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were “right” and the only voice heard. A student of church history would see where different churches have followed God closely at the beginning, then become self-absorbed over time. Soon another group arises, with fresh voices calling people back to God. Pointing out that God means more than a particular “church allegiance.”

So what is the task of the church? If you asked different ones, you might get different answers. Some might focus on worship of God, detailing various acts of worship and the need to have those correct. Others might point to evangelism and speak of the need to communicate to the world what their reaction to the Gospel ought to be. Another group might emphasize the need to help those who are children of God to grow into the image of Jesus. Still others might have a different idea of what God is calling the church to do.

It might be that we are beginning at the wrong point in the question. Perhaps we would be better served by asking what is God trying to do and getting on board with that. It is always important to distinguish between what is the primary purpose and what the ancillary concerns are.

*Grace and Peace,  
Carl*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

**St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
St John, KS 67576  
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The story of redemption, as described in the Bible, is God acting to bring man back to himself following the rebellion in the Garden. From the promise to Eve that her seed would crush the head of the serpent through the promise to Abraham that his descendents would bless the world, to the announcement to Mary that she would conceive a child through the Holy Spirit who would save the world from their sins, God has been on a purpose.

As He has used different agents to move toward that purpose, those agents have often corrupted their place. God’s blessing Israel to insure the lineage of Jesus caused them to believe they were especially good. For that reason, John and Jesus reminded them that God could replace them from the rocks of the ground.

Churches throughout time have become a bit full of themselves, as well—starting well, then leaving their first love. They have believed they had a corner on the truth, using inquisitions to exclusion to insure they

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**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 (@ Feril's)

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

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Brensing

## Worship Order for February 2, 2014

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon  
GATHERING SONG: No. 435—Come into His Presence  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 25:1-9 (Garland Mansel)  
SONGS: No. 540—O for a Faith that Will Not Shrink  
No. 546—Till the Storm Passes By (vs 1, 3)  
No. 560—Living by Faith  
No. 452—Standing on the Promises (vs 1, 2, 4)  
PRAYER: Richard Brensing  
SONG: No. 315—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
COMMUNION: Chris Mansel  
Ben Sizemore  
Orrin Feril  
Teddy Gingrich  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
SONG: No. 461—Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide (vs 1, 4)  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Jeff Scott

(CCLI #2440129)

## Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship—please come again!  
We also invite you to stay for potluck lunch today.

## Budget Meeting Today

All members are asked to be present at the budget meeting, to be held this afternoon after potluck lunch.

## Youth Notes

- Meet Wednesday at 7:30 pm at Carl & Janet's
- Monday lunch here for the high school students

## Ladies Bible Study

The next ladies Bible study is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd, at 9:00 am here at the church building. Please read through the lesson on Esther in preparation for the class & discussion.  
A volunteer is needed to prepare a light breakfast.

## VBS—Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School is being planned for May 27, 28, 29—with a picnic on Friday, May 30. Mark your calendar and be thinking of ways you can help!

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**Garland Mansel 2/6**

## Memory Work for 2014

Mark 4:21-25

## Prayer Requests

**Mara Feril**—home with infection in both ears  
**Marilyn Thornburg**—scheduled to have surgery on her right hand February 11th in Great Bend  
**Diane Manilla** (Meagan's sister-in-law's mother) - cancer; to have a procedure soon  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) - now home  
**Wilbur Kinnamon**—at Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Marilyn Thornburg's daughter, Joy**  
**Baylee Sizemore's Aunt Suzanne**—chemo  
**Danny Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - improving  
**Katherine Suiter**—health issues  
**Dena Mansel**—health concerns  
**Phyllis Staub**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic Staub**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Dorothy McIntire**—Pratt Care Center  
**Janis Murphy**—cancer  
**Theo Birkett**—Tara's mother  
**Margaret Marks** (Ned's mother) - declining health  
**Rebecca Hunley**—cancer; more treatments  
**Ethan Feril**—Carl's nephew; deployed to the middle east  
**Barbara Schuette**—Marla's half-sister  
**Jim Sorensen**—Tara's brother-in-law; brain tumor  
**Jim Soukup**—Gingrich's son-in-law (Shari's husband)  
**Eunice Rice**—long term care in Stafford Hospital  
**Heather, Dixie Hornbaker's granddaughter** in England; slowly improving after her surgery