

Family & Friends..... May 19th, 2021

“Remember When,” We remember our growing up years. I remember my mother telling me I was a handful. I walked when I was eight months old, maybe that is why my knees are so bad. We all remember going to school each day; learning a lot about life. Remember those teenage years? Sometimes things happen we have no control over, like a classmate who committed suicide, a fifteen year old who was dragged by a horse and killed, a close friend who was killed in Vietnam. Remember when we met the one that we married and gave our hearts to each other? We remember the years we spent raising our families; the kids thinking their parents were old when we were only in our thirties. We mothers remember giving birth to our children and holding them for the first time; and for fathers the responsibility they feel when holding their first child! Remember when our children started getting married and leaving home? Remember all the friends you’ve met and made over the years? Remember when you were baptized and accepted Jesus as your personal Savior? Our memories will not be forgotten as Christians come together to worship our Lord and give encouragement to each other. "Remember When" is all a part of life’s journey, a blessing. It’s not money or things that make us rich, it’s our love for God and each other – Amen? To God Be the Glory!

*There is an appointed time for everything
and there is time for every event under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NASB*

What a blessing and special Mother’s Day when your son is baptized into Christ! Harrison, son of Gary & Heidi Hodge, and a nephew of the Van Pelts made his decision to follow Jesus! *We love you, Harrison!*

Our sympathy to the family of Hattie Louise Perry in her passing. Continue to remember Doug Klingman & Ginny Alderson in the loss of loved ones. Judith Carmical began her chemotherapy last week. Susan Duffy is having serious heart problems. Mike Lacey is at home following his hospitalization. Pat Musson will undergo chemo for three months before her surgery. Sharon VanPelt’s mother, Leon English, is now on Home Hospice. Continue to remember Ron Beaty, Michelle King, one of our missionary’s wife, Alexis Albers as she recovers from an automobile accident, Hilda Jones, Krista Magness, Robert Horton, J.B. Tarr, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

We will have a celebration for our Senior Graduates on May 23rd after morning services in the Fellowship Hall with lunch provided. Matt Grisham & Jaxson Caylor (High School) Reagan Busbee (College).

Items needed for Fair Haven Children’s Home: tea bags, refried beans, canned vegetables, pie fillings, pop tarts, and toothpaste. For Our Food Pantry: applesauce, fruit cups, tuna, canned chicken, mayo, Pork & Beans, Miracle Whip, Ketchup..

Growing old is a blessing when you’re growing closer to God.

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

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-640-4943

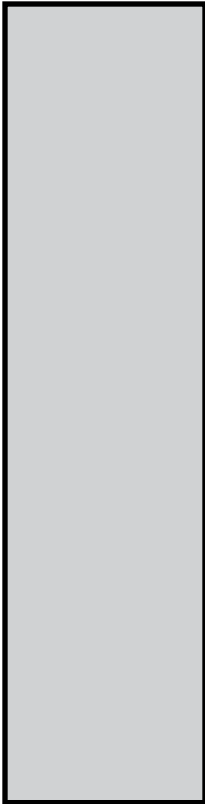
DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Robert Horton
Randall Hunt Perry Johnson 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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Bella Vista

Agape Love & Discipleship

Jesus said, “The world will know that you are my disciple when you agape one another.” Love is our badge of discipleship, our authentication. It tells others that we belong to God, that we live in Him and that He lives in us. John speaks of this badge when he wrote: “No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

From a Biblical perspective love is agape, a love of the will, a love of discipline, which says, “I will love you regardless of whether or not you love me.” Agape allows us to love our enemies. It allows God to love us, while we were yet sinners.

In First Corinthians thirteen, Paul breaks agape down into its individual parts:

- Love is patient.
- Love is kind.
- Love does not envy.
- Love does not boast.
- Love is not proud.
- Love is not rude.
- Love is not self-seeking.
- Love is not easily angered.
- Love keeps no record of wrongs.
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with truth.
- Love always protects reputations.
- Love trusts, hopes, perseveres.
- Love never fails.

Read them again, sixteen aspects of “agape love.” Who are we to Love -- Agape? “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love Self! Yes, self-love is a Bible doctrine. Self-Love is not because of what great things we’ve done; not because of education, financial status, political correctness etc., self-love comes from what God has done for us.

- He created us in His own image.
- He came to live & die as we live and die.

MEMBERS



- His sacrificial death has the potential to save our soul.
- He wants to live in us, and us in Him.

