

In the dark of night he just wondered if I was there. I've tried to consistently make it a point to be there when crisis looms since that time. I'm not always able to do it, but it is my mission.

I know I am not the presence of God for others, but I do have ministry that expresses that presence, as do you. We pray, bringing our friends and family into the company of God, sharing a conversation, and offering our concerns and confidences. We point to him as the source of grace and mercy. We don't know the outcome of any illness. One of the horrific implications of the introduction of sin into this world is the twisted and convoluted nature of life. Illness, struggle, poverty, deception, and a host of both natural and unnatural disasters have been brought upon mankind as a result of it.

It is through prayer, an intentional movement into the presence of our Creator, that we find a measure of peace and hope. It allows us to transcend the ugliness that surrounds us and offers a moment of awareness that we have the undivided attention of the Almighty. It is in this that we find strength, confidence, and the ability to move forward.

Like my friend Todd, sometimes in the middle of the night I whisper God's name, just checking. In the midst of crisis, urgency, or overwhelming moments of chaos and struggle my lips form his name, just seeking to know he is there. Then I find a measure of peace, comfort, and confidence to finish what lies before me.

So never discount the value of your prayers and presence in the lives of those around you. You usher them into the presence of God.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

March 1, 2015

It has been a week filled with hospitals and prayer. Sometimes I've been with the people I was praying for, other times my prayers were offered many miles from them. Prayer is not limited to presence because God is in all places. I received a request for prayer this morning as I awoke, from Georgia about a family in Texas. I can be faithful in praying and God will be faithful in his presence.

There is great strength in the presence of God. As Stephen faced those who would end his life (Acts 7), he cried out... "Look I see the heavens open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." As he was rushed and killed, he asked that God not hold the sin against them. When one is confident in the presence of God, it strengthens their resolve, emboldens their choices and comforts their spirit.

About a quarter century ago I was sitting with Todd, Tom and Pam's middle son, on the night before his surgery. Tom and Pam had gone to rest before the next long day and it was perhaps 1 or 2 in the morning. I was in that state in the night where I was wavering between prayer and sleep. I heard this small voice that jarred me wide awake, as Todd quietly called my name. I sat up and said, "What?" Todd's reply changed my understanding of ministry. "Just checking."

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service – 9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages – 10:00 am
Worship Services – 10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study – 7:30 pm
Youth Group – 7:30 pm (at Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breising, Teddy Gingrich,
Loyd Ratts, Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breising
MINISTERS: Carl Feril, Tom Turner

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MARCH 1, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 31 – Be Still and Know
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13 (Chris Mansel)
SONGS: No. 448 – The Greatest Command
No. 719 – Love One Another
No. 140 – Love Divine
No. 800 – What a Friend We Have in Jesus
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 290 – Shine, Jesus, Shine
COMMUNION: Richard Breising
Orrin Feril
Fred Johnson
Jon Mansel
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 878 – Sweet By and By
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 907 – Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jeff Scott

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Remember to set your clocks ahead next Saturday night, so you won't be late to church on Sunday!



MEN'S RETREAT

When: Saturday, March 14, 2015; 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Where: Stafford Church of Christ
Theme: Men After God's Own Heart
Speaker: Calvin Chapman of Faith, South Dakota
\$25 per person; RSVP to 234-5300 or email:
stfdcofc@sbcglobal.net by March 7th
Please let Tom or Carl know if you are planning to go.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Orrin Feril 3/1

Be sure to pick up a March calendar today.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Carol Gingrich – pacemaker/ defibrillator placement last week went well
Juan Ortiz (son of Chito & Lolis Ortiz from Macksville) is in St Francis in Wichita, recovering from an auto accident; they request our prayers
Jessica Keeton (one of Clint's former basketball players) has breast cancer that has spread to her spine and lymph nodes
Maggie Harris (Lisa's mother) – scheduled for a heart valve replacement later this month
Laura Wyatt – continuing to recuperate from broken ribs
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
Vesta Shelton (George's sister-in-law) recent stroke
Dena Mansel – health concerns
Lyndsey Dryden – still recovering from auto accident
Cody Dick – cancer; undergoing treatments
Roger Dick - cancer
Jonathan Batten – as he continues chemotherapy
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law) – health concerns
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law; monthly chemo for brain tumor)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Wilbur Kinnamon – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Breising – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza