

Family & Friends..... June 16th 2021

Randall Caselman, our preacher for over 35 years has retired, and Jeff Grisham will be our full-time minister. Jeff & Staci have been worshipping here since 1997. They have been married 29 years and have three sons, Luke, Joshua, and Matthew. The oldest son, Luke, married Sidney and have made Jeff & Staci happy grandparents with two adorable children, Owen and Penelope. When you ask them about their grandchildren, the smile that lights up on their faces tells it all. I am sure that Josh and Matt enjoy being uncles also. I will give you a little history about Jeff for some of our newer members. He served as an Elder from 2009-2016, and as our Youth Minister from 2010-2018. Staci has worked right along with Jeff doing lots of good things in her own Christian Ministry. Jeff said he has been with our congregation for 24 years and felt immediately at home here. He loves Jesus and the people of this church. He has seen a lot of changes in the area and in the church campus, but the love that the congregation continues to show to all the community around has only increased. Jeff says he is honored and humbled to be a small part of what the church is doing here in Bella Vista. We have been blessed with all the good men and women who have served and still serve with our congregation. Thank you, Lord for your great blessings. To God Be The Glory!

*Will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?
2 Corinthians 3:8*

Prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathy to Margaret Beaty in the loss of her husband, Ron. His Celebration of Life will be Monday at the church building at 1:30. Keep Margaret, James, and the family in your prayers. Joyce Hurst had knee replacement surgery. Robert Horton had a successful shock to his heart Wednesday; pray the procedure will continue to work. Joe & Kay Hott's daughter has been placed on Hospice. Remember her and this good family in your prayers. Jennifer Oxford is at Mayo Clinic in hopes of being accepted into a clinical trial. The Fannings have asked us to pray for a two-year-old neighbor who has Leukemia. Lou Hollo has pneumonia, Covid and cancer, very much in need of prayers. The Whittington's have asked for prayers for their sister-in-law, Virginia, who's nephew passed away. Continue to remember and pray for Phyllis Spaw's sister, Hilda, Judith Carmical, Michelle King. Glen Whitman, Krista Magness, Mike Lacey, J.B. Tarr, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

There will be a Bridal Shower for Joshua Sloan and Maddie Ingle on June 27 at 2PM. She's Registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, & Amazon.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: canned chicken, pork & beans, crushed pineapple, instant oatmeal, juice, and aluminum foil. Our Food Pantry Items: relish, mayo, ketchup, mustard, pork & beans, oil, baked beans, pickles, and brownie mixes.

God is there to give us strength for every hill we have to climb.

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 Dobbs479-640-49439
Perry Johnson 913-707-8379
Ray Reiss 903-908-0203

DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

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

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LORD'S DAY	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
Early Worship	Bible Class (Livestreamed)	Ladies' Class
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	Worship (Livestreamed)	Bible Classes (Livestreamed)
EWEDNESDAY	9:30 AM	7:00 PM
Ladies' Class		
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)		

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

Bella Vista

WELCOMERS

One In Heart & Mind

It's Koinonia in the Greek: fellowship, togetherness, a participation together in a common cause. Unity is being of the same heart and mind, having the same purpose and goal.

It's Biblically Commanded. "Be of the same mind one toward another." Romans 12.16. "Let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification." Romans 14.19. "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no division among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." I Corinthians 1.10. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12.18. "Mark those which cause division. Avoid them for they serve their own preferences." Romans 16.17-18. "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. Be you all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be compassionate, and humble." 1 Peter 1.22 & 3.8.

It Was the Prayer of Jesus. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one." John 17.20-22.

It Was the Practice of the Early Church. "They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... And all the believers were together, and had all things common." Acts 2.42, 44.

Unity is the Pleasure of God. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity." Psalms 133.1.

Unity is a Discipline. It's disciplining ourselves to love (Agape) those we really don't like, those who rub us the wrong way. We not only discipline ourselves to love, but come to the point of liking, even preferring, one another. Agape cultivates



a close friendship, an emotional bond. I think this is what Paul had in mind when he wrote Romans 12.10: *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, preferring one another.”* One translation says, *“be warmly affectionate, love in a way that you feel close like brothers and sisters.”*

Well, how do we become One in Heart & Mind?

We must walk in the Word. Paul’s admonition is to walk in a manner of life that is worthy of our calling. “Out of the world into Christ” is the language of the New Testament; to walk means to live. We are urged to *“walk in the light as He is in the light.”* John 1.7. What does it mean to walk in the light? I John 2.6 says, *“To walk as He walked.”*

Disunity usually occurs over personalities, personal preferences and politics, not doctrinal matters. Doctrinal differences can be settled quickly with a “Thus saith the Lord,” chapter and verse, case closed. However, if you can’t give book, chapter and verse, then it is personal preference and certainly not worth dividing the church over. Unity in the church will be the rule rather than the exception when we are willing to walk in the Word of God as did Jesus.

Unity is cultivated by meekness. The NIV says *“Humble and gentle.”* The Greek speaks of one who will submit, not just to God, but to one another. Unity is placing the interest of others before our own. When Jesus truly holds the reins of our life, we will be one in heart and mind. When we’re high-minded & proud, we are not being controlled by Jesus.

