



Peyton Manning's Faith

Any fan of Peyton Manning knows that Manning is a class act. But what many fans of Manning may not be aware of is his Christian faith. A friend from church made me aware of some comments Peyton made about his faith from his book *Manning*, which he co-wrote with his father Archie Manning in 2001. Here are some excerpts from his book:

"Like my dad, I make it a point when I speak to groups to talk about priorities, and when it's school kids, I rank those priorities as: faith, family, and education, then football... My faith has been number one since I was thirteen years old and heard from the pulpit on a Sunday morning in New Orleans a simple question: "If you died today, are you one hundred percent sure you'd go to heaven?" ...I committed my life to Christ, and that faith has been most important to me ever since. Some players get more vocal about it—the Reggie Whites, for example—and some point to Heaven after scoring a touchdown and praise God after games. I have no problem with that. But I don't do it, and don't think it makes me any less a Christian. I just want my actions to speak louder, and I don't want to be more of a target for criticism than I already am. Somebody sees you drinking a beer, which I do, and they think, "Hmmm, Peyton says he's this, that, or the other, and there he is drinking alcohol. What's that all about?"

Christians drink beer. So do non-Christians. Christians also make mistakes, just as non-Christians do. My faith doesn't make me perfect, it makes me forgiven, and provides me the assurance I looked for half my life ago. I think God answered our prayers with Cooper, and that was a test of our faith. But I also think I've been blessed—having so little go wrong in my life, and being given so much. I pray every night, sometimes long prayers about a lot of things and a lot of people, but I don't talk about it or brag about it because that's between God and me, and I'm no better than anybody else in God's sight.

But I consider myself fortunate to be able to go to Him for guidance, and I hope (and pray) I don't do too many things that displease Him before I get to Heaven myself. I believe, too, that life is much better and freer when you're committed to God in that way. I find being with others whose faith is the same has made me stronger. J.C. Watts and Steve Largent, for example. They're both in Congress now. We had voluntary pregame chapel at Tennessee, and I attend chapel every Sunday with players on the team in Indianapolis. I have spoken to church youth groups, and at Christian high schools. And then simply as a Christian, and not as good a one as I'd like to be.

How do I justify football in the context of "love your enemy?" I say to kids, well, football is most definitely a "collision sport," and I can't deny it jars your teeth and at the extreme can break your bones. But I've never seen it as a "violent game," there are rules to prevent that, and I know I don't have to hate anybody on the other side to play as hard as I can within the rules. I think you'd have to get inside my head to appreciate it, but I do love football. And, yes, I'd play it for nothing if that was the only way, even now when I'm no longer a child. I find no contradiction in football and my faith.

Ah, but do I "pray for victory?" No, except as a generic thing. I pray to keep both teams injury free, and personally, that I use whatever talent I have to the best of my ability. But I don't think God really cares about who wins football games, except as winning might influence the character of some person or group. Besides, if the Colts were playing the Cowboys and I prayed for the Colts and Troy Aikman prayed for the Cowboys, wouldn't that make it a standoff?

I do feel this way about it. Dad says it can take twenty years to make a reputation, and five minutes to ruin it. I want my reputation to be able to make it through whatever five-minute crises I run into. And I'm a lot more comfortable knowing where my help is" (*Manning*, 362-364).

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Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Connecting People to our Lord and one Another

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Website:
www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **cry room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$3,860
	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
Jan 19	178	\$3,932

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Elders:

Tom Drinnen Ph: 607-9561
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Minister:

Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Staff: Young Adults/Teens

Tommy Drinnen Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries:

Becky Johnson Ph: 898-3321
Jennifer Tatum Ph: 523-1764

Missionaries:

Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Charlie Pagar & Amos Wesseh - Liberia

Our Sympathy is extended to... Jeff Hodges and his family as they mourn the passing of his brother, Dan.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Carolyn Starks; Fred Gilliam; Terri Trent; Tom Drinnen; Sue Rider; Peggy Mehlhorn; Brad and Brandon Owens; Ida Coomer; Jack & Rosalyn Davis; Roger Mink recovering from shoulder surgery; Dee Randall recovering from foot surgery.

Friends and Loved ones: Elizabeth Smith; Wayne Shannon's mother; Brett Smith; Karla Loftis and her mother; David Giles' brother, Kevin, and his mother, as they battle cancer; Jean McQuaig's sister-in-law, Dana; Marge Percell's sister, Carolyn; Charles Owens' sister, Kay Perry; Jeff Cloud; Danny Allen; Stan Johnson's sister, Deb Colones, battling cancer.

Shut-ins: Betty Buckner; Edna Hullender; Frances Marshall; Kathryn Norman; Polly Shorter.

Missionaries: Charlie Pagar & Amos Wesseh in Liberia; Tom & Angie Langley.

Coming Soon

- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship** is today immediately following services. All visitors are encouraged to join us for lunch. There will be no evening assembly.
- **Serve at Hope Central** this Thursday, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Our **Sunday night worship** assembly on February 2 will begin at 5:00 p.m.
- **Home church**, Sun night, Feb. 9, 6 p.m. 
- **Senior Servants** study and lunch, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.
- **Winterfest**, Feb. 14 -16. 
- **Teens prepare and serve dinner at VMC** Wed., Feb 19, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- **Seniors Valentine Banquet**, Saturday, February 22, 6 p.m. Please sign up if you plan to attend. See Gregg or Delinda Summers for details. Accepting financial donations. 

Family Matters

Sermon Topics Today

Sunday Morning:

"I Sacrifice"

Sunday Night:

Fourth Sunday

No Assembly

Financial Peace Class

Sunday nights, 5 to 7 p.m.

Beginning March 23 for 9 weeks

Childcare provided

See Fred or Sharon Galbreath
for details



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan 26 Judy Box
Jan 26 Cathy Norris
Jan 27 Meredith Pratt
Jan 28 Susan Collins
Feb 1 Lori Tiller
Feb 2 Sammie French

Happy Birthday!!

Family News



Our Food Pantry Needs attention!

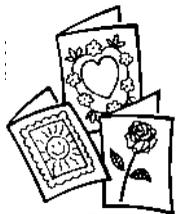
Thanks to all who bring items for the food pantry. However, we have given away so much food that we are running low on almost all items. Please throw a couple of extra items in your grocery cart for our Food Pantry. Many Thanks.

For This Week

Canned Soup
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat

Caring Cards Ministry

The Caring Cards Ministry provides cards for our sick and shut-ins, as well as friends and family members. Please see the information on the table in the hallway leading to the office for additional information. Your participation is needed to send cards as well as to provide information regarding those who would benefit from receiving cards. Please talk to John or Barbara Hoff for more details.



Caring Cards