

Family & Friends..... December 7, 2022

We are happy to announce that the elders are considering two new deacons to our congregation. They are Mike Spencer and Mike Martin. We are ready to help, just let us know where you need us and what we can do. We also give a big welcome to our newest members! They are Andy & Cheryl Blansett and Jonathan & Lauryn Blansett and Brooklyn, Nathanael & Jessica Green, and Carolyn Reeves. We are looking forward to getting to know you all!

The Christmas Season is upon us. We need to get our Food Pantry and Fair Haven Children’s Home well stocked. We want to make sure we can also supply them a nice Christmas dinner from the pantry. It has been a really difficult time for a lot of people. The Food Pantry could also use help. So, if you could help in anyway with this ministry, please let Mike Martin know. The Holidays can be very hard for families, children, and our seniors especially. Food Pantry items needed: Turkey (10-12lbs.), yams, stuffing mix, chicken broth, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, marshmallows, turkey gravy in a jar, instant mashed potatoes, chocolate chips, marshmallow fluff, cookie mixes, frosting/sprinkles, canned chicken and tuna, canned veggies and fruit, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, Ramen noodles, oil, mayo/pickles, pancake mix/syrup, flour, sugar, and individual fruit. The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Helen Keller

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Those on our prayer list: Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to Curt LaPorte in the loss of his brother, Richard, and to Brenda Tucker in the loss of her father, Bernard Gough, and John Winslow in the loss of his sister. Please keep these families in your prayers and others who have recently lost loved ones. Please continue to remember and pray for Charles & Glenda Jones, Susan Duffy, and her father, Jackie Morris, Lee Horton, Cameron Thorn, Pat & Bob Musson, Lynn Schaffert, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and elected leader, members of the Lord’s Church worldwide.

Children’s Home List: Spaghetti sauce, Hamburger Helper, pop tarts, cereal, canned fruits, brownie mix, and cleaning supplies.

God is always at work in and through us. 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

LORD’S DAY

Early Worship 8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

Ladies’ Class 9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

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Bella Vista

In The Holiday Mood

It seems that everywhere we look, we see images of the joy of the season. Television commercials, billboards, newspaper ads all have pictures of those coming home for the holidays. We are shown images of a large table, beautifully set and decorated with all the family home for this great holiday. These are great images and they do evoke feelings of joy, togetherness, and many great memories of holidays of the past.

These also evoke feelings of grief, loss, and pain as we may look around and notice that there is an empty place at the table. We may be reminded of last year’s holiday season and realize that this year’s will be much different because of the death of one that we held so dear to us. Our memories of those wonderful exciting days that we once experienced may now be tainted with images of declining health and poor prognoses.

Grief intrudes on our lives in various ways and at various times. But it may be brought into sharper focus at this particular time of year. We see the joy and wonder portrayed in the images that confront us. We see others enjoying themselves and it only reminds us of how much we have lost. How can we make our way through this particular time of year?

Allow ourselves space to grieve. Denying the grief that we feel doesn’t solve the issue. Grief is an emotion given to us by God. It is an emotion that God himself experiences. As Jesus made his way to Bethany after the death of his friend Lazarus, he was met by two grieving sisters, devastated by the loss of their brother. As Jesus and the mourners made their way to the tomb of Lazarus, John tells us, “Jesus wept.” What a statement! Jesus, who knew that Lazarus was about to walk out of that tomb, still grieved with those who were suffering. We don’t have to always put on happy face and fake our way through the holidays. It’s ok to let ourselves grieve for the loss we have experienced.

LIFE LINES



Lean on others. Family can be a wonderful blessing. God created us as relational beings, and as such he placed us in family groups. We need each other. We are to encourage one another, love one another, forgive one another, and bear one another’s burdens. Paul in Romans 12 in speaking of the church family says, *“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”* (Romans 12:9-15) We may get the feeling that our grief will get in the way of other people’s enjoyment of the holidays. The truth is that it will remind others of loss and suffering, but those who love and care about us will be sensitive to the pain that we feel. There are those that care deeply about us and can help us through. Whether it is our physical family or the family of God brought together by the blood of Jesus, reach out to them.

