including 120 cans from Bill Wehrli), lots of pasta, pasta sauce, baby food, cereal and miscellaneous food (including a frozen turkey from Bunny and Herb Kuhl) into Clem's truck, pretty well filling the truck bed and becoming the biggest load of food presented by this congregation in a very long time, for a trip to Keyport. Unloading the food, with the help of the food pantry staff required both shopping carts and hand trucks, but it was soon placed on shelves in the pantry and will help to fill bags of groceries for needy families in and around the town of Keyport.

The Social Ministry Committee thanks the congregation for their continued support of the monthly food collection and Clem Hergenhan for making his truck available to take the January food collection to Keyport.

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CHURCH GIVES ADDITIONAL YEAR-END OUTREACH by Gil Vatter

"In so far as you did it to one of the humblest of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

In what has become an annual tradition at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the Congregation Council has authorized the Social Ministry Committee to distribute an additional \$5,000 to local and statewide charities. The money for these gifts comes from the surplus of 2012 giving by the congregation. Social Ministry had announced at the annual meeting of the church on January 20 that more than \$21,500 in cash and goods had already been given for outreach by members of Good Shepherd in 2012. This is well beyond a tithe from the total income of the congregation. Now the Council has offered an additional amount to be added to the church's gifts from last year.

After long deliberation, those organizations chosen by Social Ministry to share in the \$5,000 gift include the following:

- Holmdel Fire Company - \$75.00
- Holmdel First Aid Squad - \$75.00
- SouperBowl of Caring - \$200.00
- Love INC - \$500.00

Family Promise - \$500.00
Lutheran Social Ministry of NJ - \$650
COG - \$1,000.00
Saint Mark's Kitchen, Keyport - \$1,000.00
Lunch Break, Red Bank - \$1,000.00

Checks will be sent or presented to all these groups by the church during the next few weeks.

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Yust a Yoke from Marion Schloemer

A farmer named Olie had a car accident. He was hit by a truck. In court, the truck company's hot-shot attorney questioned him thus:

'Didn't you say to the state trooper at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?''

Olie responded: 'vell, I'lla tell you vat happened dere. I'd yust

loaded my fav'rit cow, Bessie, into da... '

'I didn't ask for any details', the lawyer interrupted. 'Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!''?

Olie said, 'vell, I'd yust got Bessie into da trailer and I vas drivin' down da road.... '

The lawyer interrupted again and said, 'Your Honor, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the police on the scene that he was fine. Now several weeks after the accident, he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question. '

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Olie's answer and said to the attorney: 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite cow, Bessie'.

Olie said: 'Tank you' and proceeded. 'vell as I vas saying, I had yust loaded Bessie, my fav'rit cow, into de trailer and was drivin' her down de road vin dis huge truck and trailer came tundering tru a stop sign and hit me trailer right in da side by golly. I was trown into one ditch and Bessie was trown into da udder ditch.

By yimminy yahosaphat I vas hurt, purty durn bad, and didn't want to move. An even vurse dan dat,, I could hear old Bessie a moanin' and a groanin'. I knew she vas in terrible pain yust by her groans.

Shortly after da accident, a policeman on a motorbike turned up. He could hear Bessie a moanin' and a groanin' too, so he vent over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her condition, he took out his gun and shot her right between the eyes.

Den da policeman came across de road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feelin'?'

'Now wot vud you say?'

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And Finally from Dick Alberti

The Importance of 2-2-2013

In this New Year 2013 both Ground Hog Day and the State of the Union address will occur on the same day. This is an ironic juxtaposition of events. One involves a meaningless ritual in which we look to an insignificant creature of little intelligence for prognostication. The other involves a groundhog.

February 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
						NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm Council Meeting		1pm & 7pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice 6pm - Thrivent Mtg	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ House of Choy	NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service followed by Congregation Meeting		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1pm & 7pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
24	25	26	27	28		
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm & 7pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		