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very aware of the camaraderie within the place. Different ones carrying cases, decorated in their own style, concealing their treasured instruments.

When the jamming began, there was an effort to include by some. Others had their own clique. For some it was about who was the best, who could play faster or more complicated. But not many, mainly there was an invitation to be part of things. The songs were familiar, tunes that had been heard for generations. Smiles, laughter, and lots of music.

I caught myself comparing to church. How do we meet people, how do we incorporate them, when do they feel welcomed? There was no question that Janet and I felt out of our league, newcomers to a world with its own behaviors, language, expectations, protocols, and skill sets. We have that same situation with new folks.

Our fellowship is based on a love for God rather than a style of music. Our inclusion is about a common factor, we are sinners in need of grace. We have to be aware of the “newcomers”, those who stand on the fringe, not prepared to be involved without encouragement. It is much more important than bluegrass.

Grace and Peace,
Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
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It doesn't matter where I am, I can't shut it off. I am always analyzing people, trying to understand what makes them click.

God has made us in his image, but there is plenty of room for individualism. Janet and I attended the Kansas Bluegrass Association's Winter Festival this weekend. There were well over 1500 people there when we arrived, standing room only. At the ticket table we were asked our names, where we were from, if we had ever been there before. All of this was done with smiles and laughter, excitement to meet someone new. I recognized they had been trained to do certain conversation “starters”, but it was done in a very natural manner. Once inside the door, people just kept being friendlier. Again, where were we from, did we want to sign up for door prizes, were we going to “jam”, how often had we been there before?

People were laughing, embracing, sharing stories, struggles with health, and talking about which acts were upcoming. I was

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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 23, 2014

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 56—Lord, We Praise You
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1-3 (Chase Mansel)
SONGS: No. 469—Faith is the Victory (vs 1 & 3)
No. 470—Victory in Jesus (vs 1 & 3)
No. 452—Standing on the Promises (vs 1, 2, 4)
No. 123—The Steadfast Love of the Lord

PRAYER: Ned Marks
SONG: No. 464—Because He Lives
COMMUNION: Gary Hornbaker
Orrin Feril
Chris Mansel
Ben Sizemore

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 509—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 904—Have You Been to Jesus (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jon Mansel

(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.

Baptisms

We rejoice with Kade and Cole Kinnamon, who were baptized by Jerry Monday evening, February 17th.

Men's Retreat

The Stafford Church of Christ is planning a men's retreat for March 8th. The guest speaker will be Rick Eldred of Boulder, CO, and the topic is "The Life of Joseph."

Ladies Day

The Emporia Avenue Church of Christ in Wichita is hosting a Ladies Day on Saturday, March 22nd.

VBS—Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School is being planned for May 27, 28, 29 (6:30 pm).
We'll have a picnic on Friday, May 30. Mark your calendar now!

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Chet Lyons 2/27

Memory Work for 2014

Mark 4:21-25

Prayer Requests

Phyllis Staub—In Pratt Regional Medical Center, battling 3 different infections
Marilyn Thornburg—recovering from hand surgery
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - Kenwood Plaza (Rm 17)
Kay Kinnamon—infection in her leg
Diane Manilla (Meagan's sister-in-law's mother) - cancer
Marilyn Thornburg's daughter, Joy
Baylee Sizemore's Aunt Suzanne—chemo
Danny Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - improving
Vic Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Dorothy McIntire—Pratt Care Center
Wilbur Kinnamon—Leisure Homestead—Stafford
Theo Birkett—Tara's mother
Margaret Marks (Ned's mother) - declining health
Rebecca Hunley—cancer
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

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Chet Lyons and family, as his mother, **Marilyn Williams**, passed away on Feb 18th. Her service was last Friday in Stafford.