All of us need to be sensitive to the needs of others. That’s what it means to be family, to be the family of God. The command that we have from Jesus is to *“love one another: just as I have loved you, you are to love one another.”* (John 13:34) Loving like Jesus means being aware of the needs of others. It means remembering that this time of year may bring pain instead of joy and tears instead of laughter to those who have lost loved ones. Pay attention to those around us and be empathetic. *“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:4)

Remember that God knows the loss we have experienced. God knows what it is like to lose a son. He hurts with us. He weeps with us. He loves us deeply in the middle of our grief, and walks with us through the storm. In fact, as we celebrate the coming of Jesus and are reminded of the beauty of the incarnation, we should remember that the reason God sent his son is so that death and sin, our grief and loss don’t get the last word. We will grieve, but we don't grieve as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). The gift of God, his only son, was to bring an end to the rule of death, and to give us life and hope. May God bless each of us as we make our way through the joys and the heartaches that this season brings.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Helping Someone Who Has Lost a Loved One

We’ve all been there or we’ll all be there soon. It may be that you are there right now. Somebody you know has lost a family member. You want to help, but you are not sure how you can do that.

In a recent issue of the Gospel Advocate there was an informative article by a sister in the Lord. Michelle Moore wrote about the loss of her son and provided what I thought was some very practical advice.

She wrote of things that many of us have thought of. For example, she suggested that ministering to those who are grieving, “will most likely be a thankless job for a while.” This, she suggests, is because those who are grieving cannot process things as they once did.

She also suggested that those who are grieving need to continue to be invited to events. She further suggested that those who do the inviting need to understand if they decline.

Sister Moore also reminded us of something that we probably already know. There is no definite schedule to grieving. Grief is a process, not an event. It may take much longer for some than it does for others. We each grieve differently, so we must not press our expectations upon others.

What I found to be helpful were some very practical suggestions. What follows, then, are the words of sister Moore without any “editorial comment” from me. I have shortened most of them for the sake of space and the comments in parentheses are mine. You may find yourself adding some of your own. I hope you find them as practical and helpful as I did.

1. Pray for them every single day.
2. Send a card, or even more than one. Include a story about the loved one.
3. Send a gift card to a restaurant.
4. Text them. Include scripture, not just the reference, but write out the scripture. Let them know specifically what you are praying for when you text.
5. When you head to the store, call the family asking what they might need.

6. Take care of some difficult tasks: Mowing the yard, preparing a meal, or Christmas dinner, putting up or taking down holiday lights, etc.).

7. Drop off a care package.

8. Offer to help when it is time to go through their loved one’s things. Among other things, this gives the one grieving a chance to share memories.

9. Take a friend or two and go help around the house.

10. Invite your friend to go out to lunch or grab coffee.

11. If your friend has small children, offer to take them for an afternoon to give them time to grieve alone, uninterrupted.

12. If the death is that of a child, do not forget the siblings.

13. In conversations with someone who is grieving, say the loved one’s name frequently.

Most of all, may we remember to "bear one another's burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ."

Our heartfelt thanks to Michelle.

Edited from an article by

ADAM VAUGHN & MICHELLE MOORE

Submitted by Harold Akridge

In *Lifelines* September, 26, 2018

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 12/11/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Roger Arnold	Song Leader	Anthony Christiano
Greeters	Gary McCool, David Saunders	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Randall Hunt
Closing Prayer		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers		Bobette York, Shannon Hubanks	

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Bob Alberson	Song Leader	Marquis Elliott
Greeters	John Bowman, Mike Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Chad Dobbs
Closing Prayer		Perry Johnson	
Nursery Workers	Robin Kinder, Brenda Branstetter	Van Driver	Kyle Dillard

December Worship Coordinators

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