That gives us worth! Amen?

We are to love our neighbors. R. L. Middleton in his book "The Gift of Love" talks about a college chapel service at Randolph Macon College. If you've been around a college any at all, you know that chapel can be a boring occasion at times. Especially when the Dean speaks. The Dean opened his Bible to Luke Chapter 10, read the story of the Good Samaritan, laid his Bible down, walked over beside the podium, and said "Gentlemen, the road from Jerusalem to Jericho runs right through this campus and your dormitory. Chapel dismissed." Indeed, the road from Jerusalem to Jericho runs straight through this church, through our homes, through Walmart, and the office or shop where we work. Amen?

We're to love God. John writes, "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome." Jesus gives us the bottom line for loving God when He said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Do we love Him enough:

- To place Him first in our lives?
- Worship on the Lord's Day?
- Enough to become His instrument of righteousness?
- His living sacrifice?
- To make a genuine effort to live above moral reproach?
- Enough to humble ourselves, confessing our faults, admitting our sins?

We must allow Paul's statements to echo in our hearts daily: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

—RANDALL CASELMAN

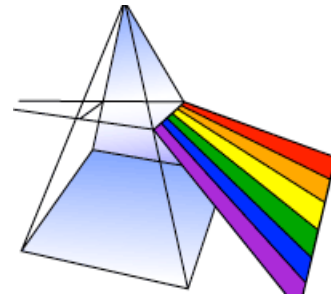


**Brotherly Love Affection Kindness
Goodwill Benevolence**

Agape Light

When light is passed through a prism, it's broken into its component parts, and we're able to see its true colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

In the same way, when the love of God is passed through the heart of a Christian, we are able to see the various parts of agape love. Paul listed them for us...



- Love is patient.**
- Love is kind.**
- It does not envy.**
- Love does not boast.**
- It is not proud.**
- It is not rude.**
- Love is not self-seeking.**
- It is not easily angered.**
- Love keeps no record of wrongs.**

Agape does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Agape never fails.

There are three great concepts in Christianity: Faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I think the question we must ask ourselves is clear...

- **Does the light of Jesus shine through us?**
- **Are others seeing our patience, our kindness, etc.?**
- **Or do we somehow distort the pure love of God into a more worldly view?**

Contrary to what we might think, we can't hide our light. Our love-light is like influence, it shines all the time. The question is not, does it shine – As much as – Can others see the love of God in us. Amen?

**New Church Directory Coming!
You'll find sheets in the foyer where
you can check your information.
If incorrect – Change
If totally correct – Please Initial!**

Living a Life of Love

There is a condition called "Active Inertia." It happens when we stick to old commitments that no longer make any sense. In some cases, they actually become detrimental to our health, our family, or our spiritual well-being. This goes on until we hit a crisis.

For example...

A too busy father neglects his daughter until she runs away from home and gets sucked into a life of addiction. Suddenly the father finds the time to scour the country looking for her, and then spends weeks or months searching for an appropriate treatment center.

Then there's the couple who were too busy for each other who suddenly find massive amounts of time for counseling, lawyers & legal bills, and apartment hunting as their marriage fails.

Then there's the workaholic who suddenly finds time to ask what life is really about, but only when the report comes back from the lab marked, "Malignant."

Dr. Timothy Johnson writes: "Part of the pleasure of reading a novel lies in not knowing how it will turn out until we get to the last page; and then thinking back on how the characters might have lived differently had they known what the end would have been like.

But here it is – Real life has an urgency so different from fiction; at the end, it cannot be changed! The real meaning of life is that it STOPS! We will never figure out how we should live our life unless we understand the significance of the fact that one day it will end. And then what?" So, let's pause and ask what we are doing or not doing with our life right now that will one day lead to regret?

Listen! – Life is always played forward – We can never go back.

It was the Apostle Paul who wrote: "Be initiators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love" (Ephesians 5.2).

—THE WORD FOR YOU TODAY

From Heart to Heart in Home Care

Joplin, Missouri

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/23/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader..... Alex Thompson	Prayer & Scripture..... Roger Arnold
Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Mark Tucker	Greeters/Handouts..... David Saunders & Mike York

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader..... Marquis Elliott	Prayer & Scripture..... Curt LaPorte
Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Woody Barker	Greeters/Handouts..... Mike Spencer & Howard Hurst

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator..... Harold Phillips	Streaming Coordinator..... Abby Willis
Audio Coordinator..... Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator..... Chris Johnson