

**Family & Friends..... November 30, 2022**

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I know the birds did at my place. It was nonstop at the feeders all day long! The Cardinals love it when it's cold or snowing, they always show up. Doesn't seem to bother them. When it snows there are bunches of them hanging on the trees and they almost look like Christmas ornaments. They are beautiful on the feeders and trees throughout the woods in our backyard. So, I am looking forward to the snow. Our Cardinal that moves in on our front porch each year has returned. He looks so pretty sitting under the eaves of the porch. I say goodnight to him every night. Christmas will be here before we know it. The traffic is unbelievable right now and will probably get worse. We need to be kind, patient and considerate of others in the stores, in our cars, out to eat, at the grocery store, and church or whenever we are out anywhere. We can do it! The Christian way is always best! We can look for these things always, forgiveness, peace of mind, helping others when needed, looking for the good things in life, and doing it all with love. Do it with a heart of a Christian! God loves us and we love Him!

*For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37*

It is always with joy to announce new members, and we want to give a big welcome to Andy & Cheryl Blansett and Jonathan & Lauryn and daughter Brooklyn Blansett, Zach & Megan Ballard, Nathanael & Jessica Green!

We are always happy to have our visitors: James Mercer (Olympia, WA), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Carolyn Reeves (Pea Ridge), Jon & Chelsea, DJ & Savannah (Bentonville), and Lael Ellison. (BV)

Those on our prayer list: Continue to remember and pray for those who have recently lost loved ones, the Strickhausen family, the Winslow family, and the family of Mary Montgomery, Shirley Hale's daughter, Jackie Morris, who had surgery for breast cancer. Cameron Thorn, Cammy Jo's nephew, who has cancer, Susan Duffy, and her father. Jane Weiser had a Pet scan and results were good, Pat & Bob Musson, Becky Donceel, Lynn Schaffert, and Phillip King.

Will give you an updated list for Food Pantry and Children's Home next week.

Receive love. Give love. Repeat. 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  
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379  
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott  
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

**MINISTERS**

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

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**Bella Vista**

**'Tis the Season**

Of the Gospels, Mark seems to be the one with the most rapid pace. There is a real sense of urgency in his account of the life and ministry of Jesus. This is noticeable from the very beginning. The word that gets translated "immediately" in our English Bibles is repeated 41 times in Mark's Gospel with 11 of those found in the first chapter. As we read that particular chapter, we get a sense of the swarm of activity that often surrounded the ministry of Jesus. Following his baptism, Jesus is immediately led to the wilderness to be tempted. Upon his return from that experience, he began to preach about the coming Kingdom. He calls disciples who immediately follow him. He casts out demons, heals Peter's mother-in-law, which led to the all those who were sick or demon possessed being brought to him for healing. It is at this point in the narrative, in the middle of this break-neck pace, that Mark gives us the following insight into the life and ministry of Jesus.

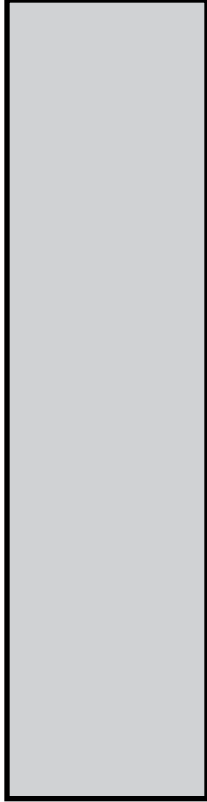
*"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1:35-39)*

It is that time of year again already. The Christmas season is officially underway. Schedules are beginning to get full. Travel plans are being made and confirmed. There are a lot of things that will occupy our time and our thoughts over the next several weeks. Children will be excited and anxious about what gifts they might receive. Many of us will worry and stress over what to get for others in our lives. Parents may be anxious and excited about how to afford the things they would like to get for their children on top of making sure they have scheduled everything that must be done so as not to forget all

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the various activities. There are those for whom the holidays bring back memories of loss, or are still dealing with grief in addition to the regular pressures and demands that this season brings with it. It is a wonderful time of the year, but also quite a busy time that may leave us exhausted and feeling as if we are chasing our tails. In the midst of this swarm of activity and our own break-neck pace, it might be good for us to take a look at this practice of Jesus and make this a part of our routine as well.

Spending time with the Father was a regular habit of Jesus that can be found throughout all the Gospel narratives. It should be a regular habit of ours as well. But, the busier we get, the more frantic our schedules become, the more we look for areas in which to save time. However, it seems from what we see in the life of Jesus, this is one area that definitely does not need to be removed to make time for something else.

