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day season was the number of refreshingly kind things done. While driving back from Oklahoma, when I attempted to pay my toll, the toll booth operator didn't take the money. "Someone paid your toll, Merry Christmas." I drove off thinking about what a kind thing to do for a stranger. It stayed in my mind.

In this world of decadence and decay, kindness, mercy and justice stick out. Jesus told us that we would be recognizable by our love for each other. He didn't say, "People will know my followers by how much Bible they can quote." We won't win the world to the loving Savior by blasting people with harsh judgment or by bowling them over with our displays of superiority. Love will win the day.

When you think of Islam, I suspicion you think of terrorist groups. Because of the terrible atrocities of hate groups hiding under the banner of religion, the group becomes tainted. Could it happen with Christianity?

What if we attempted to promote Christianity by Christ-like living, i.e., by caring for the weak and vulnerable, or by inviting those who cannot repay us to be the guests at our tables? What if we decided that we were going to use behavior and speech characterized by kindness, mercy, and justice as a first response? How might the world see us differently?

*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**



Micah 6:6-8

So, what does this mean for us? Clearly we don't approach God with animal sacrifices, but is there a lesson for us here? Is there something that we should get from this section of Scripture?

First, thinking about what God does want is a good start. How do we approach God, not assuming whatever or however we approach him is acceptable? God isn't looking for us to make some grandiose gesture, loading up 4 semi-trucks with gifts and jewels to show how we love him.

It is both easier and more difficult than that. He doesn't want your grand gesture, he wants you, all of you. Transformation, becoming like him in thought and behavior.

After the fall in the Garden, mankind began a downward slide into self-gratuitous living. The worries and concerns were about how to please self, with little regard for God. The further in time we go, the more despicable behavior became. By the time of Noah, every thought of man was to do evil.

One of the things I noticed during this holi-

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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 (@ Carl's)

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

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Brensing

### Worship Order for December 28, 2014

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker

GATHERING SONG: No. 38—Awesome God

WELCOME: Tom Turner

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Teddy Gingrich)

SONGS: No. 300—Praise Him! Praise Him! (vs 1 & 3)

No. 538—My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

No. 864—Where the Gates Swing Outward Never

No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven

PRAYER: Terry Sallee

SONG: No. 359—I Love the Lord

COMMUNION: Richard Brensing

Jon Mansel

Fred Johnson

Jeff Scott

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril

SONG: No. 450—Give Me the Bible

LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)

SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid It All (vs 1)

PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

(CCLI #2440129)

### Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship—please come again!

### No Pot Luck Dinner

There will be no pot luck dinner here today. Make plans to eat together next Sunday.

### Wednesday Night

There will be no Bible study here or Youth Group at Carl's on Wednesday, December 31st.

### Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will resume on Saturday, January 17th, at 9:00 am. If you would like to join in, and do not have a study book, please see Pam or Janet to get one.



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Carl & Janet Feril 12/28

George & Shirley Shelton 12/29

Phillip & Terri Koelsch 1/1

### Prayer Requests

(Please provide updates to Janet)

**Shirley Shelton**—cancer; surgery is scheduled for January 6th

**Jonathan Batten**—chemotherapy for cancer

**Lyndsey Dryden**—as she recovers from a car accident

**Wayland Whitlow** (preaches for the church in Clearwater)  
—new diagnosis of cancer

**Dena Mansel**—health concerns

**Kari Smith**—recent hip surgery

**Wilbur Kinnamon**—Leisure Homestead-Stafford

**Landon Neidig**—continues to do well

**Myron Brensing**—HomePlus in Stafford

**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother)—HomePlus in Stafford

**Dennis Lyons** (Chet's brother)

**Charlene Lyons** (Chet's sister-in-law, Dennis' wife)

**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother)

**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)

**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])

**Vic & Phyllis Staub**—Kenwood Plaza

**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza

**Margaret Marks** (Ned's mother)

### SYMPATHY

Tom announced last week that **Paco Rivera**, the minister at the Monterrey church in Mexico, recently passed away. We extend our sympathy to his family and the church family there.

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