

clarify to Him the best course of action (usually this is motivated by my desire for ease and comfort). But I don't give up on praying.

Third, I look for grace filled opportunities. I am not talking about the chances to fix things, rather the opportunity to communicate concern, interest, hopefulness, and peace. Usually these will be in day to day life, far from the reminders of religious expression or spiritual outposts. It will be in grocery stores, waiting rooms, or post offices. Never do I move to solution, simply offer a comment of interest or hope.

Fourth, trust... God is active in far more places than we are focusing on. Trust that God can do far more than you would ever expect and commit to watch for his opening doors, rather than ramming them down yourself.

Then, when the occasion arises, pray, patiently, fervently, and quietly that God will keep you loving and faithful in your interaction. Often such occasions will bring pain, struggle and bitterness to the forefront. In fact, in almost every occasion this will be true. My concern is for the well-being of those involved, but my prayers and focus are on my own behavior. I cannot control others, I can point to God. I cannot force others, I can support efforts to take a step closer to God.

Finally, pray. After the opportunity has passed, keep praying. The power and the healing belong to God. He is the one that keeps us in his right hand. So trust the movement of his Spirit in the lives of others.

As Janet and I reviewed our few days, I was reminded of the difference between discipling others, as Jesus did and "altar call theology" that was developed in Americanized Christianity.

Did you know I might be praying about you?

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 **September 13, 2015**

Sometimes in the course of one's life, there is an awareness of the presence of God in a very special manner. Janet and I were aware of some circumstances like that just this past week. Let me, without commenting on content, tell you about my reactions.

When things fall together in life in a way you had not expected, when opportunities arise that you have not manipulated to do good, always do it. But what do you do?

First and foremost... pray. Without referencing the events, I can tell you the opportunities arose in circumstances I've been laying before the throne of God for a number of years. Now I am not talking about those prayers that you offer saying, "God I have this figured out and what you need to do is this....." I am talking about prayers where you approach God with, "Okay, I don't know what to do here. I don't have a viable solution. I'm not sure what is best. I have to lay this before you and ask you to act and press me in some direction."

So, I am talking about circumstances that are convoluted enough that I don't have a clear answer. There, I pray... asking for clarity, opportunity, and humility.

Second, I refuse to give up. Long after the initial events transpire that I know something is wrong, I keep praying. Usually I start out in the advice giving mode with God, attempting to

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 SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
GATHERING SONG: No. 23—Our God, He Is Alive (vs 1)
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 1:17-20 (Chase Mansel)
SONGS: No. 501—Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet
No. 924—Just As I Am (vs 1, 2, 4)
No. 509—I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
No. 764—Teach Me Lord, to Wait
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 356—I Believe in Jesus (vs 1, 2)
COMMUNION: Richard Breensing
Teddy Gingrich
Chris Mansel
Fred Johnson
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 539—Higher Ground
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jon Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

SHOWER INVITATION!

The wedding shower for **Cheyenne & Adam** is today at 2:00 pm! Please stay for this special occasion.

WEDDING INVITATION!

You are invited to the wedding of **Cheyenne Scott and Adam Holmes** on October 10, 2015, at 5:00 pm at Jeff & Lory's farm. The reception will be at the VFW in Stafford afterward. See invitation posted for more information. *You are expected to wear jeans to this special event!!*

BABY SHOWER!

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring **Trey & Amber Turner**, on Sunday, September 27th, at 2:00 pm here at the church building. They are expecting a boy, due in early November, and are registered at Target, as well as BabiesRUs.



A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY is in the making! If you want a new family picture, either send a digital picture to Janet or contact her in the next couple of weeks to have one taken.

UPDATE FROM CARDONA'S

Ubaldo sent an email this past week from Parral Chihuahua, and included several pictures, showing some worship services, classes, group activities, and baptisms. You can read his note posted on the bulletin board.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Marla Lyons 9/18

PRAYER REQUESTS

Charlene Jimerson (Chet's youngest sister) - radiation treatments; chemo later
Dan Hampton—continuing health concerns
Maggie Harris—recent knee surgery
Pam Herrenbruck—cancer treatment
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - moved to a rehab facility
Josh Oakley (grandson of Bill Oakley) - on heart transplant list
Janie Nagel (Fred Johnson's sister) - recent stroke
Sonny Langford (Baylee Sizemore's father) - cancer
Gladys Hornbaker—health concerns
Sherri Holguin & baby (coworker of Joy)
Millie Whitlow – at Clearwater; cancer
Joy (Marilyn's daughter) –health concerns
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) chemo for brain tumor
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Breensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

SEMINARS WITH JERRY & LYNN JONES

September 24-26: "Straight Talk Seminar" at Silver Maple Camp; Keith Lancaster will lead worship singing; refer to information posted on bulletin board.

September 27-30: "Relationships Matter" at the Pratt Church of Christ; see brochure for schedule and topics.