

St John Church of Christ
A Family of God
DECEMBER 18, 2016



One of the things that makes a fresh start so difficult is the failure to take responsibility for past mistakes. When we ascribe previous choices to luck, fate or misfortune, rather than poor decisions, we rob ourselves of the opportunity to regulate our future by making new choices.

For example, if someone makes the choice to “buy lotto tickets, hoping to get help in paying bills”, then is broke when the billing cycle hits... there is no bad luck there. That is called bad judgment, or poor choices. If the choices aren’t owned and reflected upon, guess what happens next time?

Those who are short tempered may fall to outbursts of anger, making them difficult to live with. Ascribing the outbursts to “just the way I am”, or “they just make me so mad”, locks us into the same behavior in the future.

In the story of redemption, as described in Scripture, forgiveness is freely offered. God does all the “hard work” of granting us forgiveness. However, God isn’t solely concerned about our past... He also looks to our future.

I believe this is why repentance is linked to forgiveness. Repentance is a fancy word for improvement. Included in the concept is a recognition and sorrow for past behavior with a commitment and focus on new behavior.

God calls each of us to a fresh start, each and every day. You don’t enter the day with the baggage of past history. There is no shaming with God, simply you owning that you haven’t done it right linked with a desire to improve. As the story of Jesus describes, that is the key to becoming more like him.

So as parents, church leaders, bosses, or teachers, we need to be quick to reflect on our own contributions to the crisis around us. We are always a part of the mix, a player in the chaos. If we want to change the past, we have to own our part of it.

Shaming or excessive punitive action is of no value to promoting future change. Helping others see the link between the past and the future is the only method of growth and improvement.

Think of it like a math problem. When you don’t know the answer and just scream out numbers, even if you say the correct number you don’t know why. However, when you “show your work” we can find the faulty portion of the process so the correct answer becomes attainable.

It is the key to success, in math and spirituality.

Grace and Peace,
Carl

St John Church of Christ
A Family of God
DECEMBER 18, 2016



SUNDAY SERVICES

- Cancelled today due to extremely cold temperatures
- NEXT SUNDAY — NO potluck lunch

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

- No Adult Bible Class this week
- No Youth Group this week or next week

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

Betty Chlumsky—Dec 14

BABY GIFT FOR SIZEMORES

- Ben & Baylee are expecting a baby in the next week or so; if you would like to contribute to a group gift for them, please contact Janet

PRAYER REQUESTS

Gladys Hornbaker—is now cancer free; she thanks everyone for their prayers and concerns as she has completed her treatments

Victor & Cinthya Garcia family who worships with the Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson: their young son Fernando was transferred to Denver last week to be evaluated for possible rejection of the heart transplant he had last year

Jason Koelsch—gallbladder surgery last week; now home

Carol Gingrich—recently sick with a cold

Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - more cancer was recently found; decisions are still being made about possible treatments

Landon Neidig (Teddy & Carol's great grandson) - home after having tests in Kansas City, with a good report

Larry Berg (Tom's friend) - cancer; finished treatments last week; appreciates our prayers on his behalf

Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - as Cris is treated for her cancer

Jonathan Batten—ongoing cancer treatment

Greg Barlage (Baylee Sizemore's cousin, who lives in Wellesley, MA) diagnosed with Leukemia

Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - leukemia

Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer

David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy

Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer

Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)

Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer

Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments

Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)

Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])

Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford

Myron Brensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead

Laura Wyatt—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza

Vic & Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza

June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org