

**Family & Friends..... December 8, 2021**

We have entered the last month of 2021. Christmas will be here before we can blink an eye and we will enter into a new year of 2022. The Donkey is one of the most underappreciated animals around. Donkeys can live 40 to 50 years. They are humble and gentle and can tug at your heart. They are patient, but also known for their stubbornness. If they feel threatened. They may stand their ground and not budge until they are ready and feel safe. They are very intelligent and their memory is incredible. Donkeys are very hardworking and loyal and will not take any nonsense from anyone. The most interesting fact about them is their design. There are legends about donkeys. I am not saying I think they are true, but it sure makes you think. One of the legends of the donkey is seeing the tragic event of Jesus crucifixion, the donkey wished he had been able to carry the cross for Jesus and bear his burden. The Lord caused a shadow of the cross to fall across the back of the donkey and he has carried a sign of the love of God for all to see. Almost all donkeys have a cross on their backs. The cross starts from the head and goes all the way down the back to the tail. The Nubian donkey has a different cross on them called the Jerusalem. The donkey is the only animal in the world with a single cross across its back. They love the music of a violin, bananas, and have hearty appetites. They will beg for treats and belly rubs! To God Be the Glory!

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9*

We are happy to welcome Wanda James to our congregation. Wanda placed membership Sunday morning. We love you, Wanda! We are blessed with our visitors: Keith & Janet Gant (Singapore), David & Sarah Ellison (Fayetteville), Jean McConnel (Siloam Springs), Teresa Marcotte (Pineville), Jane Weiser (Pea Ridge), John & Donna & Wade Nichols and Rosemary Scott (Bentonville), Alivia Bockholt, Joyce Parks, and Kelli Homeyer. (Bella Vista)

Those on our prayer list: Tim Short has been diagnosed with kidney cancer and will have surgery on December 15th. David Reeves is facing major heart surgery. Becky Donceel is still struggling with health issues. Continue to remember and pray for those struggling with cancer, recovering from surgeries, and other health issues: Roger & Robbie Arnold, Jennifer Oxford, Mike Lacey, Bob & Pat Musson, Maggie Wicker, Doug Klingman, Robert Horton, Susan Duffy, Mary Fry, Charlotte Akridge's nephew, Marg Kahler, Susan Duffy's dad, Ramin Salimi, Brody Wappler, Bob Douthit, our missionaries, military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: beef & chicken broth, tuna, carrots, jelly, and vinegar. December Food Pantry: jelly, peanut butter, tuna pouches and cans, canned chicken, spaghetti/alfredo sauce, honey/applesauce/fruit cups, Ravioli/Beefaroni, and cereal.

Jesus wants us to walk with Him. 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		8:15 AM	
Early Worship	Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM	
Worship (Livestreamed)		10:30 AM	
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM	
Ladies' Class	Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	7:00 PM	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

# Bella Vista

## What Do We Expect?

Just prior to his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the promised Holy Spirit. Once that happened they were to be his witnesses, telling the people about the hope and the future that is available because of the crucified and resurrected Messiah. They were to be about the work of making disciples and baptizing new believers. This message of good news was theirs to carry all over the globe. So, they waited just as they were instructed.

They didn't, however, just sit back and do nothing. While they were waiting, this little band of followers – the eleven remaining apostles and other devoted men and women – prayed and prepared. Acts 1:14 says they "were devoting themselves to prayer." In Acts 1:15-26 we read the narrative of the Apostles appointing someone to fill the place in their group that was left by Judas. They waited expectantly. They truly believed that God was at work; that Jesus would send them the Holy Spirit just as promised, and they wanted to be ready to move when God acted. Their devotion to the mission of God can be seen all through the book of Acts as they continue to follow God's lead and trust that he is working to reconcile the world to himself. They believed that Jesus would do just as he said he would do. They believed that the Holy Spirit would guide, lead and work to transform their lives and the lives of others. They lived expectantly.

