

Church life has had vogue approaches to getting things done as well. At one time, “all growing churches have to have a bus ministry.” Or, the issue of the day was the “immodesty of women wearing pant suits,” or “men who wear their hair over their ears”. These “issues” have bounced around over the years, distracting us from the task and making us at best foolish and at worst ineffective.

First century churches faced the same things. Paul warned the church in Colossae, “¹⁶ Therefore, don’t let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah. (Colossians 2:16-17) We see there has always been an effort at external regulation to accomplish internal change. There was a shift from the substance (Jesus) to regulation (food/festivals). We can shift from our message, that Jesus offers the only access to God to procedures... how we do worship, or what we have to wear, or where someone has to sit, stand or whatever.

When we move from people coming to God to a focus of people making rules for each other... we are off task.

Trying to regulate each other is just as effective as foam bats. It doesn’t mean that godliness is unimportant, any more than it meant that controlling anger was unimportant. It is the manner we go about to control it. External regulation does not produce internal transformation. In the 2000 plus years that Christianity has been practiced, it never has.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

March 8, 2015

This is a time of the year for “professional development” for me. That means I attend some ongoing education. Like most professional associations that issue licenses or certifications, my license as a marriage and family therapist requires that I attend a certain number of hours of training each year to maintain the license. There are hours in ethics, assessment, diagnosis and treatment that are required of those who the state of Kansas regulates.

In the middle of March, I attend the Tulsa Workshop for the same reason. No, there is no license to be a minister. Kansas doesn’t regulate who can preach where and on what topics. But the responsibility to maintain exposure to thoughts outside of my own study or particular area of interest is just as important.

Since I began practice as a therapist in the 1980s there are over 200 styles of therapy. A popular one at the time was using foam bats to “whack chairs” to defuse aggression and control anger. In the therapy supply magazines of the day, alongside the clinical journals were these foam bats for sale. Over time research demonstrated that “what you practice you do more, get better at”, so practicing anger was deemed counterproductive. Shocking, eh?

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
MINISTERS: Carl Feril, Tom Turner

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MARCH 8, 2015

SONG LEADER: Gary Hombaker
GATHERING SONG: No. 103 – He Has Made Me Glad
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 42:1-5 (Joe Cornwell)
SONGS: No. 71 – As the Deer
No. 679 – Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (vs 1, 3, 4)
No. 523 – I Know the Lord Will Find a Way for Me
No. 801 – Where No One Stands Alone
PRAYER: Garland Mansel
SONG: No. 308 – Wonderful Love of Jesus (vs 1, 3)
COMMUNION: Terry Sallee
Fred Johnson
Chris Mansel
Orrin Feril
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 549 – There is Sunshine in My Soul
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 903 – There is Power in the Blood (vs 1)
PRAYER: Richard Brensing

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

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

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat planned for this coming Saturday at the Stafford Church of Christ has been cancelled. Calvin Chapman was scheduled as the guest speaker, and he informed the church at Stafford yesterday that his wife, Darla, has just been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and he will not be coming. Please keep Calvin and Darla in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We rejoice with Joe & Lisa Cornwell on the birth of a granddaughter, **Kambri Renee**, born to Austin & Marci Klug on March 6th. She weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and was 20" long.



SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

“STRAIGHT TALK Into Human Behavior, Into the Heart of God”

Save the date – September 24-26, 2015

An Equipping Workshop with Jerry & Lynn Jones
Worship Singing to be lead by Keith Lancaster
See information posted for more details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Meagan Feril 3/12
Misty Blakeslee 3/13

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Carol Gingrich – as she adjusts to her new pacemaker/defibrillator
Juan Ortiz (son of Chito & Lolis Ortiz from Macksville) recovering from an auto accident; they request our prayers
Olen Munz – recent surgery for brain tumor
Jessica Keeton (one of Clint's former basketball players) has breast cancer that has spread to her spine and lymph nodes; our prayers are requested
Maggie Harris (Lisa's mother) – scheduled for a heart valve replacement later this month
Laura Wyatt –recuperating from broken ribs
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Vesta Shelton (George's sister-in-law) recent stroke
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Lyndsey Dryden – still recovering from auto accident
Cody Dick – cancer; undergoing treatments
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – as he continues chemotherapy
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law) – health concerns
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 – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford; fell recently and had to have stitches
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org