

dreams. While things do not always work out as well as they did last week, and I acknowledge that he is under no constraint to act in that way, I am encouraged when I see it happen.

Learning to look for the hand of God in day to day events and opportunities is important, but requires discipline and humility. If we fail to do it, we ascribe our successes to our own strengths (intelligence, craftiness, or savvy) and our failures to unforeseen circumstances (outside forces, the stubbornness or wickedness of others).

As children of God, we believe we walk in two worlds simultaneously, a physical one and a spiritual one. We understand the kingdom of God is not far from us, and that he bends and shapes according to his purpose. While we cannot ascribe every event in life to the hand of God, it is important that we look for him in all things.

As we become people of prayer, we become more skilled at this. We begin to petition God on behalf of what others may see as very small or unimportant. We begin to acknowledge him in every dimension of our lives. We set aside luck or good fortune and acknowledge blessings or disciplines. We shun a purposeless, haphazard existence and attempt to align ourselves with the movement of the kingdom of God and the will of our Father.

Let me challenge those of you who might be new to this for this week. Try to find five things, no matter how small, that are good in your world. Every good and perfect thing comes from God, so be grateful before him for these things this week.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
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St John Church of Christ

A Family of God

January 18, 2015

Once again I was thankful to watch God work in our world. It shaped up to be a stressful week, a number of people having medical procedures, a funeral, as well as some difficult meetings to face. I frankly wasn't looking forward to some of it, and wasn't very optimistic about a number of things.

By the end of the week that had all changed. The reports were coming back better than expected, options were presented where other door closed. It was interesting to see what doors opened and the places that it seemed God decided to act.

Of course there are things in all of our lives that we are unable to share publicly. Sometimes it is in difficulties within a family, other times it is because we are engaged in ministry in painful and trying situations. I am sure that you are familiar with the struggle and understand you can only solicit generic prayers from others because public information is limited.

During those times I reflect back on weeks like this one and remind myself that God has a plan larger than my

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 18, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 103 – He Has Made Me Glad
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 62:5-8 (Kade Kinnamon)
SONGS: No. 230 – Worthy Art Thou
No. 238 – You Are the Song That I Sing
No. 239 – In Moments Like These
No. 467 – We Have An Anchor (vs 1)
No. 800 – What a Friend We Have in Jesus
PRAYER: Richard Brensing
SONG: No. 315 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
COMMUNION: Teddy Gingrich
Joe Cornwell
Jon Mansel
Fred Johnson
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 659 – I Love to Tell the Story (vs 1, 2, 4)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 907 – Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
PRAYER: Orrin Feril

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

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

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Several ladies enjoyed a study yesterday on the story of Rahab. The next lesson will be about Ruth and is planned for Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 am here at the church building. If you don't have a study book, please see Pam or Janet. Breakfast will also be served.

NEW CHRISTIAN

We rejoice with Terry and Joy Sallee on the baptism of their grandson, **Ben Meador**, last Sunday in Garden City. (Ben is the son of Joe & Tammy Meador.)

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

New Theme and Scripture Focus for 2015

LOVE & LIGHT

1 John 2:10-11

¹⁰ The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Carol Gingrich – had tests in Kansas City last week
Shirley Shelton – surgery last week was successful; no further treatment will be needed. Shirley thanks everyone for their prayers on her behalf.
Dennis Rosenbaum – surgery last week for a detached retina went well
Wayland Whitlow (preacher in Clearwater) – cancer; he is currently in ICU in Wichita with pneumonia
Pete Witt – now in Hospice care
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Cody Dick – cancer
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – as he continues chemotherapy
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law) – as she continues to recover from 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 recent newsletters from some ministry efforts we support. One is from Ubaldo Cardona, minister in Chihuahua, Mexico, and the other is from Ron Maynard, with the Fishers of Men program.