It reminds us of who we are. Spending time in prayer with the Father reminds us of our identity in relation to the One we serve. Prayer is entering the throne room of God and being reminded of just how holy, awesome, and powerful he really is. Prayer is encountering the living God, the one who created heaven and earth and everything in them. In those moments of encountering God we get to put things in their proper perspective. Suddenly many of the things we have on our to-do lists seem much less significant. The stress and anxiety we feel can be released as we realize that we are not the ones who are in charge of everything, and that God still reigns. We can lay our troubles before him knowing that he can deal with each of them and will deal with all things correctly.

It reminds us of our purpose. There were a lot of folks looking for Jesus. There were many things he could have stayed to do in Capernaum, but that wasn't his entire mission. As we find ourselves in this season of busyness, it may be helpful to get some clarity on our purpose. Our purpose may not be to get the perfect gift for someone, or to make every event to which we are invited. Our purpose is to be fully present with those that God puts in our path. Our purpose is to enjoy the blessings that he provides and use those blessings to his glory. Our purpose is always to share the love with which he has richly blessed us, and extend grace to others the way in which he has extended grace to us.

So, as the stresses and pressures of this very great time of year increase, let's make sure that we schedule continued time spent with the Father. I'm certain we won't regret it.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Important Life Values

We must all learn to distinguish between the essential and the nonessential in life. There are immediate values and ultimate values. One of the greatest challenges facing the Christian is that of prioritizing his or her life. A principle point of wisdom is found in knowing how to value things just as they deserve.

Paul tells us: *"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day... So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* (2 Corinthians 4:16, 18) In other words, the "temporary" are immediate values; the "eternal" are ultimate values. *"Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (of great immediate value). He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as a greater value (ultimate value) than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."* (Hebrews 11:24-26)

An ancient king, as the story goes, called the wise men of his court together and asked them to compose a sentence that would apply equally to all things and all places. Some time later they came back with their answer: "This too shall pass away." The apostle John wrote, *"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."* (1 John 2:17) There are two great classifications of things: Things that concern us and things that don't concern us. Would to God that all of us would be concerned with that which outlasts our life here, the eternal, of ultimate value. No one can really live for God until all things are in order, where they belong.

Paul had one great, overriding, ultimate goal! *"One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14) It is better to say, "one thing I do," than to say, "These forty things I dabble in." The things we dabble in may be good and right, but they are temporary and only of immediate value. They can never take the place of the eternal, which is of ultimate value. The second best must never become the enemy of the best. Things of immediate value are only, at best, temporary. They can never satisfy the longings of the soul. We would do well to pray the prayer of

William Cowper: "O God, defend me from the task of dropping buckets into empty wells, and growing old in drawing nothing up." Renan, a noted French philosopher who had walked a treacherous road of doubt, near the end of his life said: "We are living on the perfume of an empty vase." Without God and His ultimate values, we live on the "perfume of an empty vase." Our trouble is twofold. First, we usually measure things by material rather than spiritual values. Second, we tend to measure things by time rather than eternity.

Material things are important. God gave us *"richly all things to enjoy."* But spiritual things are more important. *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* (Colossians 3:2) Why? Because spiritual verities have *"promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."* (1 Timothy 4:8)

You've heard the old saying: "It won't matter one hundred years from now." No, it won't matter one whit with the material, the temporary; but, yes, it will matter inestimably with the eternal, the spiritual. Take the long view in setting priorities. What will be important one hundred years or a thousand years from now must, of necessity, be the most important things in our life today. Focus on ultimate values! Don't lose the substance by grasping at the shadow. How foolish to spend our lives on things "that perish with using" and not give priority to the spiritual welfare of the soul in eternity!

-CHARLES CASH  
1938 - 2018

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 12/4/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Bill Alumbaugh	Song Leader .....	Sammy McCain
Greeters .....	Gary McCool, David Saunders	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Randall Hunt
Closing Prayer.....		Tracy Bowman	
Nursery Workers .....		Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Welden	

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Jerry Orr	Song Leader .....	Lee McCain
Greeters .....	John Bowman, Mike Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Chad Dobbs
Closing Prayer.....		Ray Reiss	
Nursery Workers .....		Muriel McSweeney, Abby McSweeney	
Van Driver .....		Jim Branstetter	

#### December Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator .....	Mark Tucker	Streaming Coordinator .....	Kyle Dillard
Audio Coordinator .....	Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator .....	Chris Johnson