

made the move from junk to value with just a bit of attention from someone who noticed it.

Jesus showed us how to do that often in Scripture. Others often protested his spending time with the world's castoffs. But Jesus saw value where others saw nothing. He could see the difference between the carnage of what happens to someone and the value of the individual.

We may all be born in innocence, but we don't all start in the same place. Some return to a home of comfort, support, love, and joy. Some children are raised in homes of neglect, hopelessness, and emptiness. For some the answers provided for their circumstances are horribly wrong. Theft to offset need, deception to escape responsibility, and abuse rather than love. Some learn poor responses, without any light in the darkness of their world.

Years, decades, sometimes generations of poor responses create the rust, the scars, and the fractures that cause them to be discarded and eventually distained. There were poor choices, but sometimes there was no one who took the time to care and point to a different way.

Then Jesus spoke of God's love to those who prostituted themselves and called it survival. He offered grace to those who had never had a relationship that ended with success. He recognized the remorse and the value of a thief, who at the end of life saw his own responsibility, and spoke words of promise and hope.

I like to restore old tools, returning purpose after years of neglect and misuse. But I really like to talk with those who have no hope and speak of the love that God has for them. When God does that restoration, nothing surpasses it.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

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

May 15, 2016

Finding value in things that others ignore is one of my favorite things to do. It might be an old tool that needs to be refurbished, or perhaps an old book that others no longer want. There is a special satisfaction in seeing things restored to a functional state. I have been looking for a wood lathe for the past few months. I watch the ads, spend time on Craigslist, and have asked around. I really don't have much idea about what is good or what is bad about them. I know what I would like to do, so I started looking.

There are lots of lathes out there, which Janet suggests means that lots of people get the idea then decide to give it up. Undeterred, I pressed on. Then I found one, a diamond in the rough. The main attraction was, it was cheap.

The seller said, "I never use this. I don't know much about it. If you will use, it'll take \$25 for it."

It took a few hours to clean it up. It was suffering from abandonment, neglect, and misuse. It shows some of the evidence, even in its restored state. A scar here, a bit of pitting in a place or two, but works very well. There is a great satisfaction in returning it to a proper place of function and purpose. It

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 15, 2016

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich
 GATHERING SONG: No. 155—Highest Place
 WELCOME: Tom Turner
 SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 73:21-26
 SONGS: No. 196—More Than Anything
 No. 701—My Jesus, I Love Thee
 No. 979—I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger
 No. 453—Love Lifted Me
 PRAYER: Tom Turner
 SONG: No. 460—Washed in the Blood
 COMMUNION: Teddy Gingrich
 Orrin Feril
 Fred Johnson
 Jeff Scott
 MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
 SONG: No. 480—Blessed Assurance
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
 SONG: No. 940—Only a Step (vs 1)
 PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

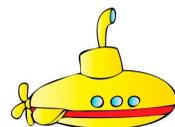
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WELCOME VISITORS

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

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

We plan to celebrate the high school graduations of **Nick Mansel** and **Keigan Riggs** next Sunday afternoon, May 22, after potluck lunch. Please plan to be part of this special occasion.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THEME: Jesus 'Seas' Me

—Tuesday, May 31 through Thursday, June 2: Activities/Classes (6:30 pm to 8:15 pm)

—Friday, June 3: Family Picnic (6:00 pm)

Mark your calendar and plan to be involved in this great community outreach. Please **start saving bathroom tissue or paper towel cardboard tubes** for a children's activity.

We will also plan to have a float in the Jubilee Parade on Saturday, May 28th, at 1:30 pm, to help promote VBS. We will need riders to throw candy packs, with a VBS note, to the crowd!

MISSION WORK IN TIHUATLAN, VERACRUZ

Pictures will be shared today of a work that Rick Owen is associated with in Veracruz. The construction of a building has been a real challenge for the members there.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Richard Breensing—May 15

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Gerry & Lupe Hudson—May 20

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - recent surgery for cancer

Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)

Ruth Ann Scott (Jeff's mother) - recent cardiac stent

Chris Mansel

Gary Hornbaker

Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer

Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - cancer

Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain tumor

Brent Monroe (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson) recent surgery

Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy; doing well at this time

Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer

Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - acute leukemia

Clay Rodgers (infant son of friends of Ben & Baylee) rare birth defect

Pati Waters Risley—stroke

Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments

John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)

Jonathan Batten - cancer

Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)

Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - health concerns

Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])

Myron Breensing (Richard's father) - Leisure Homestead

Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - Leisure Homestead

Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza

Vic & Phyllis Staub - Kenwood Plaza

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to these families:

- Betty Chlumsky on the recent passing of her brother, **Paul Bishop**. His funeral was last week.
- Garland Mansel's sister, **Betty Whitfield**, who passed away a week ago.

