

transformation, the Scriptures refer to it as sanctification. We see it in the lives of those who walked with Jesus. A group of rough and tumble fisherman and tradesmen become a passionate unified group who alter the path of civilization. They didn't do it because Jesus taught this one singular idea that transformed their way of thinking. They became something else because of the relationship that opened the opportunity for change.

If you read the story of the Gospels and pay special attention to Peter, you would never suspicion that he is the author of the books of 1 and 2 Peter. The sword bearer in the garden becomes the advocate of an "inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" who are called to "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor."

The change in the "sons of thunder" into the "disciple whom Jesus loved" takes place when truth is experienced in a relationship, not some public debate hall.

It takes time connected to others to slowly peel back the emotional guardedness and allow new information to soak in. It is less the singular statement of brilliance and more the persistence of presence that alters the protective defenses we erect around us.

The world did not change by the stately Star of Bethlehem, but by the teacher who walked among us embodying grace and truth. It was his relationship with them that caused them to recognize, "Where else would we go, you alone have the words of life?"

So when you are challenged then question if you should stay, don't give up on them, embrace the child once more and do it again. Learn to smile in frustration, persevere through sluggishness, and to realign when things get off track. It isn't a sprint to the end, it is a lifestyle. Remember, God has been calling us his children and working on this old world a long time.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

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Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

August 30, 2015

Sometimes I get to help out a friend. Those are special occasions. Recently a close friend sent me an article to review and a few comments about his frustration with a party who read his well-written piece then promptly discounted it. He was frustrated and asked me what I thought.

Well, sometimes I am caught up in a different project when emails come in and I give pretty short answers, before returning to my original thought. This was one of those times. My response was, "A conclusion reached by emotion will never be altered by reasoning."

Now, I don't know where that came from. I don't think I read it, but perhaps I did at some point in life. I don't remember the context from which it might have come. I do think that it is true and informs the way I attempt to influence people toward the Christ.

I am one who prizes trying to figure things out. A word puzzle, the behaviors that go on in families, or the complexities of some baffling bit of Scripture all hold great fascination to me. The "why" behind the "what" is where I live my life.

So, I don't necessarily worry about having the answer today. Persistence is the key to transformation. God doesn't fling us out of the baptistery and into a complete walk with Jesus. We are gently, or not so gently, shaped by our walk with God into a state of

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 AUGUST 30, 2015

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
 GATHERING SONG: No. 63—I Will Call Upon the Lord
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 68:32-35 (Jerry Kinnamon)
 SONGS: No. 508—A Wonderful Savior (vs 1, 2)
 No. 509—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
 No. 266—Majesty
 No. 781—Thank You, Lord!

PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker
 SONG: No. 287—There Is a Redeemer
 COMMUNION: Teddy Gingrich
 Orrin Feril
 Fred Johnson
 Chris Mansel

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Garland Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

WEDDING INVITATION!

You are invited to the wedding of **Cheyenne Scott and Adam Holmes** on October 10, 2015, at 5 pm at Jeff & Lory's farm. The reception will be at the VFW in Stafford afterward. See invitation posted for more information.



SHOWER INVITATION!

A wedding shower is planned for Cheyenne & Adam on Sunday, September 13th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

GROUP GIFT FOR EMMA SMITH

Craig & Kari Smith are new grandparents of a baby girl, **Emma Claire**, born to Jace & Sarah Smith on August 14th. We are collecting money for a group gift—if you would like to participate, please see Janet today.

BABY SHOWER!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring **Trey & Amber Turner**, scheduled for Sunday, September 27th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are expecting a boy, due in early November. They are registered at Target, as well as BabiesRUs.



A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY is in the making! If you want a new family picture, contact Janet as soon as possible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Gladys Hornbaker 9/2
Laura Wyatt 9/5

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jerry & Kay Kinnamon 9/2
Chris & Marisa Mansel 9/4

PRAYER REQUESTS

Dan Hampton—heart cath last week in Wichita
Maggie Harris—knee surgery a couple of weeks ago; in rehab in Lawrence
Charlene Jimerson (Chet's youngest sister) - increased health concerns
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - moved to a rehab facility
Josh Oakley (grandson of Bill Oakley) - on heart transplant list
Barbara Austin's sister, Joanna
Janie Nagel (Fred Johnson's sister) - recent stroke
Sonny Langford (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer
Gladys Hornbaker—health concerns
Mike Bookstore—health concerns
Sherri Holguin & baby (coworker of Joy)
Marion Alpers—stroke
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; 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 Breensing (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

2015 SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

September 24-26: Adult Seminar with Jerry & Lynn Jones
 See information posted on bulletin board.