

had all that much in common either. These were pretty “non-churchy” folks. From noon until most of them went to sleep, the drinks were present and at times the language was colorful. The campfire never went out and the chairs that encircled it would expand and contract based on the number of folks who were there.

As we left, we thanked them for including us. To a person, this thanks was met with expressions hoping we would return. We were invited to gatherings at their homes, complimented on our participation, and treated as though we belonged because we had music in common.

What does this have to do with a church bulletin article? Why bring it up here?

I don't often have experiences as the “new guy”. I couldn't help but wonder how the “new guy” experiences our church life. Our language might not be “colorful” but to a non-religious person, we certainly have coded words. We speak in terms we are comfortable with, and terminology of Scripture is not common vernacular. Righteousness, propitiation, salvation, atonement, and many other terms are pretty much limited to church language.

Potlucks, like their campfire, is a place of fellowship and review of old times. To cluster into familiar groupings, without intending to, excludes those who are new. There isn't a problem telling the old stories, as long as there is an effort made to look for ways that new folks can participate and be engaged.

I learned a number of lessons from the Bow Creek Skunk Runners. Lessons they were really not attempting to teach, but taught nonetheless.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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



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

October 16, 2016

Janet and I were invited to attend a music jam at Lake Wilson this past weekend by some new friends from Salina. We met them while at the Walnut Valley Festival at Oxford this year.

The group (about 15 RVs) is composed of mainly folks in their late 70s-80s from all around northern Kansas. I came to learn that they were members of a bluegrass band called the Bow Creek Skunk Runners.

Our new friends have been camping and jamming with them for about 10 years, but the group has camped together 4-5 times per year for over the last 40 years. Janet and I talked about how we might fit in with a group that has been established for so long.

Too our surprise, fitting in was never an issue. To be sure, they had their old stories of all of their glory days, past camping and canoe trips, as well as gigs played around Kansas. But each time that some stories were told, one of them would engage Janet in conversation or ask me to sing another song.

It didn't seem mechanical or artificial, but it was quickly clear that we were not interlopers but someone they wanted to include. It isn't that we

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breising, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breising

WORSHIP ORDER FOR OCTOBER 16, 2016

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 15—Step by Step
WELCOME: Orrin Feril
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 65 (Orrin Feril)
SONGS: No. 742—When Upon Life's Billows
No. 65—Thanksgiving Medley
-No. 66—Doxology
-No. 67—For the Beauty of the Earth
-No. 68—Give Thanks
No. 827—Sweet Hour of Prayer
PRAYER: Richard Breising
SONG: No. 147—I Stand Amazed
COMMUNION: Gary Hornbaker
Chris Mansel
Stan Aldrich
Jeff Scott
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 709—How Sweet, How Heavenly
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)
PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

(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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Carol Gingrich—Oct 20
Ben Sizemore—Oct 20
Tara Kinnamon—Oct 22

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
Teddy & Carol Gingrich—Oct 22

MEN'S RETREAT

October 16-18 at Silver Maple Camp. See flyer posted.

ABUNDANT LIVING MINI-RETREAT

The Eastwood Church of Christ is co-sponsoring a retreat with Abundant Living, an outreach of Church Relations at Harding University, on Saturday, Nov 5th, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. See flyer posted.

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays—Carl's house—7:30 pm—6th through 12th grades.

GIFT FOR BABY FISCUS

If you would like to contribute to a group money gift for Jeremiah and Jessie (Bauer) Fiscus for their new baby girl, Lennox Leigh, please give your money to Janet TODAY or put your money in the collection container.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

A collection is being made to help with the expense of a motorized scooter for Julia Lykova. The total amount needed is \$300 and anything you can give would be appreciated. A collection container is available, or give your money to Richard TODAY.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cason, Shane & Amy Albritton's son—doing much better
Ted Maple's grandson, Asher—brain injury from an accident last week
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother)-more cancer
Larry Berg (Tom's friend) - cancer; recent good report
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - improving health
Stan Aldrich—health concerns
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - health concerns
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Stem Cell Transplant for his leukemia
Laura Wyatt—now on hospice care; send her a card at: Kenwood Plaza, 607 E 1st, St John, KS 67576
Vic & Phyllis Staub (Kenwood Plaza)-health concerns
Landon Neidig (Teddy & Carol's great grandson) - heart procedures in the near future
Jill Morphew (Janet's sister-in-law) - cancer
Gladys Hornbaker—cancer
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother)-in hospice care/his wife, Sheryl
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rujan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Jonathan Batten – cancer
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Breising (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead

An invitation to the **50th Anniversary celebration** for Larry and Linda Hamm is posted. Date is Nov 26, from 2-5 pm at the Kingman Church of Christ.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org