

the important things that I believe that disciples do, ask what they learned about God in all aspects of life.

The Bible is God's description of his love and character in interaction with mankind across history. As I read the gospel story, I see God in the person of Jesus, doing just that. It is an incredible learning experience, and one that draws me to him. In a setting where the normal questions are about "What violates the Sabbath?" Or, "Doesn't God keep us from doing these things?" Jesus takes a man with a withered hand, or one who is impacted by a crippling paralysis, or hungry disciples with a handful of grain and asks a very different question. What does God desire in these situations? Is God on the side of good or evil? Is God's intent for others to struggle or receive relief?

He isn't vindictive, abusive or harsh as he deals with those trapped in frailty, but rather demonstrates mercy, kindness, respect and a desire to help. What a different way to see it.

In the same way, those trapped in the penalties of their sins are not simply "sinners", different from us. We share the ugliness of sinful behavior, we've found a release from the penalty in Jesus. We don't highlight the difference through critical name calling, hatefully labeling and using disrespectful treatment, at least not if we are like Jesus. We look for God's purpose, see the common ground and work toward a movement that allows release from the entrapment. We rejoice in a merciful God, not superior to those who haven't found him, but as guides and friends who point to grace and mercy. Respect, kindness, compassion... yes, an oasis in a landscape littered with ugliness. Where do you think we as a church should position ourselves?

Grace and Peace,

Carl



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

March 6, 2016

I was involved in some training this past week to maintain my license as a LCMFT. As you probably know, the elders have been gracious in allowing me to have the time away for these training sessions each year. I appreciate each time I am away.

This time the expert who spoke focused on "Collaborative Couple Therapy", a field he developed. As I saw his work with different couples in crisis, as well as his interaction with the hundreds of therapists from different specialties in the room, I was impressed by the respect and kindness that he used in his approach.

As you have likely experienced, when we move into conflict emotions become elevated, tempers flare and accusations fly. In the heat of the "battle" respect often takes a backseat as assumptions are made and harshness rises to the surface. Kindness in those situations becomes a distant memory as words are used to attack others and protect ourselves.

His respectful tones, kind questions, and calm demeanor were an oasis of civility in a landscape littered with ugliness.

As I drove home from Overland Park I reflected on what I had learned, as well as what it taught me about God. That is one of

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
St John, KS 67576

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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 MARCH 6, 2016

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 239—In Moments Like These
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 63:1-8 (Ned Marks)
SONGS: No. 15—Step by Step
No. 123—The Steadfast Love of the Lord
No. 121—Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing (vs 1, 3)
No. 601—My God and I (vs 1, 3)
No. 770—Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

PRAYER: Chris Mansel
SONG: No. 176—Lamb of God
COMMUNION: Tom Turner
Joe Cornwell
Orrin Feril
Gary Hornbaker

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 678—More About Jesus (vs 1, 2, 4)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid it All (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jon Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

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.

BABY SHOWERS



The ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring **Rebecca Turner** (Tom & Pam's daughter-in-law) this next Saturday, **March 12th**, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. Rebecca & Tyler are expecting a girl and are registered at 'Target' & 'buybuyBaby'.

Also, a diaper shower is being planned for **Vanessa Rogers** on Saturday, **April 23rd**, at 3:00 pm here. She is expecting a girl!

SAVE THE DATE

The Salina Church of Christ has announced they will be hosting the ladies retreat at Silver Maple Camp on September 23-24. See notice posted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Orvalee Aldrich 3/11

Meagan Feril 3/12

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Steve & Anissa Potter 3/7



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday evening, so you won't be late for church!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Stan Aldrich –improving after sinus surgery
Janet Feril—recovering from surgery last week
George Shelton
Joy Monroe (Marilyn's daughter)
Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy
Brenda Staub – radiation for stage 3 thyroid cancer
Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson) to have face advancement surgery March 23
Alan Hildebrand family in Stafford
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - acute leukemia
Clay Rodgers (infant son of friends of Ben & Baylee) rare birth defect
Pati Waters Risley—stroke
Dan Hampton—pain after surgery
Michelle Rose (Vanessa Roger's aunt) - nursing home
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Pam Herrenbruck—cancer treatment
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Breensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

(Please help us update this prayer list—If you would like someone's name to remain on the list, please let Janet know.)

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org