

coat, give your cloak also. If required to go a mile, go two.' That would indicate we might be expected by Jesus in such cases to make the wedding cake, provide the groom's cake and not make an issue of it. Perhaps this is a time to be 'shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves' rather than demanding our rights."

Then the discussion shifted a bit. "But the government has no right to define and regulate marriage. Marriage is God ordained and the government should stay entirely out of it."

I asked, "So it should not be illegal to marry more than one person at a time or for children under the age of 13 to be given in marriage? Isn't that government regulation and definition of marriage?"

"But those are common sense laws. Everyone agrees to them."

"Obviously the people who would violate them do not agree. Are our laws simply a pooled agreement of the general population? Is not one purpose of the law to protect the weak, the innocent, or the disadvantaged? When do we choose compliance with the law or embrace rebellion to it? These were the questions of the early revolutionists, the slave owners, the civil rights protestors, and now being asked by gay activists. I do not agree with homosexuality being 'God sanctioned', I believe it is opposed to God and sinful. But the question was about law and our behavior in such times. I, because I see it as a challenge to my faith, see myself subject to the regulation of Jesus regarding how I react to those who oppose me and challenge my views. I believe I am called to "take on the burden and walk the extra mile" in these kinds of cases. Rather than speak of our rights, I believe we should be showing the spirit that Jesus recommended in these situations.'

Well, the bell rang. We didn't all agree. I was told by two of the participants, "That wasn't what we thought you would say."

I hope I used Scripture appropriately.

*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

April 12, 2015

"What do you think about the new 'Religious Freedom Law' in Indiana?" I wasn't being set up, but a group of staff will share a time of discussion, usually about history, over the lunch hour when I am at school. The four of us all profess faith in God, but our expression is shaded by the denominational history and religious traditions that we have embraced throughout our lives. As a result, I always try to think carefully before responding to such questions, and try to express my thoughts with ties to specific Scripture references and principles.

One of the participants quickly stated, "It is a good thing. I don't think the government should mandate what kind of services and to whom I offer them. If it is my business then I get to provide them to whomever I choose, free from government interference."

"Yet that is the same argument that was made regarding offering services to African and Native Americans during the past 100 years that most of us would say was inappropriate and not Christ-like," was my reply.

Another participant said, "But the effort among this group (in the context, homosexual couples who were demanding a Christian running a bakery make a wedding cake), is to force the owner to do something he believes is wrong. It is a form of religious persecution".

My answer was, "When early followers of Jesus were suffering under governmental laws because of their religious views, Jesus said, 'If required to give your

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
 Worship Service—10:45 am  
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm  
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

**ELDERS:** Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

### WORSHIP ORDER FOR APRIL 12, 2015

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing  
 GATHERING SONG: No. 103 – He Has Made Me Glad  
 WELCOME: Tom Turner  
 SCRIPTURE READING: Chase Mansel (Matthew 18:21-22)  
 SONGS: No. 514 – Redeemed  
       No. 702 – Fellowship Medley  
       —No. 703 - Redeemed  
       —No. 704 – Bind Us Together  
       —No. 705 – A Common Love  
       No. 803 – Turn My Heart

PRAYER: Fred Johnson  
 SONG: No. 176 – Lamb of God  
 COMMUNION: Orrin Feril  
               Ned Marks  
               Chris Mansel  
               Jerry Kinnamon

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
 SONG: No. 613 – Hold to God's Unchanging Hand  
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
 SONG: No. 903 – There is Power in the Blood (vs 1)  
 PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(CCLI#2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today – please come again! We also invite you to stay and enjoy a potluck meal with us today after worship services.

### WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

#### Conference in Wichita, KS – April 17-18, 2015

Anyone who has an interest in attending, but is not registered yet, please talk to Janet or Pam today.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!!

Tues, May 26 through Thur, May 28

Family Picnic – Friday, May 29

More information coming soon!

### SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

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

September 24-26, 2015

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

### NEW BABY GIRL

We extend our congratulations to Brett & Sarah Strum on the birth of a baby girl, **Addison Michelle**, born Wednesday morning, April 8, in Wichita. She weighed in at 5 lb 8 oz and was 18 1/2 inches long. Mom and baby are home and doing well. Proud grandparents are Richard & Shelly Breensing; great grandparents are George & Shirley Shelton.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jayce Feril 4/13

Clint Kinnamon 4/15

Ned Marks 4/15

Fred Johnson 4/17

Jeff Scott 4/18

### PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

**Lisa Cornwell**—scheduled for knee surgery later this month  
**Maggie Harris** (Lisa's mother) – currently in rehab care in Lawrence  
**Millie Whitlow** – at Clearwater; cancer spread to her liver  
**Darla Chapman** (in Faith, SD) – thyroid cancer  
**Carol Gingrich** – new pacemaker/ defibrillator  
**Gladys Hornbaker** – cataract surgery postponed  
**Olen Munz** – in a care center in Great Bend  
**Jessica Keeton** (one of Clint's former basketball players) has breast cancer that has spread to her spine and lymph nodes  
**Joy** (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns  
**Vesta Shelton** (George's sister-in-law) recovering from stroke  
**Dena Mansel** – health concerns  
**Lyndsey Dryden** – recovering from auto accident  
**Cody Dick** – cancer; undergoing treatments  
**Roger Dick** - cancer  
**Jonathan Batten** – 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 Breensing** – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford  
**Laura Wyatt** – Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza  
**Audrey Nusser** - cancer  
**Racheal Davis** – health concerns  
**Grant Raleigh** (Kylar Kinnamon's friend) ski accident  
**Raymond Hamilton** – friend of Fred's in Trousdale; pacemaker recently put in

See the latest newsletter from Ubaldo Cardona, who we are supporting in Parral, Chihuahua

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)