

**Family & Friends..... January 6th, 2021**

Happy New Year 2021! I'll have to say the year 2020 was a humdinger, one we will not likely forget. We've been through a Covid-19 Pandemic; we've had natural disasters: tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, rioting in the streets, and loss of life from all of these. We watched family and friends die, heard from others of their pain and loss. We have lost policemen, firemen, health care workers, and our seniors everywhere. We have seen some of our businesses go under, loss of jobs, people struggling to take care of their families, and long food lines. What have we learned from all this? Life is fragile and should not be taken for granted. Our faith and trust in God helped us make it through these trying times. We've heard amazing stories, in our country and across the world, about people helping each other. Isn't that what its all about? Our faith and trust in God and the love we have for Him and His love for us, and our serving and helping others. We've learned that we do not need everything we think we have to have. It is not all about us. Serving and helping others is more life enriching and is what the Lord wants us to do. God has given us many gifts to enjoy: a beautiful moon, rainbows, sunrises and sunsets, beautiful clouds, flowers in bloom, birth of a new life, and the patter of little feet that we witness daily. God is good, He loves us, and desires we grow in our love for Him and one another! Let's strive together, and with God's help, we will overcome! Amen!

*Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

Our heart felt sympathies to Phil Ward in the loss of his wife, Charlene. She was loved by everyone, always remembering birthdays and making her famous pies. She liked to crochet and made a lot blankets and afghans for shower gifts. I know I will treasure what she made for me. She was a great lady that was a faithful Christian we will all miss! Keep Phil, Kim, Kevin, and all the family in your prayers. George Bowman has been moved to the House of Three in Rogers. Dakota Crawford is being treated for bad infection. Sarita Crawford had surgery Monday to remove part of her finger on left hand that became infected. Rhonda Skinner, Nancy Cash's daughter, has Covid-19 and asks a place in our prayers. Janice LaPorte has Covid. She's doing fine. Abby McSweeny and her grandmother, Margaret Wicker, are doing well following their surgeries. Katherine Mowry is at home after her setback with the heart ablation. Continue to remember and pray for Rich LaPorte, Debbie Helms mother, Krista Magness, Kenneth Whittington, Ron & Margaret Beaty, Bob & Pat Musson, Sharon Franklin, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president. Pray for a cure for the Covid-19 virus.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: soups, canned chicken and tuna, pancake mix & syrup. Items needed for our Pantry: flour, sugar, canned vegetables, diced tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, canned chicken, tuna, oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, soup, and crackers.

Love you, stay safe *Karen*

**Bella Vista  
Church of Christ**

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

**Return Service Requested**

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs .....479-271-8609

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447  
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Selywn Nel ..... Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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<b>LORD'S DAY</b>		8:15
Early Worship	Bible Class	9:30 AM
Second Worship		10:30 AM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

**Bella Vista**

**Seeing God In 2021**

As I put this issue of Lifelines together, I want to say something about the New Year and our responsibility to it. So please read it with this thought in mind.

We start by asking: What is our view of God? What kind of relationship do we have with Him? The New Year is not gonna be what it could be if we have a distorted view of our creator. For instance: Some see God as their conscience, that small inner voice, which convicts us of wrong, instilling guilt. Others see Him as a cosmic Santa Claus, One who exists solely for the purpose of satisfying our wants and wishes. Still others see Him as a celestial policeman, One who is waiting for us to do wrong so He can punish. Where do we find a proper view? *"The one and only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known."* **Jesus came to show us God...**

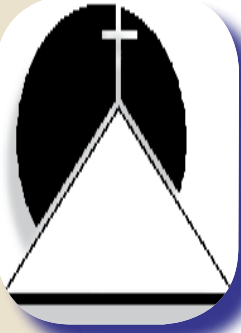
**See Him as a friend.** Solomon writes: *"There's a friend who sticks closer than a brother"* (Proverbs 19.24). God is a friend that never fails us. As a friend He knows the problems with which we struggle. "My God and I go in the fields together, we walk and talk as good friends should and do; we clasp our hands, our voices ring with laughter, my God and I walk through the meadow's hue" Let us decide today to make 2021 the year that we cultivate a closer friendship with Him.

**God is our Shepherd.** In the 23rd Psalm, David acknowledges God as his guide, counselor, comforter, provider, protector, sustainer. God uses His resources to care for, heal, discipline, and comfort us. He blesses us in this life; then brings us home to live with Him. As a shepherd, God never withholds anything that is good for us. Resolutions are proper, but the most important resolve is that we submit to His shepherding.

