

name calling begins. The stories just get worse and worse. Our fears get rattled and thinking appears to be tossed out the window.

I wonder where “rebel flags” fit in the list of what is important? For that matter, where do you imagine how a particular government, during a particular period of time, defines marriage fits on God’s agenda?

It becomes particularly important for us to remember when we reflect that our primary task is to love God and each other. The foundation of Christianity resides in these two principles.

If we can be distracted to malign or abuse an individual/group, or focus on less important matters, Satan wins and there is no “homework assignment”.

Be sure you hear me... I am not calling what God has said is sinful, righteous. Woe to the one who begins to do that. Staying focused on our task is the issue, having our priorities in order.

Jesus dealt with a woman caught in the act of adultery with compassion and clarity. He dealt with the social outcasts, the publicans, the whores, the impoverished and the beggars with kindness, compassion, and mercy. We can do no less if we hope to be like him.

You see, Jesus seems to see sinners being victimized by their sin. He approaches them as slaves to sin, captives needing to be freed. He doesn’t sit on the sidelines pontificating, he sits at their tables sharing a meal. He touches the leper, laughs with the prostitute and shares time with the publican. Satan is the enemy, not those sold into slavery to him.

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

July 12, 2015

When I was a boy, we knew which teachers we could distract at the end of the hour by getting them to tell stories, so that they would not have time to give a homework assignment. We did it as often as possible; distraction was the tool to avoid homework.

Tim Tebow made this statement and I was impressed by how clear and centered it is: *"Christians spend so much time fighting about numbers 58 to 62 on the list of what's important we never get to work on number one and two; loving God and loving people. When we put the first things first, we will find unity in Christ."*

Suddenly I realize what Satan has been doing so effectively among us. Politics, policy, threats to the status quo.... All things that have been high on the Twitter feeds, blog posts, and coffee shop conversations in the past few weeks. Not only do the conversations revolve around the “issues” but soon they digress to comments about the motivations and intentions of the ones with whom they disagree. After the motivation is adequately maligned, the

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 Brening, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brening

WORSHIP ORDER FOR JULY 12, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 71—As the Deer
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 3:5-6 (Joe Cornwell)
SONGS: No. 538—My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
No. 915—Trust and Obey (vs 1, 3, 5)
No. 679—Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
No. 794—Unto Thee, O Lord

PRAYER: Fred Johnson
SONG: No. 324—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (vs 1, 4)
COMMUNION: Orrin Feril
Chris Mansel
Gary Hornbaker
Jon Mansel

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 539—Higher Ground (vs 1, 4)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 907—Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
PRAYER: Teddy Gingrich

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! We invite you to stay and enjoy lunch with us, right after worship services.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Rosenbaum family, on the recent passing of **Doral Rosenbaum** on July 1, 2015. A memorial service has been planned for Friday, July 17, at 10:00 am at the Church of Christ in Pratt. Private family inurnment will be in the Cairo Cemetery. Please see obituary posted on the bulletin board for more information and suggested memorials.

We are also mindful of the Nusser family, as **Audrey Nusser** passed away last week. Her funeral was on Wednesday.

NEWS FROM MEXICO

Please see the latest newsletter from Ubaldo Cardona, who is working with the church in Chihuahua.

SUMMER SERIES IN HUTCHINSON

The Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson has invited several area ministers to come and speak on Wednesday evenings (at 7:00 pm) through the month of July and August. If you have a chance to get away for an evening, here is the schedule:

July 15—Carl Feril
July 22—Wayne DeWindt
July 29—Steve Tandy
August 5—Kenny Graham
August 12—Buddy Aldridge
August 19—Rob Kruckenberg
August 26—Toby Levering

2015 SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENTS

July 12-18: Senior Camp (13 to 18 yrs old)
July 19-25: Group Camp (9 to 18 yrs old)
September 24-26: Adult Seminar with Jerry & Lynn Jones



PRAYER REQUESTS

Anissa Potter—surgery scheduled for July 21 in Hutchinson
Janie Nagel (Fred Johnson's sister) - recent stroke
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - cancer; continued chemotherapy
Sonny Langford (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer
Dan Hampton—health concerns
Lupe Hudson—recent knee replacement surgery
Joe Rosenberg—recovering from recent accident
Gladys Hornbaker—health concerns
Mike Bookstore—health concerns
Charlene Jimerson (Chet's youngest sister) - health concerns
Sherri Holguin & baby (coworker of Joy)
Marion Alpers—stroke
Dixie Hornbaker—health concerns
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; cancer
Darla Chapman (in Faith, SD) – thyroid cancer
Olen Munz – in assisting living in Great Bend
Jessica Keeton (one of Clint's former BB players) - cancer
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Cody Dick – cancer; undergoing treatments
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) chemo for brain tumor
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Brening (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org