

surface.

At such times, words of grace and mercy are important. Jesus did it in an incredible manner with a woman crudely exposed to a judgmental public eye. Caught, singled out, and made a mockery of in a public setting that would shame the most calloused of our fallen world, she was thrust before Jesus and objectified by her abusers.

Their words, filled with condemnation and judgment, washed past her as Jesus was challenged with "What do you say?" A stick, a dirt canvas and an acknowledgement of truth turned the tide in a time of intensity, crudeness, and vile affronts. "Those who have experienced no personal sin ought to execute the sentence." As a stick drew in the dirt, the scratching sounds suddenly the loudest noise in the crowd, one by one discarded stones hit the ground and sandals spun on their heels.

Finally, when only the guilty and the rabbi remained, words were addressed to the most vulnerable of all. Words that drove home the most needed message of the day. "Where are those qualified to accuse and stand in judgment over you?" While she might have seen herself as the vilest of the vile, our teacher reminded her that she was no better or worse than any other.

As those words sank in, he spoke the words of grace and truth. "Not even I will condemn you. Don't fall back into this."

You know what he could have said, but he chose grace and mercy.

*Grace and peace,*

*Carl*



St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God

May 17, 2015

It was a very intense conversation. The pain and bitterness could hardly be verbalized between the sobs and tears. There was an oppressive thickness in the air that would have been detected by any that might have wandered in the room, but we stayed alone.

The histories that some have experienced move beyond my ability to describe. In clinical notes, as I later review them, I recognize that they fail to express the pain, despair, frustration, futility, angst and anguish that make up the history and circumstances of some people with whom I am privileged to work.

Usually such conversations occur only after a foundation of trust and confidence have been established over a prolonged relationship. These are not the things you share with casual friends, often because the intensity would end the relationship.

At these moments, when the pain is revealed and the rawness of the past is exposed to the harsh light of the present, the next words spoken are very important. Shallow words that do not acknowledge the truth of the pain serve to seal the wound over, once more to fester and poison. Harsh words drive the hurts still deeper. Dishonest words fail to acknowledge the truth of the hopelessness opened and brought to the

St John Church of Christ  
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*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

**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 Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

### WORSHIP ORDER FOR MAY 17, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon  
 GATHERING SONG: No. 435—Come into His Presence  
 WELCOME: Tom Turner  
 SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 16:4-7 (Chase Mansel)  
 SONGS: No. 690—Consecration Medley  
     -No. 691—Make Me New  
     -No. 692—Change My Heart, O God  
     -No. 693—Heart of a Servant  
     -No. 694—Servant Song  
     No. 671—Purer in Heart, O God  
     No. 700—More Love to Thee, O Christ

PRAYER: Chris Mansel  
 SONG: No. 376—He Paid a Debt  
 COMMUNION: Fred Johnson  
     Ned Marks  
     Jon Mansel  
     Joe Cornwell

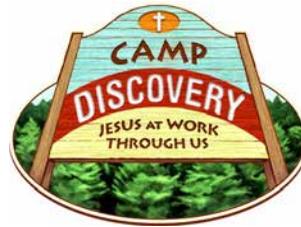
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
 SONG: No. 959—Just a Little Talk with Jesus  
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
 SONG: No. 940—Only a Step (vs 1)  
 PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! We invite you to stay and enjoy lunch with us, as we will have a meal ready to eat soon after worship services are over.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**Tuesday, May 26 through  
 Thursday, May 28  
 6:30p—8:15p**

**Family Picnic  
 Friday, May 29  
 6:00p—8:00p**

Classes/Activities planned for preschool through  
 Grade 6—invite your friends and neighbors!

We will have a float in the St John Jubilee parade this coming Saturday—we need people (of all ages) to ride and throw bags of candy with our VBS advertisement tucked inside. Contact Tom for more information if you are available to help.

Cards are available for you to pass out, or even mail out, to help advertise VBS—take what you need from the table in the foyer.

### GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement of Mary Shklar's graduation from high school is posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to send her a card, her address is also posted.



### NEWSLETTER FROM UBALDO & MARIA

A newsletter was received this week from Ubaldo and Maria Cardona in Chihuahua, Mexico. It is posted for you to read.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Charlene Jimerson** (Chet Lyon's youngest sister) - health concerns  
**Sherri Holguin & baby** (coworker of Joy)  
**Marion Alpers**—stroke  
**Maggie Harris** (Lisa's mother) – recent heart surgery  
**Racheal Davis** – recovering from surgery  
**Dixie Hornbaker**—health concerns  
**Millie Whitlow** – at Clearwater; cancer  
**Darla Chapman** (in Faith, SD) – thyroid cancer  
**Carol Gingrich** – pacemaker/ defibrillator  
**Olen Munz** – in assisting living in Great Bend; doing better  
**Jessica Keeton** (one of Clint's former basketball players) breast cancer has spread to her spine and lymph nodes  
**Joy** (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns  
**Vesta Shelton** (George's sister-in-law)  
**Dena Mansel** – health concerns  
**Cody Dick** – cancer; undergoing treatments  
**Roger Dick** - cancer  
**Jonathan Batten** – chemotherapy  
**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])  
**Myron Breensing** – Leisure Homestead in Stafford  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza  
**Audrey Nusser** - pancreatic cancer  
**Lisa Cornwell**—scheduled for knee surgery in May

### SILVER MAPLE CAMP EVENT

“STRAIGHT TALK Into Human Behavior, Into the Heart of God”  
September 24-26, 2015

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)