

**Family & Friends..... January 5, 2022**

Happy New Year 2022! Let us get into the positive that this will be a great year for all of us. I thought all the Cardinals that are here year-round in our yard had disappeared. Wait a minute, it snowed and they came back in good numbers. What a pleasant and a beautiful sight they are. I am happy and they are happy. A Cardinal paid me a visit outside our kitchen window. He sat on the back of a lawn chair and looked at me through the window. Now, I don't know bird language, but I am thinking he was telling me everything is cool, don't worry about us. Isn't that what God is telling us, not to worry? "Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying?" Matthew 6:27. Cardinals are year-round birds that huddle together in groups in the winter time to stay warm and gather in their food supply. They have special feet and feathers that keep them warm. Their very presence in your yard can brighten your day and lift your spirits. Cardinals bring us life and amazing color, and give us hope to pass those cold winter days. May we be encouraged and strengthened in our hearts for the love God has for us! Jeff had good lessons Sunday morning and evening to start the new year, and let us all be daily Bible readers. To God Be the Glory!

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable---if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praise worthy---dwell on these things. Matthew 4:8*

We love our visitors: David & Sarah Ellison (Fayetteville), Wade, Donna, and John Nichols (Bentonville).

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go to Linda Winters in the loss of her mother, Linda Keen. Please keep Linda and the family in your prayers. We love you. Tim Short is home recovering from his surgery. Keep him in your prayers. Pat Musson will have radiation treatment for the tumor on her hip, it will be a one-time treatment, high dose, and the doctor is sure it will take care of it. Sue Gartrell will have her surgery on January 19th at 11:30 a.m., and maybe rehab. Sue would very much like to have our prayers. Continue to remember and pray for David Reeves, Andrew Albers, Doug Klingman, Becky Donceel, Susan Duffy, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus.

There will be a Wedding Shower for Alexis Albers, next Sunday on January 9th at 3:00 P.M. Please join us for this celebration. Kent Marcum will be here next Sunday to update us on his work in Ecuador. He will preach both services and update during Bible Class. Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: vegetable soup, beef & chicken broth, corn, crackers, chili powder, cookie mix, and trash bags. Food Pantry for January: ketchup, mustard, mayo, soy & sweet and sour sauce, salad dressing, taco sauce/hot sauce, peanut butter, jelly, honey, canned chicken, and tuna/spam.

Faith connects our weakness to God's strength. 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.....479-640-49439  
Pery 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  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

**LORD'S DAY**  
Early Worship 8:15 AM  
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM  
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

**EWEDNESDAY**  
Ladies' Class 9:45 AM  
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

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**Bella Vista**

**Facing Our Future**

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.*

*(Joshua 1:1-7 ESV)*

It was an exciting time for the Israelites. Everything was new; new place, new life situations, new leadership, new generation. Forty years of desert travel had come to an end. The promise to which they had looked forward for a generation was finally in reach. They could settle in, put down roots, and enjoy the blessings of which they had been assured. It was finally within their view, just across the Jordan River.

As exciting as it must have been for them, it was probably also somewhat unnerving. It was a new land. They would encounter new people with strange customs. They had probably heard the story of the first time they had reached the border some forty years prior. Along with the report of the great things to be found in this good and fertile land, there were also potential dangers ahead.

**MEMBERS**



Here we stand, looking into the new year with which God has blessed us. We feel certain that there will be good things ahead. We also approach it with some hesitation, realizing that along with the potential for those good things, trouble and difficulties may also face us there. But, in the opening lines of this book, we can find some things to encourage us as we stand facing our immediate future.

One of the first things that stands out to me as I read this short passage is the repetition of the statement about the death of Moses. Moses is dead. That era has passed. As this serves as a reminder of the position in which Joshua and the Israelites find themselves, there is a message of encouragement and a great reminder here for us. As we begin this new year, we need to realize that the past is behind us. The missteps, mistakes, and failures that we made are past. As long as we have repented and asked for his forgiveness, God has dealt with them and they are well behind us. We may still have to deal with some of their consequences, but our guilt before God has been handled. What a comforting thought! What an encouragement!

Another thing that we see here is that as daunting as it may be, we are called to move forward. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. Just as our sins and failures of the past no longer hold us back, we cannot rest on the previous year's achievements. God has work for us to do; namely, the continued work of advancing the Kingdom. There are still people to be reached and areas of our lives to be brought more firmly under the control of our Lord and King. As we face 2022 we see the opportunities for growth, both individually and as a community of believers. We know we will encounter opposition and will face difficulties, but we still have to venture out into this new time and place.

Maybe the most comforting thing we find in this passage is the promise of the continued presence of God to be with us. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Through the good times and bad, the successes and the setbacks, we serve a God who is always faithful. His desire to be with us, and this promise of his abiding presence are found throughout Scripture. Prior to his crucifixion, Jesus made a promise to his disciples who would soon be facing an uncertain future. (Cont.)

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17 ESV)*



We need to notice that the promises made in Joshua 1 and John 14 are conditional. They are based on our faithfulness to living the way God has directed. We also need to realize that these promises come from God who is always faithful.

As we face the future, let's thank God for the blessings of his love, his forgiveness, and his presence so that we can boldly face the future no matter what we may find there.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Rules for Success for This New Year and For Life

1. Never waver in loyalty. If Satan wins on any given day, return to God before you sleep.
2. Do things for others. Not only is this the "golden rule," it is one that will repay you in many rewarding ways.
3. Give liberally. Do not measure success in wealth. Money can't buy you love nor happiness nor peace, but the way you use your money can bring glory to God.
4. Always live within your means. Money problems invite many other problems.
5. Don't allow failure to dim your effort. Everyone I know has had failures somewhere along the way. Never, never, never give up!
6. Take care of your body. It can only serve you well if you serve it well. It is the temple of God and God's gift to you. Protect it.
7. Be dedicated to God's Word. We can't know God's Will if we don't read God's Word. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Ps. 119:105) Let's read His Word daily this year. (Cont.)

## Rules for Success for This New Year and For Life

8. Never feel sorry for yourself. Lynn Campbell, a member of the church, was quickly paralyzed from the neck down by polio when she was only seventeen. She worked to become an accomplished artist by holding the brush between her teeth and moving her head to paint beautiful pictures.

9. Don't become a prisoner of small thinking. Solomon said of man, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7) We become our own prisoners with limited vision.

10. Be ready to serve your God. When we are gone, the contributions we make in God's name live on even for eternity. "And their works follow them," (Rev. 14:13) is said of the Christian after his life on earth is over.

These are easier to read than to live in our lives, but what a difference they will make in our lives! Let's join hands and hearts and claim this new year for our God! In doing so we will enjoy the year and fill it with happiness!

-HLF

Robinson Avenue Church of Christ  
December 28, 2008



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 1/9/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Randall Hunt      Song Leader ..... Marquis Elliott  
 Greeters ..... Joe Hott, Chris Johnson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Harold Phillips  
 Closing Prayer ..... Aaron Sloan  
 Nursery Workers ..... Janet Alumbaugh, Jennifer Stephens

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jerry Orr      Song Leader ..... Chris McSweeney  
 Greeters ..... John Bowman, Don Cope      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mitchell Whittington  
 Closing Prayer ..... Ray Reiss  
 Nursery Workers ..... Robbie Balentine, Abby Willis      Van Driver ..... Bryan Busbee

#### January Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mark Tucker      Streaming Coordinator ..... Abby Willis  
 Audio Coordinator ..... Jim Caylor      Video Coordinator ..... Aaron Bagwell