

are rearranged in order to make that time paramount. Farming is put to the side, jobs are put on hold, arrangements with small children, daycare, meals, travel all communicate, “you are not alone.”

We spoke about the meaning of family, priorities, and a host of other things. Some of the conversation was simply time filler during hours and hours of surgery. Other parts addressed specific concerns or fears about the unknown and unforeseeable future. I thought back over the day as I drove home and thought again of the Scripture, “God is with us.”

Fears are stilled, anxiety abated, and our very being validated by the text. God rearranged heaven, adjusted the Godhead, and transitioned from omnipresence to a manger because of his valuing us.

As Satan attempts to cull us from the herd, isolate us in our fears, and tell us that we mean nothing before the throne of heaven, we need only remember his name, Emmanuel.

I am thankful for all of the revealing that God has done to mankind in the Scriptures. I am grateful to have a record of the early church, with all of the struggles and victories that are communicated in the book of Acts and the Epistles. The reality is that none of these mean anything to us without the fundamental message that God is with us.

So, as we have the opportunity to “move alongside” others, remember the value of your presence. Increase that value by doing it as an agent or messenger from God. Communicate the value God sees in others by “being there”. In doing so, you reflect the nature of our Lord.

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

May 3, 2015

I was reminded this week of a text of Scripture that I find very significant. Matthew records the story of when an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, he told him not to have concerns about taking Mary as his wife. Her special child was an act of God and would be the fulfillment of Scripture. This child would be called, Emmanuel which means “God is with us”.

If you were to run a search in a Scripture data base, you wouldn’t see other New Testament references to the name, but the rest of the revelation of God reveals the story. God is present with his people.

Being “with us” is an incredible promise. In times of challenge or crisis we long for that information. When we are most fearful of being abandoned or alone, we need only look to the promises of Scripture.

This week I was able to be with the Cornwell’s and Davis’ during Maggie and Racheal’s surgeries. I was reminded that “presence” is important. Both families spoke of time together. Their presence was a source of strength to each other, a place that communicated the value that they see in each other, and the willingness to adjust all of the rest of life for the importance of that time. Presence communicates in an unspoken way so many other things. “Worlds”

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 MAY 3, 2015

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
 GATHERING SONG: No. 66—Doxology
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 4:7-12 (Orrin Feril)
 SONGS: No. 148—I Keep Falling in Love with Him (vs 1, 3)
 No. 709—How Sweet, How Heavenly
 No. 448—The Greatest Commands
 No. 781—Thank You, Lord

PRAYER: Teddy Gingrich
 SONG: No. 379—If That Isn't Love
 COMMUNION: Tom Turner
 Chris Mansel
 Ned Marks
 Fred Johnson

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONGS: No. 703—I Love You with the Love of the Lord
 No. 704—Bind Us Together
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 947—Jesus is Tenderly Calling (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.

BUDGET MEETING

Today after potluck there will be a review of the budget. Everyone is welcome to stay for this meeting.

MOTHER'S DAY—No Potluck Next Sunday

Since next Sunday is Mother's Day, we will not have potluck lunch here. Spend time with your mother—or adopt a mother!

UPCOMING AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

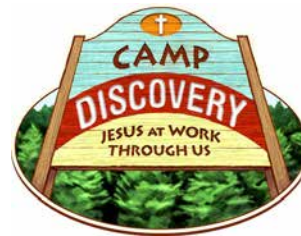
May 16, 2015

Macksville @ 10:00 am

Stafford @ 2:00 pm

St John @ 4:00 pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Tuesday, May 26 through
 Thursday, May 28

Family Picnic
 Friday, May 29

Classes/Activities planned for preschool through
 Grade 6—invite your friends and neighbors!

SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

“STRAIGHT TALK Into Human Behavior, Into the Heart of God”
September 24-26, 2015

PRAYER REQUESTS

Maggie Harris (Lisa's mother) – heart surgery last week went well; was to be dismissed from the hospital on Friday
Racheal Davis – had extensive surgery on Thursday
Rachael (Staub) Weber—kidney stones/follow up treatment
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; cancer has spread
Darla Chapman (in Faith, SD) – thyroid cancer
Carol Gingrich – pacemaker/ defibrillator
Olen Munz – in a care center in Great Bend; doing better
Jessica Keeton (one of Clint's former basketball players) breast cancer has spread to her spine and lymph nodes
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Vesta Shelton (George's sister-in-law) recent stroke
Dena Mansel – health concerns
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
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza
Audrey Nusser - pancreatic cancer
Marion Alpers—recent stroke
Lisa Cornwell—scheduled for knee surgery in May

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Trent Sallee 5/8



Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org