

Now I'm not trying to imply that such a walk is impossible to any of us, for it isn't. It isn't about perfection, it is yielding to be perfected. It isn't about dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's.

Following Jesus is about a transformational relationship that moves us from self-focus to self-surrender. It is about being so overwhelmed by his sacrifice that no offering seems too great, no obedience too demanding. Keeping one's eyes on Jesus, letting his life be our focal point, results in a life that stuns others.

But this relationship is not an intellectual exercise, reserved for the exceptionally book smart who "figure God out." It isn't the specialty of the more gentle, kind spirits among us. Nor are the aggressive, decisive, given advantage or disadvantage.

The Scriptures are filled with stories of every type of person encountering God, struggling to follow and ultimately surrendering before him. Warrior, poet, priest, king, the poor, the wealthy, shepherds, boat builders, weavers, city sophisticates, country ruffians, the popular, the outcast are all included in these stories of a surrendered life. It isn't easier if you are smart, or sweet or stylish. It isn't harder if you are bold, brash, or a braggart.

It is just about humbly loving a God who first loved you.

Grace and peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other

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Flying to the Rock

St John Church of Christ

March 19, 2017

There are things we "get" and things we don't "get". For some folks, taking a test in school was a dreaded, ominous event. For others of us, tests were a challenge to embrace or a chance to "show off" because it was easy. There are those to whom a piece of machinery just makes sense. The gears, levers, bearings, and circuitry make sense in their minds, while being fearsome and frightful to others. Good at math, good for you. Better at sales, a blessing on you. Excellent at details, enjoy the minutia.

A walk before God is different than that. The surrender of self before the throne of God is the same for all of us, 100% of whoever and whatever we are. It isn't "natural" to anyone. We have a level playing field here.

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 Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MARCH 12, 2017

SONG LEADER: Richard Brensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 103—He Has Made Me Glad
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 27:11-14 (Kolton)
SONGS: No. 776—Prayer Medley
-No. 777—Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer
(vs 1, 2, 4)
-No. 778—Be With Me, Lord (vs 1, 2, 4)
-No. 779—I Love You, Lord
No. 794—Unto Thee, O Lord
No. 764—Teach Me Lord to Wait
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 18—Faithful Love
COMMUNION: Ben Sizemore
Orrin Feril
Gary Hornbaker
Chris Mansel
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 753—Farther Along
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)
PRAYER: Garland 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.



Angel Mathwich—March 20
Mara Feril—March 20
Lory Scott—March 25
Kay Kinnamon—March 25

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

Women's Conference—April 22—at Hartman Arena in Wichita.
See more information on the website:
<https://womenwalkingwithgod.org>

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Virgil Rice, who passed away last Wednesday, March 15th, at his home in Stafford. His funeral service will be 2:00 pm today at the First Christian Church in Stafford. Burial will be at the Stafford Cemetery.

MISSION UPDATE

A new newsletter from Ubaldo Cardona is posted for you to read about the activities of the church in Parral, Chihuahua.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Carol Gingrich—heart condition to be managed with medication
Arthur, unborn son of Baylee Sizemore's cousin, John—has a hole in his heart; prayers are requested for healing of the hole and the birth of a healthy baby
Jonathan Batten—ongoing cancer treatment; undergoing stem cell transplant
Micaela Garcia (Alex's mother; neighbor of Stan & Orvaley) aggressive breast cancer
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Leukemia
Greg Barlage (Baylee Sizemore's cousin, who lives in Wellesley, MA) Leukemia; chemo & radiation
Marilyn Thornburg's grandson, Timothy—health concerns
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - cancer
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - as Cris is treated for her cancer
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvaley) - improving health
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) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Vic Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Phyllis Staub—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza

Please give updates to Janet on names you have requested to be listed here, as some have been here for months with no new information.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org