

St John Church of Christ

February 14, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00

Happy Valentine's Day

“God is love,” (1 John 4:8) and what better way to celebrate love than by joining us for worship!

Our Adult Bible Class is still being shared online at 10:30. Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select “Sermons” from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](http://St.John Church of Christ)



FBPO

Tom always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye. It was time in the church office for that delicate task of publishing the membership directory. Of course, each year new families move in, old families move on and, well, some people you're just not sure about. So, Tom and the secretary were sorting out the list. As Tom dictated the names, he would say something like, “Jones, Smith, Brown – FBPO.”

Finally, the secretary interrupted and asked, “Brown FBPO? What does ‘FBPO’ mean?”

Tom looked up and grinned. “We haven't seen them in so long, they are members of this congregation ‘For Burial Purposes Only.’”

Ouch! But I remember calling a couple that hadn't attended in two years and asking if they still wanted to be included in the directory? Horrified, he exclaimed, “Of course! We'll be back just as soon as this bowling tournament is finished!” They didn't. FBPO.

So, what is “membership”? You will search in vain for the term in the New Testament. The Bible says, “And the Lord added daily to their number those who were being saved,” Acts 2:47. In other words, the congregation doesn't decide who is a member and who isn't. It's the Lord's



Church and He decides who is and isn't a member.

The famous actor W.C. Fields was in the hospital and started looking through a Bible that had been placed beside his bed. His wife came in and was shocked. “What are you doing W. C.? I didn't think you believed in such things!”

“I'm looking for loopholes my dear.”

Lest you are tempted to think having your name in the church directory is the same as having it in the Lamb's Book of Life, they're not the same. There are no loopholes



The Man Who Hated to Sing

John McKeel

Caedmon hated to sing. The smoky light from the lanterns filled the inn, but Caedmon could see through the haze. The minstrel's harp being passed his way. Soon it would be his turn to sing. The old cowherd slipped into the night and retired to the stables to sleep.

The year was 650 A.D. near Whitby, England, on the coast of the North Sea. According to Bede, who wrote an Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation in the 8th century, after having a dream that night, Caedmon woke up singing songs about the creation of the world.

The old man went to his master, the bailiff, and told him about his dream and sang this song:

Now we must praise

The Maker of the heavenly realm,

The Creator's power and wisdom,

The deeds of the Father of Glory;

How He, being God eternal,

Was the Author of all wonders,

Who first to the sons of men

Made heaven for the roof of their abode,

And then created the earth,

Almighty Guardian of mankind....

Admittedly, it was only a paraphrase of our Bible, and a poor one at that, but it was the first attempt to make the stories of the Creation, the Exodus, Christ's Incarnation, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven available to the English people in their own language. And what they could sing, they could easily tell to others.

Caedmon left his master and went to live in the monastery. There, the monks told him stories from their Latin Bible, then, each night, "keeping in mind all he had heard, and as it were chewing the cud," according to Bede, he would retire to awake fresh each day with verses so melodious that "his instructors became his eager listeners."

A few short years later Caedmon died in his sleep – after singing to comfort the sick near the place where he had hated to sing.

News & Prayer Requests

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON-LINE: This year's Bloom (formerly WINGS) conference at Harding University is scheduled for this weekend (Friday & Saturday, February 19-20) and the theme is "Build Your Influence - Going Wide and Deep." For the first time, the Bloom conference will be livestreamed on Facebook. So, no matter where ladies live, they can take advantage of this spiritual resource. The livestream is free and no pre-registration is required. You'll find more information and a complete schedule of speakers at <https://www.harding.edu/events/bloom>

Please continue to pray for Paul as he battles cancer in Washington state.

Let's continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Don't forget to pray for little Emersyn, the daughter of Billy and Brianna Milton of Hudson and for Mauren the daughter of the Turner's in Great Bend.

Please add Marilyn to your prayers. She is scheduled to have knee surgery on the 25th.

