

Family & Friends..... April 10, 2019

It's nice to have these Spring-like warm days with smiles on everyone's face. Spring has a way of making us all feel good. The beautiful Service berry trees are blooming all over, our Red bud tree, in the front yard, is in full bloom. The Blue Jay birds paid us a visit and literally knocked the other birds off the feeders. I didn't think that was very nice. The Cardinals were so nice, when the Blue Jays were so bad. Now I'm thinking these birds teach us all kind of things in the yards by just observing them. The birds sing and they are happy, they learn how to get along with each other, they make wonderful nests, and are protective of their babies. The Cardinals being nice is a good thing, a good trait we all should strive for. I'm sure they can get a little temper feathered once in awhile like most of us do at times. Isn't it a good thing when we see those wonderful smiles on everyone's face, instead of frowns? Love you Lord for all you do for us each day, and may we always have a smile for You! We have an awesome Father!

*A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance;
but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.
Proverbs 15:13 KJV*

We welcome our visitors: Lewis Williams (Fayetteville), Otis & Carol Busbee (Marshall), Stephen & Bernice Hunt and Eugenia Garrison (Bella Vista), Debra Lewis (Rogers), Amanda Alsip (Bentonville).

Those on our prayer list: We're saddened by the death of Sally DeLoach, a former member who passed away, and the death of Glen Kirkes', sister. Keep both these families in your prayers. Charlotte Akridge's brother, Jim, has been diagnosed with brain cancer, and doctor's say he has only a short time. Keep Jim and Charlotte in your prayers as they go through this difficult time. David Bradley, son-in-law of Deb and Ray Reiss, will have surgery for his reoccurring brain cancer at M. D. Anderson on April 19th. Pat Musson is scheduled to go home on Wednesday from Rehab, and doctors are working with Bob on his health problems. Continue to remember Susan Duffy, Ava Sailors, Mike Lacey, Marvin Thomson, Mary Kerley, our missionaries, and Steven Ashcraft (on a mission trip), our military and police force, our country and president.

There will be a Going Away Party for Don & Ola Harless Sunday the 14th after evening services. Bring sandwiches or cookies, drinks and chips will be provided. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday the 21st after morning services for children through Fourth Grade. We'll have a Bridal Shower for Ashleigh Horn, April 28th, beginning at 4PM here at the building. Happy Birthday to Cleo Dreves for her 100th birthday on April 19th. Our congratulations to Randall Hunt for his promotion as new principal at Centerton Gamble Elementary School. Congratulations to Reagan Busbee and Kyle Bowman who have been selected to be a part of this year's Spring Sing at Harding.

Our Children's Home list includes: Spam, soup, juice, children's shampoo, and vinegar.

Seeing God at work puts a song in our heart.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day. *Karen*

Bella Vista Church of Christ

Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

LORD'S DAY	
Bible Class	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Ladies' Class	9:45 AM
Bible Class	6:45 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089
Don Butcher.....855-1636
Dallas Dobbs271-8609

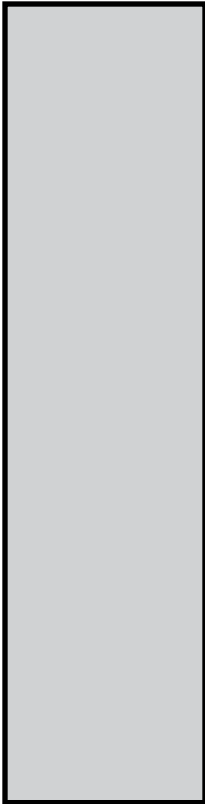
DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker Bryan Busbee Don Harless Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135
Selwyn NelCape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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Bella Vista

MEMBER LINES

Spectator vs. Ministry

Christianity is not a spectator sport. Religion, our relationship with God, is not based upon our attending worship services. It has much more to do with what is going on in our heart. Jesus came to take the the Law of Moses out of the physical and place our religion in the heart. Hate became mental murder, lust became mental adultery. He was the One who said it is out of the heart that the mouth speaks. Life behaviors come from the heart, both good and bad. It's easy to attend a Worship Service once a week, even three times a week. It's quite another thing to purify the heart, become God's temple, His instrument of righteousness, His living sacrifice, a holy person who belongs to God because we are doing God's work. Church, we're not God's person just because we gather on Sunday Morning. Our relationship with God, our righteousness, is seen in service! We're better Bible students than to think that Christian duty is bound up in attendance, being a spectator. We must become participants in His kingdom work, in kingdom responsibility. Jesus pictured the kingdom of God as a place of work; a field, a vineyard, a merchant, a Steward, a landlord, etc. Our relationship with Him is found in our finding our purpose, gift, blessing, talent, responsibility; it's found in finding our place and putting ourselves to work in His kingdom - Ministry!

When we stand in judgment, God is not going to ask how many church services we attended, but what we did in His kingdom. At Bella Vista, we need additional deacons, teachers, van drivers, those who will visit the sick, shut-ins, the elderly, lonely and needy. Grab a Ministry Sheet and count the areas of work listed, well over forty! What are we thinking? When Jesus paints a picture of judgment, it not about being a spectator, but about serving the Jesus in others. So the question becomes, why aren't we involved in His service? What keeps us from finding our place and purpose in His Kingdom?...

Perhaps it's a lack of commitment. At Mount Sinai it was: *'No other gods before Me.'* From Jesus: *"Love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul."* Commitment is giving God His rightful place in our lives. For most of us, we made a decision for Jesus years ago, but have we made a commitment?



