

shared in life. Reflecting on the value that these things represent in life, the effort required to hold on to the values and the purposefulness needed to pass them on to others, is important. It is a time when people naturally are moved to consider such things, and the conversations are never forced or artificial. Talking about what matters in life tends to be very small windows in the conversations that happen in the world, so at the time of a funeral I enjoy those moments of clarity and meaning.

So, if you were going to identify what things needed to be rehearsed at your death, what would it be? What do you describe as core meanings and values that following generations ought to pay attention to and emulate? You see, one day this conversation will happen. The thing is, you won't be there to direct it. Your contribution to the discussion will already have been made. It will be valued, it will actually be the cornerstone of the evening. Unfortunately, at times it is around things that aren't too important. Which NFL team, or college team, or recreational activity or hobby becomes trite and shallow very quickly. The number of afghans, needlework, or hours spent working just doesn't become worthy of a person's life.

Conversations have to turn to relationships, to connections and to time shared together. It can't be things, it has to be about people. God made us that way for a reason.

Grace and Peace,

Carl



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God January 11, 2015

Many of the things I am called on to do are good and worthy, things that I enjoy as well as having value. I enjoy being with folks who are in the hospitals, or waiting during surgical procedures. It is time that is sometimes filled with mundane small talk and at other times probes some of the questions of life.

I like working with people in crisis, when the way has become clouded, when selfishness or desperation causes battles for control. To encourage those who struggle with each other to look beyond themselves to a common good, a greater good, is a great task and I enjoy it. To seek God's wisdom, to see his hand and to follow his ways during such a struggle is challenging when the focus has shifted to believing that "I am right" and pressing for "my way, because it is the only right way".

My favorite ministry opportunity, and it is often misunderstood when I say it, is during a death. I like funerals. I like the preparation around them, helping a family walk through the history of the deceased and draw out the memories, the meanings and priorities that are

St John Church of Christ
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Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service – 9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages – 10:00 am
Worship Services – 10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study – 7:30 pm
Youth Group – 7:30 pm (at Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich,
Loyd Ratts, Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR JANUARY 11, 2015

SONG LEADER: Richard Brensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 31 – Be Still and Know
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: John 8:1-12 (Ned Marks)
SONGS: No. 129 – Amazing Grace
No. 121 – Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing (vs 1, 3)
No. 123 – The Steadfast Love of the Lord
No. 770 – Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (vs 1, 2)
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon
SONG: No. 176 – Lamb of God
COMMUNION: Fred Johnson
Jon Mansel
Chris Mansel
Orrin Feril
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 560 – Living by Faith
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 924 – Just as I Am (vs 1)
PRAYER: Garland Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today – please come again!

OUR SYMPATHY

We grieve with the family of **Dennis Staub**, who passed away on Friday morning. His memorial service will be on Tuesday at 2:00 pm at Minnis Chapel in St John.

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED

We have been asked to provide cookies for the family of **Dennis Staub**. A sign up sheet is posted for 10 dozen; you are asked to take your cookies to the Odd Fellows Lodge, where the family will be gathering after the memorial service. (Ask that the cookies be set aside for AFTER the service.)

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

A Bible study for the ladies is planned for this Saturday, January 17th, here at the church building at **9:00 am**. If you don't have a study book, please see Pam or Janet. A light breakfast will be served. Please review the lesson on Rahab.

SAVE THE DATE!

There will be a celebration in honor of Loyd Ratts' 100th Birthday on Saturday, February 15th. More information to follow.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kolton Sizemore 1/12

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jon & Vicky Mansel 1/11

Terry & Joy Sallee 1/14

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Carol Gingrich – scheduled for tests in Kansas City tomorrow morning
Shirley Shelton – scheduled for surgery on Tuesday, January 13th, at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center
Dennis Rosenbaum – has a detached retina and is to have surgery on Tuesday; he requests our prayers
Pete Witt – now in Hospice care
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Kari Smith – as she continues to heal from hip surgery
Cody Dick – cancer
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – as he continues chemotherapy
Lyndsey Dryden – as she recovers from a car accident
Wayland Whitlow (preacher in Clearwater) – cancer
Landon Neidig – continues to do well
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law) recent knee replacement, and then abdominal surgery
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law; monthly chemo for brain tumor)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Wilbur Kinnamon – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Brensing – HomePlus in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt – Kenwood Plaza
Margaret Marks (Ned's mother)

NEWSLETTERS – Please take a few minutes to read the newsletters we received this week. One is from Ubaldo Cardona, minister in Chihuahua, Mexico, and the other is from Ron Maynard, with the Fishers of Men program.