

the load of every experience. It isn't a sprint from good times to good times with a special ability to avoid anything tough, or overwhelming.

When I get the calls from around the country seeking someone to intervene, I am reminded of how many don't understand that part of marriage. Immature love, crushes, infatuation are based on the emotional feedback being experienced. If the dates are exciting, the times together adventurous enough, and the strokes to one's ego frequent enough, then that must be love.

Alzheimer's eventually doesn't leave much room for stroking the partner's ego. Debilitating strokes don't offer much hope for "making me happy". The impact of grief, death, job loss, illness, and accidents can all change the "happiness" factor. I find the ability to sustain, endure, and thrive has much more to do with a shared understanding of the partnership than the ability of the partner to produce an emotion in you.

That doesn't mean there will be no ability to produce positive emotions, but there is no guarantee of it. External factors are able to impact the immediate quality of the relationship. A grieving partner may not be capable of attending to the other's emotions as well as when they are not grieving. But, when the experience is shared, seen through the lens of "us" rather than "you" or "me", the language of relationship remains intact.

So today, take a moment to pray for those who are frustrated in their relationships. We should pray for their equally frustrated partner. Let us pray that each will notice the tattered strings of the fabric of the relationship and commit to hold on. May God knit their open hearts back together.

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**

May 29, 2016

This morning the text message was, "Do you know a good marriage therapist in Houston Metro?" Friday the text was from Louisiana. Last week there was one from Tennessee, another from Arkansas and one from California. Sometimes it comes from preachers who feel they have done all they can do for a couple. Other times it is the couple themselves asking for someone who might help. I feel bad that there is so much misery in this world.

Relationships are complicated entities. They have a life that ebbs and flows, like living things. When folks get married they are just sure that everything is going to be great into the future, because they found the one that "makes them happy".

My question is, "Do they know they signed up for that? To make you happy? That is a heavy load."

You see, my view is a bit different. I think we sign up to share the journey. There will be times of happiness, sometimes incredible happiness. There will be times of frustration, times of sorrow, times of fullness, and times of emptiness. The relationship isn't about protection from things becoming uncomfortable. Marriage is about sharing

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

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MAY 29, 2016

SONG LEADER: Richard Brensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 1014—Jesus Loves Me! (vs 1)
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 18:1-5 (Steve Potter)
SONGS: No. 1015—Jesus Loves the Little Children
No. 238—You Are the Song That I Sing
No. 239—In Moments Like These
No. 290—Shine, Jesus, Shine
No. 779—I Love You, Lord

PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker
SONG: No. 287—There Is a Redeemer
COMMUNION: Tom Turner
Jon Mansel
Orrin Feril
Teddy Gingrich

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 608—He Gave Me a Song (vs 1, 3)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)
PRAYER: Chris Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hadley Maye Marks was born to Zach & Vanessa on Friday, May 27th, at 4:11 am at Pratt ! She weighed 6 lbs, 9 oz and was 19 1/2" long. She got to go home yesterday! Proud grandpa is Ned Marks.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THEME: Jesus 'Seas' Me



—Tuesday, May 31 through Thursday, June 2:
Activities/Classes (6:30 pm to 8:15 pm)
—Friday, June 3: Family Picnic (6:00 pm)
Ages Preschool through 6th Grade

Thanks to all who helped with the float preparations and rode the float in the Jubilee parade yesterday. We distributed over 500 baggies of candy—each with an advertisement for VBS!
(*Our submarine float won one of the Judges' Choice Awards!*)



PRAYER REQUESTS

Fred Johnson—treatments on one eye
Shirley Shelton
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Chris Mansel
Gary Hornbaker
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - cancer
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst
Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson) recent surgery
Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy
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
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Jonathan Batten – cancer
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Brensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Cheyenne Holmes 5/30
Terri Koelsch 6/1

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org