Marriage is a commitment. We made a decision to get married, but the real success in a marriage is based upon commitment. If there is no commitment with our decision, divorce becomes a reality. A pilot going down the runway must make a commitment to fly. As a plane gains speed, there comes an invisible line that, when crossed, the pilot must commitment to take off. At that point the speed of the aircraft is too fast to abort; if he does, a crash is imminent. Question! Have we made a decision or a commitment? Ministry is a commitment! Are we a spectator or minister?

A focus on self. We live in a "It's about me" culture, narcissism rules! Life is not about us, but about our becoming like Jesus. His agenda must become our agenda. *"This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus walked."* Jesus said: *"Anyone who will not... Follow me cannot be my disciple."* The statement of Jesus on genuine discipleship contains only three words: *"Come follow Me."* Discipleship is about walking as Jesus walked, following in His footsteps. Opportunities to become like Jesus are found in ministry, not in attendance. Don't pass that invisible line where our relationship with Jesus crashes because we would not serve. Gotta ask, are we a spectator or minister?

Our Western world thinking. We have a western world mind-set, which is not always a good thing. Westerners don't serve, we rule. Servants are seen as humble beings; rulers are kings! We want to be in charge. We're not content until we become the CEO. But it was Jesus who said: *"The greatest among you is he who serves."* Church, we must let go of our pride, our Western mentality, and become servants. Think on these scriptures: *"The Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation"* (Psalm 149.4). James says: *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."* Let's be willing to wrap the Jesus towel of service about our waist and wash feet. Abundant foot washing opportunities are found all about us. Do we have a towel? Are we ministers or spectators?

We don't see God in our opportunities. I think I can remember a time in the church when we believed that God didn't still work in the lives of His people, equipping them for ministry. Here's the truth: *"His power is at work in us"* (Ephesians 3.21). The Hebrews' writer says: *"God will equip us with all we need to do His will"* (Hebrews 13.21). Paul says, *"Be confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"* (Philippians 1.6). Indeed, God is at work in us! God is working through His ministry system to provide us with opportunities, not to just attend services, but to serve. Will we become Spectators or Ministers?

May God bless our thoughts on this challenge, and may He bless our decisions to serve. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN



The Story of Redemption

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ" (Matthew 1:1-16 ESV).

There are some narratives in Scripture that are not exactly what we would call "family friendly". In other words, if some of the biblical narratives were televised, we would probably not let our children watch them. Let's look at a couple of examples. The first is found in Genesis 19 at the end of the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot and his two daughters end up living in a cave outside of Zoar. Since the daughters have lost their marriage prospects, they decide to get their father drunk, engage in sexual relations with him in hopes that they will have sons. They execute their plan and each of them has a son. The older of the two gives birth to Moab; the younger gives birth to Ben-ammi. These sons become the fathers of the Moabites and Ammonites, who will become thorns in the sides of God's people in the future.

The second example comes from Genesis 38 in the narrative of Judah's family. Judah marries a Canaanite woman and fathers three sons. The first one, Er, marries a woman named Tamar. Er is so wicked that God kills him (Genesis 38:7). In keeping with the custom of levirate marriage, Judah's next son, Onan marries Tamar, but refuses to raise children for his deceased brother and God put him to death also. Judah promises Tamar that she will be given to his youngest son when he is of age,

but she must go back to live in her father's house. Tired of waiting on a promise that did not seem to be any closer to being fulfilled, Tamar dresses as a prostitute and Judah acquires her services and she becomes pregnant and eventually gives birth to twins.

The Bible tells one overall narrative of God who created and loves his creation. Despite humanity's rebellion against God, He has continued to demonstrate His love by working throughout human affairs to bring about the reconciliation of the relationship with fallen humanity. While the Bible tells this overarching narrative, we find many other smaller narratives that may make us wonder how they fit in to the overall picture. The two listed above are prime examples of this. However, as we continue to read and study Scripture, we find God working things to His purpose. In fact we find these two unsettling narratives redeemed by God in the book of Ruth. Ruth is from Moab, a nation born out of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his oldest daughter. Ruth is redeemed by a man named Boaz, who is the great, great, great, great grandson of Perez, the son of Tamar by Judah. From the marriage of Ruth and Boaz would eventually come David, the king, and finally, Jesus the Messiah.

There are many lessons that can be learned here.

- The first is that when we take matters into our own hands instead of relying on God to lead, things get ugly.
- The second is that God can redeem the ugliness of our pasts if we will submit to his leadership and trust in him.
- Finally, this should lead us to thank God that he loves us enough to work through the brokenness of humanity to bring our Savior into the world so that we could be redeemed and forgiven.

—JEFF GRISHAM

FOR THE RECORD: 4/7/19

Sunday Class.....	146	Sunday AM Worship	184	Sunday PM	116
Wednesday.....	146	Offering.....	\$13,697.00	Budget.....	\$11,400

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/14/19

Announcements	Tom Verkler	AM Song Leader	Lee McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Perry Johnson	AM Closing Prayer	John Bowman
Elder's Prayer.....	Don Butcher	PM Song Leader.....	Lance Bowman
Greeters.....	Keith Hubanks & Curt LaPorte	PM Closing Prayer.....	Mark Tucker
Ladies Encouragement. K. Ashcraft & Mary Ann Bowman		Server.....	Mark Bagwell, Bill Helms
Server	Mike Huffaker, Chris Johnson	Server	Steve Kinder, David Saunders
Server	Bob Musson, Ken Rosenbaum	Server	Phil Ward, Eddie Waters
Nursery.....	Barbara Roberts & Jennifer Royer	Van Driver	Michael Hale
Worship Coordinator.....	Harold Phillips	Video Operator.....	Matt Grisham

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 4/17/19

Song Leader.....	Mark Bagwell	Speaker.....	Aaron Sloan	Announcements/Prayer.....	Perry Johnson
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