With long-suffering, forbearing, patience, love. Hot tempered, quick fused, impatient, shallow love are ingredients of disunity. I believe Paul gives us the correct ingredients for unity when he says, *“Do nothing”* (are we listening?) *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ.”* Philippians 2.3-5. Question! Do we love others enough to let go of personal preference for a brother’s interest? Unity thrives in this kind of environment.

Unity doesn’t come naturally. It’s not the result of apathy or care-less-ness. Unity rules in churches that work at it. Unity comes to those who make the effort, work at it.

Let me leave you with ten things Hal Donaldson wrote about in The Pentecostal Evangel magazine... “Ten Things That Divide Us.”

- Desiring the praise of men.
- Placing a high value on lofty titles... A desire for letters after our name.
- Practicing our religion with the wrong motive.
- Thinking ourselves better than others, any others!
- A preoccupation with things rather than people.
- Passivity – Not finding our place to work in His Kingdom.
- Seeking personal comfort before spiritual obligation.

- Compromising God’s Word in favor of personal preferences.
- Changing God’s priorities: God first, others second, self third.
- Having a critical, judgmental spirit.

May I leave you with a prayer on our lips and commitment in our heart for unity – ***“Being of one heart and mind.”***

Only then will the world know that we are His disciple! Amen!

—RANDALL CASELMAN

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 6/20/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Welcome/Prayer.....Dallas Dobbs

Song Leader..... Alex Thompson	Prayer & Scripture Roger Arnold
Communion Scripture & Prayer Randall Hunt	Greeters/Handouts..... Gary McCool & Ken Rosenbaum

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Welcome/Prayer.....Tracy Bowman

Song Leader..... Chris McSweeny	Prayer & Scripture Mitchell Whittington
Communion Scripture & Prayer Kirk Franklin	Greeters/Handouts..... John Bowman & Don Cope

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator..... Mark Tucker	Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator..... Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator Matt Grisham

LOVE, KNOWLEDGE & INSIGHT

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

After commending the Thessalonians for their *“labor of love”* (I Thessalonians 1:4), Paul continued in chapter 3, verse 5, *“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love toward one another, and toward all men.”* (KJV) Here in our text, Paul prays that the Philippians’ love *“may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”* These words greatly enlarge the concept of love. Love, knowledge and insight just naturally go together. Like the old song says, “Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage.” This is as natural as “cornbread in the Carolinas.”

Love is not just sentimentality. According to W. E. Vine, the noted Greek lexicographer, “Love is known by the action it prompts.” Love is as love does. It is a noun; but it is also a verb. A love which grows more and more in knowledge is a love that grows more and more in sensitive perception, insight, discernment. Then, one is more and more able to distinguish between right and wrong, and determine what is best, excellent.

Love is the way to “knowledge and depth of insight.” The word *“knowledge”* in our text is from the Greek word, “epignosis,” which means a

full, or mature knowledge. To love any subject is to want to know more about it. If we love a person we want to know more and more about him or her. For the Ephesians Paul prayed, *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation (understanding), so that you may know Him (God) better.”* That knowledge and understanding begins with love. That knowledge brings a *“depth of insight”* into what is being said to us. Jesus, in Luke 11: 52, says, *“Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key of knowledge.”* Truly, knowledge is the key to a relationship with God. Love is always sensitive to the mind and the heart of the one it loves, sensitive to the will and desires of the object of love. Jesus said it this way, *“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”* (John 14: 15) The more we love Him, the tenderer and more sensitive our conscience will become. It seems to be just that simple!

Love enables us to “discern what is best.” The word *“discern”* is from a Greek word which is used for testing metal, testing a coin to see that the metal is genuine, pure and with no alloy. To *“discern”* spiritual verities is to determine what is true and what is false, to determine what is best, what is excellent. A. T. Robertson, in his *“Word Pictures in the New Testament,”* defines this word *“discern”* as a *“delicate spiritual perception.”* The growth of our knowledge, insight and discerning powers equips us to handle the spiritual choices we are faced with in our lives daily. The greater our love, the greater our spiritual resources! Little wonder that Paul prayed for our love to abound.

Love’s end result is that you “may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.” The Greek word for *“pure”* is sometimes translated in this verse as *“sincere.”* The root meaning of the word is *“to judge by sunlight.”* The ancients of that day made beautiful porcelain; but it was very difficult to fire without cracking. Many times, when it did crack, a pearly wax was put in the cracks which was difficult to see with the naked eye. But when the piece of porcelain was held up to the sun the wax appeared as a dark seam. The honest Latin dealers labeled their goods *“sincera,”* meaning without wax, or sun tested. As a result of being *“pure,”* we are *“blameless,”* or without offense. Grace through the blood of Jesus and our obedience to His will has taken care of the offenses. We, as Christians, are to be pure, sincere, without wax, unadulterated and Son tested. Love, knowledge, insight, and discernment will lead us to this end.

“That you may be... Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” What a conclusion! The results of our abounding in love will be the *“fruit of righteousness”* seen in our lives every day. You cannot have the fruit without the root that the abounding in love brings to our lives. And all of this is *“to the glory and praise of God.”*

My prayer for all of us is:
“that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

—CHARLES CASH