

But, it is meaningless to condemn an action in other people without offering a solution for improvement. To do this, I am called to stand beside the repugnant. I must do what is uncomfortable for me so that a different voice is heard, a new action is modeled, and a different way of being becomes the norm.

It isn't just about them, it is also about me. Unless I move beside them, I will never see life from their point of view. Imagine trying to give someone directions without knowing where they are. How do you get from where you are to where you are planning to go... well, where are you?

Those who are trying to be like Jesus have to brave the difficult side of life. Perhaps the seedy side, sometimes the awkward side, often the uncomfortable side. We have to be light in a dark world, extending a word of grace, kindness, and mercy where such things are unusual.

The frustration level will at times be consuming. Jesus, overlooking Jerusalem, cried over her... Jerusalem, Jerusalem. How many times have I longed to gather your children under my wings as a chicken gathers her chick, but you would not have it." He understood the frustration, pain and anguish of serving those who behaved in vulgar ways. Those who repudiated the help offered, and killed those who tried to caution them. He understood it all the way to the cross.

That is the other difficult thing. At times, this coming along side those who are challenging results in the disciple maker being sacrificed. The acts of kindness and grace are ignored, scoffed at, or discounted. But it is still our calling, as tough as it is.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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**St John Church of Christ
A Family of God**

March 20, 2016

In discussing ministry and the accompanying challenges with someone recently, I was asked what I considered the greatest challenge in working with people. That isn't difficult for me to answer, but I don't think I had ever articulated it out loud before.

One of the greatest challenges in my ministry is to come along side those who, through attitude or speech, are repugnant to me. For example, when a person uses vile language in describing others based on race or ethnicity. Or when someone is repetitively demeaning or uncaring about those who are marginalized in our community.

You see, when Jesus came into our world, those who the religious majority found disposable (the blind, lame, lepers, and the poor), became the ones that Jesus spent time with. Prostitutes, tax gatherers, and others with "history" were those he shared meals with on a regular basis. When John sent disciples, while he was in prison, to verify that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gives proof by saying that the blind see, lepers are clean, and the poor have the good news preached to them. So, if such compassion was core to the nature of Jesus, it should be present in his followers.

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 MARCH 20, 2016

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich
GATHERING SONG:
No. 238—You Are the Song That I Sing

WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: John 7:37-38 (Chris Mansel)

SONGS: No. 583—Jesus, Flow Like a River
No. 726—Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
No. 940—Only a Step
No. 429—Oh, To Be Like Thee
No. 817—See His Glory

PRAYER: Richard Brening
SONG: No. 379—If That Isn't Love
COMMUNION: Fred Johnson
Teddy Gingrich
Jon Mansel
Ned Marks

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 497—Whispering Hope
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 909—There's a Fountain Free (vs 1)
PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(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 SHOWER

A diaper shower is being planned for **Vanessa Rogers** on Saturday, **April 23rd**, at 3:00 pm here. She is expecting a girl! See the invitation posted. (Giving Vanessa items in addition to diapers is perfectly fine!)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mara Feril 3/20
Angel Mathwich 3/20
Lory Scott 3/25
Kay Kinnamon 3/25

LOOKING AHEAD

Please note that we will NOT have potluck lunch next Sunday, March 27th, due to the Easter holiday.

Today is the first day of Spring!



Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Olen Munz—brain cancer has become more aggressive
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain tumor
Levi Rodgers (Carl's great nephew in Mansfield, TX) born Feb 19th; he is now home, recovering from surgery; parents are Chris & Danielle
Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson) to have face advancement surgery March 23
Dan Hampton—pain after surgery
George Shelton
Joy Monroe (Marilyn's daughter)
Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy
Brenda Staub – still waiting for a definite date to start radiation for stage 3 thyroid cancer
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
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 Brening (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza