

Himself through us... we also have a responsibility to only use Scripture in the way that God intended. To attempt to address every scientific technology by looking at "what the Bible says about it" is impractical. The Bible does not address the medical use of psychotropic medications. The Bible does not inform us about the origins of depression, the treatment of medical conditions or a host of other things. They were not 1<sup>st</sup> century questions.

The Bible informs and benefits us for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, for training us in right living, so that we may be mature and equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16)

But from that verse people go on to attempt to prove that the Bible informs us as to which political party to belong to, which cultural norm we can participate in or must abstain from. From such positions we have made decrees about bathing suits, the sinfulness of a woman exposing her ankles in public, the necessity of wearing hats by women in the assemblies, the morality of owning other human beings, sinfulness of clapping hands at certain events, watching football games on Sundays, cutting wheat on the "Sabbath" and hundreds of other rules and regulations that the Bible never envisioned.

This isn't letting the Bible speak to a topic, it is humankind taking the authority from God and implementing their own agenda. Now, I know we didn't do it consciously, we began with a false assumption. The assumption was that the Bible defines every action that a Christian can participate in. That just isn't true. The Bible doesn't talk about your bowling or not bowling. The Bible does say that you must be righteous in your behavior and to be prepared to engage in every good work.

We must be very careful about not making the Bible say more than God intended. When we do that, we become the standard rather than God.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Carl*

*St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
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*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*



**St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God**

**September 6, 2015**

A few weeks ago I was asked a question. A barren couple had approached a sister-in-law, asking her to carry their child through invitro-fertilization. The question was, "Is there anything in Scripture, or principles from Scripture, that speak to this?"

I was surprised and began to sort of run it through my brain. How does God, expecting the Jewish brother-in-law to impregnate the childless widow, speak to this? Is the use of a non-natural method of insemination commented on in Scripture? Then, my thought was "No, the Bible doesn't talk about this at all! It is a new technology. And, why should we even try to make the Bible address the topic?" Then, I read this comment (not on this subject) made this week and I found it important.

Sometimes a friend will say something so clearly and succinctly that I am just overwhelmed by it. I had that experience this week. A friend, Wesley Walker, made this comment to me and I thought, why didn't I say it that way?

"When we force Scripture to do what it was never intended to do and answer questions it was never intended to answer, then the authority behind Scripture becomes us and not God."

As important as allowing God to define our morality, shape our lifestyle, and to exhibit

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
 Worship Service—10:45 am  
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm  
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

**ELDERS:** Richard Brening, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Brening

## WORSHIP ORDER FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon  
 GATHERING SONG: No. 239—In Moments Like These  
 WELCOME: Tom Turner  
 SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 2:15-17 (Chase Mansel)  
 SONGS: No. 957—This World is Not My Home  
       No. 915—Trust and Obey (vs 1, 2, 4)  
       No. 601—My God and I  
       No. 766—Open Our Eyes, Lord  
 PRAYER: Garland Mansel  
 SONG: No. 364—Come, Share the Lord  
 COMMUNION: Tom Turner  
             Ben Sizemore  
             Jon Mansel  
             Joe Cornwell  
 SONG: No. 517—Heaven Came Down  
 LESSON: Zeb Carter (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
 SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)  
 PRAYER: Orrin Feril

(CCLI #2440129)

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

## WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

### SHOWER INVITATION!

A wedding shower is planned for **Cheyenne & Adam** next Sunday, September 13th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

### WEDDING INVITATION!

You are invited to the wedding of **Cheyenne Scott and Adam Holmes** on October 10, 2015, at 5:00 pm at Jeff & Lory's farm. The reception will be at the VFW in Stafford afterward. See invitation posted for more information. *You are expected to wear jeans to this special occasion!!*

### BABY SHOWER!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring **Trey & Amber Turner**, on Sunday, September 27th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are expecting a boy, due in early November, and are registered at Target, as well as BabiesRUs.



Thanks to **Zeb Carter** for preaching today in Carl's absence.

**A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY** is in the making! If you want a new family picture, either send a digital picture to Janet or contact her in the next couple of weeks to have one taken.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Daniel Sizemore 9/7**  
**Vic Staub 9/9**  
**Donald Suiter 9/9**

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

**Vic & Phyllis Staub 9/9**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Charlene Jimerson** (Chet's youngest sister) - radiation treatments; chemo later  
**Dan Hampton**—recent heart cath; more procedures to be scheduled  
**Maggie Harris**—recent knee surgery; at home in Lawrence  
**Donna Laudick** (Marla's sister) - moved to a rehab facility  
**Josh Oakley** (grandson of Bill Oakley) - on heart transplant list  
**Janie Nagel** (Fred Johnson's sister) - recent stroke  
**Sonny Langford** (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer  
**Gladys Hornbaker**—health concerns  
**Sherri Holguin & baby** (coworker of Joy)  
**Millie Whitlow** – at Clearwater; cancer  
**Joy** (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns  
**Dena Mansel** – health concerns  
**Cody Dick** – cancer; undergoing treatments  
**Roger Dick** - cancer  
**Jonathan Batten** – chemotherapy  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Sorensen** (Tara's brother-in-law) chemo for brain tumor  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**Myron Brening** (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza

### SEMINARS WITH JERRY & LYNN JONES

September 24-26: "Straight Talk Seminar" at Silver Maple Camp; Keith Lancaster will lead worship singing; refer to information posted on bulletin board.

September 27-30: "Relationships Matter" at the Pratt Church of Christ; see brochure for schedule and topics.