

the midst of political upheaval when they were carried away along with Daniel into captivity. It was then, in the captivity, that the story of their faithfulness took place. They didn't live away from the crisis but in the midst of it.

Gideon wasn't thrashing wheat in a winepress because times were calm and the crisis had abated. But being faithful before God doesn't rely on good times.

People of faith, throughout history have not looked to political solutions for the answer to evil. Laws don't erase hatred from individuals or a culture. If racial prejudice is to be remedied, it will not happen because a certain political party takes office. If abuse of power, misuse of the poor, or greed is to be driven out... it happens one heart at a time.

Does this mean that people of God should not stand against evil? By no means. But we don't stand against evil by holding as a solution man's remedy. Snake oil is still snake oil... bottled, politicized, and sold with catchy slogans off of soap boxes.

A few words that God also used in Scripture doesn't make the core values of the messenger the Word of God. It doesn't matter if I am identifying the words, some television evangelist or some politician does it. The solution, look to God for the answers. When you see hatred, express offense with kindness. When you sense injustice, be affronted and speak righteousness. When you see greed, offer kindness and generosity. The words of Jesus for living among the wolves was to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. I wonder if they don't apply to most of us in a world like ours.

Grace and Peace,

Carl



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

July 31, 2016

First, and foremost, I want to thank those of you who have been praying about my health issues of late. I am in your debt and happy to report that I feel much, much better. Even though the doctor had warned me that I was likely to have some difficulty through the fall, I thought I was the exception to the rule. But today is a new day and I feel good.

One of the topics that keeps recurring in conversations is about the "state of the world." Some are feeling very anxious about the upcoming elections because things are in such a mess. Others would like to hoard food, guns, ammunition and precious metals because "everything could implode any minute."

I am not saying that the concerns are not valid. In fact, as things go, the economy is strained, hatred is flaunted, and extremist speech is the norm of the day. Does that mean we need to load up our belongings and head for some cave in Colorado?

What is the goal? Is it a utopian society where everyone prospers equally and no discouraging word is ever spoken? If so, I would remind you to reread Scripture.

Bible characters were never plucked from the affairs of this life and transported to a place where everyone played nice. Joseph was in prison and called upon to live faithfully. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in

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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 JULY 31, 2016

SONG LEADER: Richard Breensing

GATHERING SONG: No. 103—He Has Made Me Glad

WELCOME: Tom Turner

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 19 (Jerry Kinnamon)

SONGS: No. 3—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

No. 76—How Great Thou Art (vs 1, 2)

No. 144—O Worship the King

No. 96—I Stand in Awe (*Please stand*)

No. 779—I Love You, Lord (*Please remain standing*)

PRAYER: Tom Turner

SONG: No. 382—Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?

COMMUNION: Orrin Feril

Chris Mansel

Fred Johnson

Joe Cornwell

MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril

SONG: No. 959—Just a Little Talk with Jesus

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

SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)

PRAYER: Garland Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Craig Smith—Aug 3

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Darrell & Shannon Bauer—July 31

Don & Gladys Hornbaker—Aug 2

UPDATE FROM CHIHUAHUA

Ubaldo Cardona sent an update this past week about the work in Parral. They had some attend a Christian Camp—there are pictures posted on the bulletin board. We appreciate Ubaldo's efforts to communicate often about the activities of the church there.

PSALM 19: 1, 14

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- ¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Marci Klug (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—scheduled to have her labor induced this Friday; pray for a safe delivery and healthy baby!

Carl Feril—much improved in the last week; thank you for your prayers and concern

Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst; to have surgery Aug 12 in Kansas City; expected to give him much improvement; Family thanks our church for all the prayers

A.J. Diepenbrock (friend of Brent & Brett Staub) - recent surgery to remove a mass in his brain; he is recovering well at this time

Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - recent surgery for cancer

Betty Schneewis—recent open heart surgery in Wichita

Darlene Stimatze—recent back surgery

Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother)

Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - at home under hospice care; His wife, Sheryl, is dealing with out-of-control diabetes

David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - having breathing problems; His wife, Kathy, may have lung cancer

Bonnie Thornburg (Marilyn's daughter-in-law) - having serious health problems

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

Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rujan's sister) - cancer

Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)

Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer

Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - leukemia in remission

Pati Waters Risley—stroke; rehab at home

Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments

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

Jonathan Batten - cancer

Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)

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

Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) - now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford

Myron Breensing (Richard's father) - Leisure Homestead

Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza

Vic & Phyllis Staub - Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org