

## For The Church



I had a conversation with a girl this week, who is about to sprout her own wings and fly into the world on her own, who claimed to me that she is not religious, in fact, she doesn't care for religion at all. I questioned her a bit on that statement asking her why she doesn't like religion.

She said that she is okay with the idea that there could be a God, but she is not convinced that there is one and she said that religion seems to try and force their beliefs on others. That, she said, was not okay and she could not support anything that does not allow people to be who they are. She even went as far as to label herself an atheist.

Many Christians would be angered by a conversation like this, but I wonder how she came to these conclusions. Of course, if you surf the web or social media at all you likely will come across these ideas, but I wonder if it is something deeper. Is it maybe something that we are doing, as Christians, that is giving off the idea that we don't love people for who they are

Our reputation is super important. After all, as a Christian, you represent God – you are supposed to be a reflection of the character of God. Frankly, Christians, at least in this country, have a bad reputation. We are seen as bigots, intolerant, pushy, arrogant, and have an aura of hypocrisy around us. Some of these things are probably false characterizations, but some of these are modeled by us to the world.

Jesus teaches us that we are to not only go the mile we are asked to go, but go a 2<sup>nd</sup> mile – we are called to something far greater.

## In Our Prayers

Thomas Pruitt  
Juanita (Abby's Mother)  
Tim Taylor  
Linda Fry  
Pam Aldrich  
Vance Wendelburg  
Dennis Rosenbaum  
Nolan Adams

Terry Sallee  
Margarita Kent (Lupe's Sister)  
Danielle Harmon  
Crystal Emery (Gloria's mom)  
Enrique Lira  
Lantermann Family  
Linda Guthrie  
Rory Russell

Kathy Russell  
Pam, Leanne, Barbara  
Joseph Morien (Jessica's dad)  
Saul Moncada  
Cella Lemberger (Jessica's Aunt)  
Rachel Spare  
Kay Kinnamon

# Upcoming Events

## Youth Group [Tonight]

The Youth Group will meet tonight at 7 PM at Carl and Janet's house.

## Wednesday Night Bible Hour [Wednesday]

Wednesday Night Bible hour will be held Wednesday starting at 6 PM.

## Pumpkin Carving and Dinner [Today]

Please join us tonight for pumpkin carving, crafts, and dinner at 5 PM. All are welcome to attend.

## Fall Festival Bake Sale [Saturday]

Please bring your bake sale items for SMC Fall Festival to the building by Wednesday evening at 6 PM if you need Pam to take them to camp for you.

## Save the Date:

October 18 - SMC Fall Festival - 9:00-3:00

October 19 - Faith and Family Day - 3:00-8:00 (St. John Square)

November 9 - Young Family Ministry (Stafford)

November 14-16 - SMC Teen Retreat

December 7 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)

# Birthdays

None

# Worship Order

Welcome Table & Greeters: Zeb & Jessica Carter

Song Leader: Stan Aldrich

Sound System: Jayce Feril

Gathering: #449 - Thy Word

Welcome: Chris Mansel

Scripture Reading: Landon Marks (Luke 14:12-14)

Shepherd's Prayer: Richard Brensing

Song: #416 - Footsteps of Jesus (vs. 1 & 2)

Song: #359 - I Love the Lord

Communion: Carl Feril (Shawn Batten, Hunter Marks, Zach Marks)

Song: #643 - Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom

Lesson #1: Zeb Carter

Song: #555 - Seek Ye First

Lesson #2: Zeb Carter

Song: All Things Are Ready (vs. 1)

Closing Prayer: Gary HornbakerG



Giving Link

**Sundays:** Bible classes for all ages @ 10:00 am  
Worship service for everyone @ 11:00 am  
**Elders:** Tom Turner, Richard Brensing, Terry Sallee, Carl Feril  
**Deacons:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril, Zachary Marks  
**Minister:** Zeborah Carter