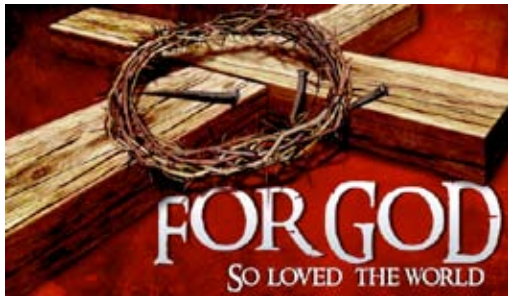
**See God as our Father.** Jesus came teaching the fatherhood of God, saying: He is My Father, your Father. Pray like this, "our Father." Think of the comfort that comes from knowing that the creator, sustainer, provider, protector of the universe is our Father. He has our best interest at heart. He knows our needs, hears our prayers. Even when we don't know what we need or how to ask, He supplies. As a Father, He *"works all things out to our benefit"...* *"Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father."*

**God is our Savior.** I think too many of us have

**LIFELINES**



exiled God and His work to the past. We see Him working in the lives of Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Mary, Peter, Paul, Timothy, and Titus; but we fail



to see Him as a present reality in our own lives. God's redemptive power is alive and at work today. John 3.16 is still true. God still loves the world. He still saves those who believe on Jesus as His Son. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, even the forgive-

ness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1.7). Isn't it time to name Jesus, God in the flesh, as our Savior? What better time than in the beginning of a New Year?

**He is a God of all comfort.** Listen! I know we struggle with what happens to us in life, thinking "Why Me Lord?" But God is not out to harm us, but to mature us into the people and person He wants us to be: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1.2-4).

What is our view of God? As the New Year gets underway, may we daily enjoy the relationship we have with Him; seeing Him as our Friend, Shepherd, Father and Comfort? Amen?

## Character

*"My Heart is fixed, O God, my Heart is fixed" (Psalm 57:7)*

Here is something else to consider as we enter a new year: Character is the real you, what you know you are, not what others think you are. As Abraham Lincoln put it, "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing." It is the sum total of what you are after you have won all, and the sole thing left after you have lost all. Only what we, with God's help, have wrought into our character during life, can we take with us. Characters are achieved, not received. It has been called the "perfectly educated will." "Good character," someone has said, "is that quality which makes one dependable whether being watched or not, which makes one truthful when it is to one's advantage to be a little less than truthful, which makes one courageous when faced with great obstacles, which endows one with the firmness of wise self-discipline"

Every man or woman is the architect of his or her own character. David Thomas has pointed out that the primary element of man's character is his "controlling disposition." He further states the fact that this principle of character is like the sap of a tree—it runs into every branch of life, and produces, shapes and colors every part. Our character is being formed each day by our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. It is not made in crisis, only exhibited.

Campbell, in his debate with Rice, was right on target when he said, "When any matter, however minute, involves principle, or character, it ceases to be an unimportant affair."

— CHARLES CASH  
1938–2018

**There are two ways to spread the Light:  
To be Jesus or the mirror that reflects His image**

## The New Year and Hope

A frustrated landlady caught up with one of her tenants who was in arrears. The tenant was a struggling author and was two months behind on his rent. The landlady asked, "Just when are you going to pay your arrears of room rent?" The hard-up author responded, "As soon as I receive the check which the publisher will send me if he accepts the novel I am about to commence when I have found a suitable subject and the necessary inspiration."

I have heard a saying that success is ninety percent work and ten percent inspiration. This struggling author could have benefited from that old saying. It seems we are often much better at making excuses than we are at making real progress.

The end of an old year and the beginning of a new year is always a time for reflection, and it is also a time for hope. Circumstances can change and people can change when they find the right motivation. A new year presents us with a clean slate. We can begin to write a new chapter in our lives that is different from all the past chapters. The key to a successful new year is probably found in that old maxim about work and inspiration. The author who sits down at the

desk each day and writes something, anything, is bound to succeed more often than an author who keeps waiting for inspiration to strike him.

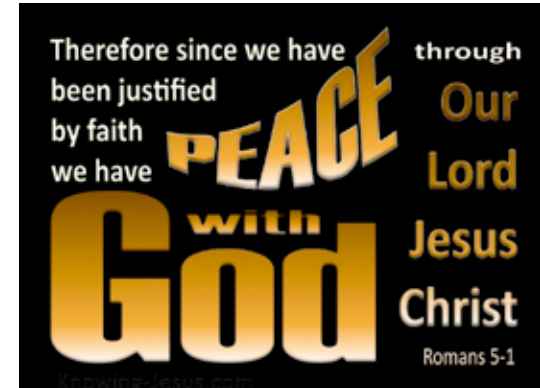
What are your plans for the New Year? Are you satisfied with the status quo? Is there something you would really like to change? It is within your power to make the change. There is hope for new and different things in the New Year. Make a plan and then work the plan. Be committed to the attitudes and actions that will help you to reach your goals.

A couple of avid fishermen cast their lines once again into the stream. One of them says to the other, "Hope is really a wonderful thing." The other responds, "True. One little nibble keeps a man fishing all day."

May we find the little nibbles in the coming year that will keep us fishing!

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by*

*faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:1-5*



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—Scott Gage  
Fayetteville AR

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 1/10/20

#### EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....Lee McCain Prayer & Scripture ..... Dallas Dobbs  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Joe Hott Greeters/Handouts.....Keith Hubanks & David Saunders

#### SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader..... Mark Bagwell Prayer & Scripture ..... Ray Reiss  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Perry Johnson Greeters/Handouts.....Bob Spaw & Don Cope

#### January Coordinators

Worship Coordinator..... Harold Phillips Streaming Coordinator .....Elijah Johnson  
Audio Coordinator..... Homer Makinson Video Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson