

Continued from front page. . .

messages, phone calls, or a quick email during the day that prepares them to focus on their time later in the evening or weekend.

Sometimes prayer works in a similar fashion for disciples. Those who have the opportunity may choose long, lingering conversations with God. Uninterrupted time of sitting in his presence and enjoying the time focused on spiritual concerns. For some, that period of prayer can only be like that on vacation or retreat.

Others live a fast paced life. They are equally committed to life before God, but life circumstances do not allow much leisure time. Think of the case of a new mom with triplets: snippets... small, quick pleas or praise amid the feedings and diapers, the bathings and laundry are the only hope. To think that long, leisurely conversations with God or a spouse is likely is to fool oneself.

The focus is the relationship. The goal is maintaining, deepening, and enjoying the time together. Is more time desired? Of course, with a spouse and with God. But we don't beat each other up when a seasonal period intensifies.

The solution is to value what you have, be sensitive for opportunities for improvement, and being faithful in the meantime.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

St John Church of Christ
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His Faithfulness Reaches to the Clouds

St John Church of Christ

May 19, 2019

I had two conversations this week that stood out; overlapping conversations, in that the topic was very similar.

In the first conversation, I was asked about how to enhance prayer life. In the other conversation, we spoke of periods of intimacy and distance during our walk with God. Does the ebb and flow mean that the walk with God is in peril? Since I've served as mentor and confidant to both of these folks, we spoke for a few hours about healthy relationships with God.

I share with others that I often pray for long periods of time, sometimes uninterrupted hours. In hearing this, sometimes it causes others to question the quality of their prayer life. I want to be quick to say that this is not the intention at all. I believe that prayer life is as varied as good marriages. There are folks who have great marriages who are very intense. They do everything together, working in the same place, sharing the same hobbies, and enjoying the same down time. It is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins.

Other couples may have a tremendous relationship that, in certain seasons, have few hours together in a day. Between the commute, the job, and family responsibilities, a special one or two hour time period in the evening is all that is available to them. The connection may be enhanced with touching points, text

Continued on back page . . .

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am

WEDNESDAY: Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)

ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner

DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril

TREASURER: Richard Breensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MAY 19, 2019

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing
GATHERING SONG: No. 71—As the Deer
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 11:33-36 (Jesse Mayer)
SONGS: No. 65—Thanksgiving Medley
-No. 66—Doxology
-No. 67—For the Beauty of the Earth
-No. 68—Give Thanks
No. 76—How Great Thou Art
No. 117—God is the Fountain Whence
No. 779—I Love You, Lord

PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker
SONG: No. 356—I Believe in Jesus
COMMUNION: Stan Aldrich
Chris Mansel
Orrin Feril
Fred Johnson

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Psalm 108:3-5)
SONG: No. 587—Sing and Be Happy
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon

(CCLI #2440129)

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship; please come again!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- The theme this year will be "Level Up with God's Power"; in a new two-day format.
- Saturday, June 1st:** Start at 1:00 pm, ending after supper and a family carnival.
- Sunday, June 2nd:** Starting at 10:00 am there will be a special worship service wrapping up VBS, followed by a meal.
- Wednesday evenings (7:00 pm) are being used to prepare for this special event.
- Orrin & Meagan Feril are the leadership team; please visit with them about how you can be included.
- ITEM NEEDED: Plastic 2-liter bottles.**



ST JOHN JUBILEE

The annual St John Jubilee celebration will be this coming weekend. A schedule is posted with all the activities. We will have a VBS float in the afternoon parade at 1:30 pm. Those who want to ride the float need to be at the church building to load up by 12:15 pm.

TONY DIAZ MEMORIAL

You are invited to join family & friends of **Tony Diaz** for an informal evening of sharing memories, on May 25th, starting at 5:00 pm. A wiener roast is planned at 6:00 pm. This will be at Larry & Linda Hamm's house in Pratt. See flyer that is posted for more details.

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Congratulations, **Chase Mansel**, on your high school graduation! Please help "stuff a duffle bag" for Chase, as a way to recognize and congratulate him. Please bring any item you like to help stuff the duffle bag—and bring it no later than Sunday, May 26th. See Joy Sallee if you have any questions.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Marilyn Thornburg—health concerns
Gayle Byer—cataract surgery last Tuesday; doing well
Debbie (Gayle's friend) - pancreatic cancer; in hospice care
Ted Garcia (Lupe's brother) - recovering from leg injury & surgery
Gary—**Aldrich's neighbor**—cancer
Maggie Harris (Lisa's mother)-healing from a broken hip & shoulder
Gary Osenbaugh (Jesse Mayer's cousin in Turon) - head injury
Gary Osenbaugh (Chet & Tyrone's uncle) - cancer
Dena Mansel—health concerns
Jill Morpew (Janet's sister-in-law in Lubbock)—cancer
Becky Arens (Baylee's aunt) - diagnosed with AML (leukemia)
Tom Crawford (Marilyn's nephew) - kidney/heart/liver problems
Thomas Crawford (Marilyn's great nephew) - liver failure
Greg Lewis—brain tumor; Stage 4 cancer
Caylee Welch—drug rehabilitation
Barbara Schuette (Marla's sister) - improving
Rick Toland (Marla's cousin in Topeka) - cancer
Vince, Teddy's brother-in-law—heart problems
Kim Staub—Parkinson's
Katherine Suiter—cancer
Crystal Easley (Terry/Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema
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

News from Mexico: A recent email newsletter from Ubaldo Cardona is posted on the bulletin board.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jeremiah and Jessica Fiscus are the proud parents of a baby girl, **Laiken Ann**, born May 16th at Newton Hospital. She weighed 7 1/2 lbs, & was 20 1/2 " long. Congratulations to big sister, Lennox, grandparents, Darrell & Shannon Bauer, and to great-grandparents, George & Shirley Shelton.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Justice Mayer—May 24

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Gerry & Lupe Hudson—May 20

