

another spiritual high, frustrated in the failure.

Immature saints hope to find it in emotional moments, looking for the right song, the proper author or minister. Someone with pizzaz, someone with cute stories that bring the warm “fuzzies”. Like Facebook memes, “Like this if you believe, Share if you are unafraid”, emotional highs do not produce spiritual depth. Sanctification is a process encountered through God’s Spirit in the desert places.

I believe it is why Jesus withdrew to the desert places, to quiet gardens and empty roadways. It wasn’t the exertion of healing powers at the end of teaching moments that emboldened his soul, giving him the strength to face the next challenge. His strength was found in the depths of the night, while others struggled to hold their eyes awake and he struggled with God’s plan.

Growing into the image of Jesus isn’t accomplished in revival halls, or tent meetings, or weeklong mission trips, it happens before in the preparation in the desert, darkness of the night, or loneliness of a sickroom.

It isn’t “getting it right” it is “living it right”, right in the midst of despair or plenty. Your senses can be dull to his presence unless you seek it.

Grace and peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other

*St John Church of Christ
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Flying to the Rock

St John Church of Christ

April 2, 2017

F. Scott Fitzgerald refers to it as “wasteland” in his novel, *The Great Gatsby*, a book about emptiness in the midst of great wealth and overindulgence. In Scripture the theme is “desert place,” that spot of being alone encountering both temptation and God. It is the place between the mountain tops of Mount Sinai and the Mount of Transfiguration, draining, tedious, and uninspiring. The landscape is endlessly the same, devoid of exhilaration, common, and ordinary in this empty place.

Spiritually, the journey has both mountaintops and deserts, but more of life is lived in the desert. We wearily move our feet, plodding along without awareness of our surroundings, lulled into a sense of sameness trying to achieve

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 APRIL 2, 2017

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
GATHERING SONG: No. 23—Our God, He Is Alive (vs 1)
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (Orrin Feril)
SONGS: No. 702—Fellowship Medley
-No. 703—I Love You with the Love of the Lord
-No. 704—Bind Us Together
-No. 705—A Common Love
No. 509—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
No. 791—On Bended Knee
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon
SONG: No. 364—Come, Share the Lord
COMMUNION: Stan Aldrich
Ben Sizemore
Teddy Gingrich
Ned Marks
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 716—Sing to Me of Heaven
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid it All (vs 1)
PRAYER: Terry Sallee

(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.

SILVER MAPLE CAMP FUND RAISER

There will be a fund raiser for Silver Maple Camp at the Northside Church of Christ on Saturday morning, April 8th. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 to 11:00 am. See Tom if you would like more information.



Registration is now open online for SMC summer youth sessions:

- First Session—July 9-15; Ages 9-13
- Second Session—July 16-22; Ages 13-18
- Third Session—July 23-29; Ages 9-18
- Day Camp—July 11 & 12; Ages 6-8

See more information at: www.silvermaplecamp.com

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

Women's Conference—April 22—at Hartman Arena in Wichita.

See more information on the website:

<https://womenwalkingwithgod.org>

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CELEBRATION



Plan now to be here on Sunday, May 7th, to help our high school seniors celebrate their upcoming graduation. We will be honoring **Cole Kinnamon** and **Destiny Mathwich** in the afternoon, immediately after our potluck lunch.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Carol Gingrich—health concerns
Arthur, unborn son of Baylee Sizemore's cousin, John—diagnosed with a hole in his heart
Jonathan Batten—ongoing cancer treatment
Micaela Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) breast cancer
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Leukemia
Greg Barlage (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Leukemia
Marilyn's grandson, Timothy—health concerns
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - cancer
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard/Shelly) - cancer
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - 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) – Stafford Leisure Home
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Vic Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Phyllis Staub—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza



Darrell Bauer—April 7