

distracted by political stability in the world. We worry about economies, terroristic activity, farm markets, gross national products, or the latest doings of the city council. We can become so consumed by the incidentals that we shift our focus from the race before us.

One of my favorite track and field events to watch is the pole vault. Can you imagine the man or woman competing, racing down the approach, pole in hand, while gawking into the stands to see who is watching? We know that is a ridiculous concept, but distractions are the things that result in failures.

If those who are competing in Rio are worried about lumpy mattresses, flat pillows or fresh bedding, they won't perform well in their chosen event. They have to push the extraneous things from their minds and focus on the event before them.

The Hebrew writer prefaces his earlier statement with exactly that advice. Let us set aside every weight and the sin that so easily encompasses us... then run. We have to keep our focus, no matter the things that happen around us. It is the only way to successfully complete our course.

So, no more distractions with things that are temporal. Don't let the day to day interfere with the eternal. Have a clearer, more focused vision so that you may have success. Second only to knowing what is right, the issue of focus is the most important element to success.

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

**August 7, 2016**

While I haven't watched any of the events, the world seems to have their eyes on the Olympics in Rio. One of the controversies regarding the games this time around is the safety of the competitors. Not so much from terrorism, but as how inadequate the housing infrastructure is. They are having difficulty providing clean water, electricity, etc. Obviously, it is important to the Olympic Committee that those competing be safe and healthy, as well as to those responsible for sending the competitors to the games. For those who have spent a lifetime preparing for this Olympic event, they just want to compete.

Paul compares those who follow Jesus to those who compete in the games as well. He speaks of the athlete who is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The Hebrew writer tells us to run with endurance the race that is set before us. You see, it is all about the race.

Sadly, Satan finds success among our people by shifting our focus to the surrounding circumstances rather than the race. Satan loves to distract, to avert your eyes. He is like that bunch behind the basketball goal, waving their arms and screaming while the ball player attempts to shoot a free throw.

We, while walking in the light of God through this world, can easily become

**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 Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

### WORSHIP ORDER FOR AUGUST 7, 2016

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker  
 GATHERING SONG: No. 435—Come Into His Presence  
 WELCOME: Tom Turner  
 SCRIPTURE READING: John 3:16-17 (Orrin & Jayce Feril)  
 SONGS: No. 287—There is a Redeemer  
       No. 380—Jesus Sacrifice Medley  
       —No. 381—Years I Spent in Vanity (vs 1,4)  
       —No. 382—Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? (vs 1, 3)  
       —No. 383—Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (vs 1, 3)  
       No. 764—Teach Me Lord to Wait

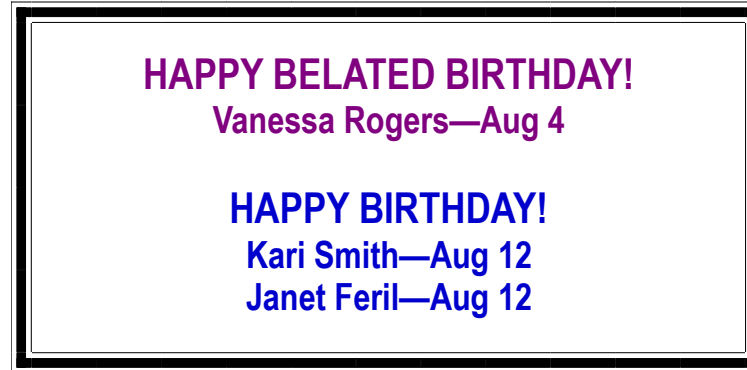
PRAYER: Garland Mansel  
 SONG: No. 325—Boundless Love  
 COMMUNION: Tom Turner  
       Teddy Gingrich  
       Chris Mansel  
       Fred Johnson

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
 SONG: No. 652—We Have Heard the Joyful Sound (vs 1, 4)  
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
 SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)  
 PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

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



As school is about to begin, keep Teachers, Students and all those involved in the school system in your prayers



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Austin & Marci Klug are the happy parents of new baby boy, **Kenton Lee**, who was born yesterday. He weighed in at 7 lbs, 13 oz and was 19 inches long. Mom and baby are both doing well. Proud grandparents are Joe & Lisa Cornwell!



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

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Nick Mansel**—Not feeling well last few weeks  
**Trent Sallee**—Not feeling well  
**Alex Garcia** (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst; to have surgery Aug 12 in Kansas City  
**Annie Kent** (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer  
**Betty Schneweis**—recent heart surgery  
**Glennys Sallabedra** (Tom's mother)  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - at home under hospice care; His wife, Sheryl, is dealing with out-of-control diabetes  
**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - having breathing problems; His wife, Kathy, has no cancer, but continuing health problems  
**Marilyn Sprawka** (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Sharon Goode Ames**—lung cancer  
**Pati Waters Risley**—stroke; rehab at home  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**John Laudick** (Marla's brother-in-law)  
**Jonathan Batten** - cancer  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) - now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Myron Breensing** (Richard's father) - Leisure Homestead  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** - Kenwood Plaza

### OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Tony Tranbarger**, who passed away on August 4th. Funeral service is planned for Monday, at 10:30 am at the Macksville Christian Church.