

For the leaders to discuss the future is normal and necessary. Planning for a time when each individual is no longer leading means that we must be identifying and training those who will lead. It is a purposeful, deliberate, calculated process. It requires sensitive, spiritual hearts who are focused on the movement of the Spirit of God within the congregation. Identifying future leaders, cultivating spiritual awareness, and challenging growth in Christians is one of the tasks of God's leaders.

As Barnabas and Paul trained Timothy and Titus to do their jobs, they also directed that they entrust what they learned to faithful men who might share it with others (2 Timothy 2:2). This isn't a mysterious process, it is developing and maturing a faith oriented mindset in those seeking to serve God. In walking alongside others as we serve in the kingdom of God, leaders not only verbalize, but they demonstrate godly interaction with others.

Far more than only being friendly or engaging, it is the active intertwining of faith-based values into everyday exchanges. Working with young couples, strained relationships, or setting future goals for families, leaders develop this mindset in others.

As John told his disciples referring to Jesus, I must decrease and he must increase. Our current leaders, myself included, must focus on leaving room for the practice and growth of the next batch of leaders that God will raise up. I am thankful that our shepherds both see and embrace this concept.

*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 10, 2017

Once again I am gone on a Sunday. I mentioned to Janet how different things are now compared to when I began preaching. For the first 30 years that I preached I was never gone over once per year, lately it seems I am away often. It is never without cause, but still something that I find strange to consider.

Last month Tom and I spoke of my likely retirement in a few years and the need to consider the transition. During the last leadership meeting there was a brief discussion of what my replacement might look like, what the needs of the congregation will be, the kind of fit that might be beneficial.

Now, before I am misunderstood, Janet and I are not planning to retire in the immediate future, but we are making plans for a future ministry adventure in a few years.

**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 10, 2017

SONG LEADER: Richard Brensing  
GATHERING SONG: No. 31—Be Still and Know  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Kolton Sizemore)  
SONGS: No. 719—Love One Another  
No. 448—The Greatest Commands  
No. 570—A Beautiful Life  
No. 474—Thank You, Lord  
No. 779—I Love You, Lord  
PRAYER: Tom Turner  
SONG: No. 18—Faithful Love  
COMMUNION: Ben Sizemore  
Stan Aldrich  
Chris Mansel  
Fred Johnson  
SONG: No. 517—Heaven Came Down  
LESSON: Zeb Carter (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 907—Hark the Gentle Voice (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon

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!  
Betty Chlumsky—Dec 14

## 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.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the many messages, phone calls and prayers in the past week. Also thanks to Zeb for filling the pulpit today so that we could be in Detroit again this weekend. The funeral for my brother was yesterday and we will be flying home today. There are others who cover for me, Janet and Orrin when we are gone—we are thankful for everyone's thoughtfulness.

—Carl & Janet—

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Katherine Suiter**—cancer  
**Elmer Schuette** (Marla's brother-in-law) shoulder fracture  
**George Shelton**—eyesight issues  
**Orvalee Aldrich**—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)