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transition. Like old country music fans, we might like the “Ray Price Shuffle”, or perhaps the more progressive “full orchestra” arrangement, or the “Nashville Sound”.

What we have to insure is the same thing the apostles and early Christians had to insure as the Gentiles came into the church. There was a huge looming shift and people resisted. Some said, “Circumcision, feast days, Sabbath keeping, the Temple”, we have to keep these things.

Paul and others fought the battles to keep the essential message, Jesus Christ and him crucified (Galatians 6:14).

In different locations they addressed different ideas but held the same message. In Jerusalem, Paul kept the Law, offered a sacrifice at the temple, met in synagogues. At Ephesus, where Diana was goddess and women reigned, he spoke up for men, saying they should be able to pray, lifting up holy hands, and women should not flaunt their wealth or authority over men. In Corinth he had to regulate the use of spiritual gifts, detailing the number who could speak at a time and that their wives should be silent. But the message of the Gospel was no different in any location.

Over time what happens other places will impact us. As we face the “new things” that will eventually become factors of how we do things here, remember it isn’t the cultural things, stylistic things that matter. It is our preaching Jesus Christ and him crucified that makes the eternal difference.

*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
620-549-6146**



I learned an old song last week, Soft Rain by Ray Price. On YouTube there is a compilation of the four different versions of this song he wrote. Hank Williams died January 1, 1953, the year I was born. Ray Price took over the Drifting Cowboys, later changing their name to the Cherokee Cowboys and developing the “Ray Price Shuffle”. When Country Music was struggling, he crossed over, adding strings, an orchestra as his backup. He said in the first concert following that he was afraid he would not get out of the hall alive.

The song has four different releases, at four different times in his career. Each is different, each answered a need at the time, each allowed him to continue to be Ray Price. He died just this last December, still singing with the same voice.

As Janet and I listened to the song to decide which rendition we preferred I was struck by something. While his “style”, the instrumentation, the arrangement was different each time, the song never changed. In fact, he has an awkward pronunciation of the same word in each version. The words are identical, the message of the song does not vary.

I’ve preached now for well over 40 years. I’ve observed changes in emphasis in churches across the country. There are some distinct rumblings right now that show we are on the cusp of another

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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 March 30, 2014

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
 GATHERING SONG: No. 141—Heavenly Father,
 We Appreciate You

WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:1-4 (Joe Cornwell)
 SONGS: No. 147—I Stand Amazed
 No. 166—He's My King
 No. 180—Jesus is Lord
 No. 681—More Holiness Give Me

PRAYER: Garland Mansel
 SONG: No. 176—Lamb of God
 COMMUNION: Orrin Feril
 Teddy Gingrich
 Fred Johnson
 Chris Mansel

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven
 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!

Updates

Please take some time to read items posted on the bulletin board. News and pictures were recently received from Ubaldo & Maria Cardona in Chihuahua, Mexico. Other information is available from Michael and Alyssa Thys, who visited recently.

High School Senior Celebration

Tentative plans have been made to have a celebration here honoring our high school seniors, **Kade Kinnamon** and **Madie Lippoldt**, on Sunday afternoon, May 18th, at 1:30 pm. Please save this date and more information will be shared soon.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is planned for May 27-29, with a picnic on May 30.

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

NEW MEMORY WORK

MARK 2:12

Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!"

(Common English Bible)

Prayer Requests

Porter Strum (son of Brett & Sarah; grandson of Richard & Shelly) - spent a few days in Wesley's ICU last week being treated for RSV; is now in a regular room and improving

Brenda Mansel Reno—back pain; impending surgery

Serena Neidig (Teddy & Carol's daughter) - health concerns

Sarah (Messick) Ballard—stroke; she is staying in Wichita & being closely monitored by her physicians; her activity is limited with plans for a C-section in about 3 weeks

Clarence Messick (Sarah's father) - total hip surgery last week

Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - broken shoulder

Nick & Kara Neidig—expecting a baby in May; baby has heart problems; they are seeing doctors at Children's Mercy in Kansas City

Olive Bartlett—health concerns

Carol Gingrich—health concerns

Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza

Marilyn Thornburg—recent hand/wrist surgery

Diane Manilla (Meagan's sister-in-law's mother) - cancer

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; Dixie reports that Heather is improving