I hope that this is not something that we have let get away from us as disciples of Jesus. I pray that we always remember that God is still at work, Jesus is alive and well, and that the Holy Spirit still guides, leads and transforms. I hope that we expect Jesus to return just as he said he would.

Do we expect God to be involved in our interactions with others? Each day we come in contact with other people. Our lives intersect

# WITNESSES



with others at various points and in various places. Do we look for God's hand in this? Think of the overwhelmed parent we meet at a school activity, or the person we see at the grocery store who appears to be stressed about whether or not they can pay for what they need, or maybe the coworker who is experiencing tension at home. Do we see these as divine appointments and opportunities to offer a word of encouragement or to share the love of Jesus? Or do we see these as obstacles to navigate so that we can get on with our day? Do we expect God to work in these situations?

Do we expect God to be involved in the growth of the church? If so, what are we doing to get ready for what he is about to do? In March of 2020, our elders made the decision to go to two services on Sunday mornings to make room for growth. We believed that God was working and we wanted to be ready when he acted. We still believe that, still expect that God is working, that Jesus is alive and well, and that the Holy Spirit still guides, leads and transforms.



Living expectantly is something that we see in the lives of the people of God throughout Scripture. Abraham expected God to deliver on his promise for a son. Israel prayed and waited expectantly for God to deliver them from Egypt. The wise men from the East looked expectantly at the night sky for the sign of the birth of the King of the Jews. The early Christians lived in daily expectation of the return of Jesus. We are called to do the same.

May God help us to live expectantly as we watch for his actions, follow his lead, and partner with him in his work to redeem and reconcile.

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14 ESV)*

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Impossibility

The dictionary defines *impossibility* as something not capable of existing or happening. Our lives are filled with impossibilities, aren't they? For example:

The likelihood of you, at age fifty, finding something you truly enjoy doing; it becoming an actual career opportunity, earning all the money you ever needed. Far fetched, huh?

How about losing that one-hundred-fifty pounds you've been fighting to lose for the past ten years; with your hectic life, there's no time. Not possible.

How about your children? They're obedient, they bring home good grades, they make good decisions, and they communicate, sharing their experiences with you in an effort to bond with and nurture a deeper relationship with you as parents. No way!

What about your marriage? You've been married twenty-one years, your wife just doesn't look the same. You and your husband seem to never talk anymore, let alone him understanding your feelings. You wonder if he even cares. You both remarkably long for the same things in your relationship, the affection, the communication, the oneness, the friendship you once had. But you tell yourselves, it's too late for us.

There are a thousand scenarios of impossibilities we face every day. But are there really? The impossibilities of life exist only in our minds, because of our own false perceptions and understanding. The Lord tells us, all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us. He also tells us to lean not on our own understanding. How long will we continue to live in fear of the impossible? Where is our faith in doing so? When will we truly start to trust our Lord? Have you checked your faith lately? It's like the oil in your car. We must check it periodically to avoid any locking up or breaking down.

Make the decision today. Stop living a life in fear of the impossible. His plan for each one of our lives is exceptional and perfect. So turn completely, your life and the lives of your loved ones, over to the care and keeping of God. Then stand back and in faith, watch as He turns the impossibilities of your lives into realities.

Scripture promises His power at work in us.

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

(Ephesians 3.14-21, NIV)

-STEVE STEELE

Dallas, TX



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 12/12/21

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Joe Hott      Song Leader ..... Marquis Elliott  
 Greeters ..... David Saunders, Mark Tucker      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Bill Alumbaugh  
 Closing Prayer ..... Aaron Sloan  
 Nursery Workers ..... Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Don Butcher      Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
 Greeters ..... Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Stephen Hunt  
 Closing Prayer ..... Curt LaPorte  
 Nursery Workers ..... Monica Klingman, Vicki Lunsford      Van Driver ..... Bryan Busbee

#### October Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Harold Phillips      Streaming Coordinator ..... Elijah Johnson  
 Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson      Video Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson