

It is an equalizer for us all, and no matter how well we eat, exercise, and reduce stress... death finally comes.

Paul describes death as “the last enemy to be put down.” But in saying so, he is reminding us of the assurance of our resurrection. We, those who trust in the resurrection of Jesus, are confident that even death is a transient experience.

It is true however, that while in this world, we see death as the enemy. If you bury loved ones; parents, siblings, or children, the bitterness of the experience reminds us that this life is, as Scripture tells us, but a vapor... here momentarily, then vanishing into the void.

Few experiences can cause such an awareness of the fragile nature of this world and the instability that surrounds us. Plans, dreams and hopes are instantly adjusted, put aside or fade away as the truth of death appears. It requires great faith to say with Paul, *O Death where is your sting?* The losses in the intensity of the moments surrounding death cause us to feel all too acutely the sharpness of the pang.

As our health declines, or our maladies increase, we can begin to look forward to that better place, the renewed heavens and renewed earth where no more sorrows appear. We can learn to long for a better day. Until the return of the Christ, we see it only in anticipation, through a clouded veil.

*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*



## *Flying to the Rock*

St John Church of Christ

December 3, 2017

This week, as many of you know, a death in my family calls me away. Janet and I flew to Detroit to be with the family of my youngest brother Fred who died Wednesday morning. My brothers and I were each born about a year apart.

I am in the debt of Tom and Terry once more for covering my responsibilities on Sunday. I do appreciate the opportunity to minister to my own family's needs this weekend. For your calls, words of support and prayers I want to express my appreciation. Such encouragement in times of difficulty are things that lift the spirit.

One of my favorite quotes about death is from the philosopher, Epicurus. *“It is possible to provide security against other ills, but as far as death is concerned, we men live in a city without walls.”*

**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 DECEMBER 3, 2017

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon  
GATHERING SONG: No. 56—Lord, We Praise You  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 3:1-13 (Stan Aldrich)  
SONGS: No. 850—Heaven Medley  
-No. 851—I'll Fly Away (vs 1,3)  
-No. 852—When the Roll is Called Up Yonder (vs 1,2)  
-No. 853—When We All Get To Heaven (vs 1,3)  
No. 859—When All of God's Singers Get Home  
No. 864—Where the Gates Swing Outward Never  
No. 800—What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker  
SONG: No. 176—Lamb of God  
COMMUNION: Chris Mansel  
Ben Sizemore  
Fred Johnson  
Joe Cornwell  
SONG: No. 535—The Glory-Land Way  
LESSON: Tom Turner (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Terry Sallee

AV System: Chase Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

Young Parents—please come to the parenting class on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Carl & Janet's home. Childcare is being provided here at the church building. Parents can drop their kids off at church at 7:00 pm and leave the Feril's at 7:45 pm to pick them up. Help is needed each week with the childcare. See Carl or Tom for more details.  
This class will be each Wednesday through Dec 13th, then resume January 10th.

### MEAL FOR 'CIRCLES' MEETINGS

Our congregation will be providing an evening meal for one of the upcoming "Circles" meetings, on Monday, December 18th. We will provide and serve a meal at 6:00 pm at the Methodist church. This will be for about 30-35 people. Pam is organizing this effort, so visit with her if you would like to help.

**Happy Birthday!**  
**George Shelton—Dec 7**

### WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

The Women Walking with God conference hosted by the Northside congregation in Wichita will be April 13-14, 2018. If you register before January 31st, the rate is reduced at \$63.00. The theme this year will be "Trust His Path" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### SYMPATHY

Carl's youngest brother, Fred, passed away unexpectedly this past week in Detroit, MI. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Elmer Schuette** (Marla's brother-in-law) shoulder fracture—waiting for a decision about surgery  
**George Shelton**—eyesight issues  
**Orvalee Aldrich**—on medication to regulate a heart arrhythmia  
**Dominic Rogers**—will be in Prairie View until the end of December; no visitors, please, but you can send a card to this address:  
Turning Point at Prairie View  
1901 E 1st  
PO Box 467  
Newton, KS 67114  
(You must include "Church of Christ" in your return address)

**Crystal Easley** (Terry & Linda Welch's daughter) - Stage 4 cancer  
**Sherri Owens**  
**Shari Parr**  
**Clint Bonner**—diagnosed with multiple myeloma  
**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother, in Washington) - Emphysema, on oxygen and has difficulty breathing  
**Jim Sorensen** (Tara's brother-in-law) brain cancer  
**Larry Carter** (Gary's friend in Missouri)  
**Marilyn Sprawka** (Don Rukan's sister) - cancer  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**June Cornwell**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Glennys Sallabedra** (Tom's mother) - Stafford Leisure Homestead

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)