

**Family & Friends..... March 9, 2022**

We want to welcome our newest members, Mary Beth Thomson, Kyle Dillard, Randay and Bobbie Hokr, Phillip and Hollie Strickhausen and Sara Jefferys. Sara was also baptized last week. We are as happy as can be to have you all worship and serve our Lord with us.

We also would like to thank Kelly Neill from Harding University for holding the workshop for our song leaders here and leading our hymns for worship service Sunday morning. Thanks, Jeff, for a great lesson!

“Now The Day Is Over” is a beautiful hymn written by Sabine Barrington-Gould in 1865. He also wrote “Onward Christian Soldiers,” which brought him fame and he said that he penned the words off in no more than ten minutes. He was a man of action who wrote hymns and novels, a pastor, a teacher at a college, who published travelogues, and was into the field of archaeology. I have always loved the hymn, “Now the Day Is Over.” I think of it as a hymn of comfort, but almost all the hymns give us a feeling of comfort and peace. It is considered by some as a hymn for Bedtime Prayers because of its calming sense. It’s a fitting song for the close of any day, peaceful or otherwise, because of its simple request of comfort. The last stanza of this hymn is a prayer for the new day that will follow a night of rest. Perhaps we should all sing this hymn before we go to bed. To God Be the Glory! God is love!

*When you lie down you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden fear nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. Proverbs 3:24-26*

We love our visitors: Hendrix Cox (Tulsa, OK), Bob & Patsy Boynton (Gainesville, TX), Milo & Karen Hadwin (Searcy), Beverly Moore Ben-Luka (Centerton), David & Sarah Ellison (Fayetteville), Tony & Jan Ball (Bentonville), Mike & Grace Martin and Lynda Michael (Rogers), Alivia Bockholt, and Nathanael & Jessica Green. (Bella Vista)

Those on our prayer list: Mary E. Harris fell Tuesday and broke her hip. David Reeves was taken to the hospital Sunday with a stroke. Please keep David in your prayers. Vicki Lunsford's father, Dempsey Elkouri passed away Tuesday. Continue to remember and pray for Judith Carmical, Tim & Susan Duffy, Robert Horton, Doug Klingman, Maggie Wicker, Bob & Pat Musson, Trent Brock, Donna Rowland, Millie Pogue, Bob Douthit, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and for the people of Ukraine.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children’s Home: juice, ketchup, jelly, Spam, and puddings. March Food Pantry: canned vegetables and chicken, soups, peanut butter, cereal, and applesauce.

God is a safe place in life’s storms. 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

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

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

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**Bella Vista**

**Watching Jesus**

*Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon.*

*When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. (Mark 3:7-9)*

As we follow Jesus through the Gospels, we consistently find large crowd of people coming out to see him. Imagine this crowd about which we read here in Mark chapter 3. They had heard about what Jesus was doing and had come out to see for themselves. It is probable that some may have been skeptical. After all, they had heard of would-be Messiahs before. Besides, at a time when people are looking for hope, looking for a savior, would be a great opportunity for a skilled charlatan to make a killing. They wanted to know if he was for real.

Others in that crowd may have just been there to enjoy the show. If this Jesus was doing everything that they had heard, it would really be something to see. Imagine actually seeing the blind receive sight, or a demon being exorcised. That would be something to tell the grandkids.

I would imagine that the majority of that crowd was made up of those who were looking for relief and hope, and they did not leave disappointed. They received from him what they needed. They found hope, restoration, and the beginning of a whole new life in Jesus.

Some things never change. People are still watching Jesus. Maybe they are watching to see if he really is who he claims to be. They read about him, perhaps hear about him

**MEMBERS**



## Hearing the Voice of God

and try to determine whether he is the real thing. Maybe they watch him with a critical eye. They, like the Pharisees of Jesus's day (Mark 3:1-6), look for a reason to ignore him or to dismiss his claim of authority over our lives.

What Jesus appears to want is for us to look to him for hope, for help, for healing, and for restoration and real purposeful life. That's why we came to Jesus, isn't it? We had tried to do things our way. We had been the ones in charge of our lives only to find ourselves in real trouble. We had marched ourselves into a terrible place. Paul describes it like this, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." (Ephesians 2:1-3) But because of what God has done through Jesus, we found forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and life.

Jesus calls us to continue to watch him. He calls us to continue to follow him, to continue to learn. He calls us into lives where we learn from him, we imitate the way he lived, serve as his apprentices, and function as his representatives in the world. It is an incredibly exciting and important function as many who wonder about Jesus evaluate him based on the behavior of his followers.

Continuing to focus on Jesus keeps us humbly moving in the right direction. It keeps us humble, because as we continue to watch him we see ourselves in light of who he really is. We see his perfection, his divinity, his power and recognize how much we lack. Watching him keeps us moving as we continue to try to be more like him. We see his great love for us, and his desire to be with us that spur us on toward him.

It can seem like a heavy responsibility. We can feel the weight of it and wonder how in the world we can ever live up to his call. But, as we continue to watch, continue to follow, we find that he is always there to help. He has given us the Holy Spirit as a helper, and he has promised to never leave us or to forsake us. All he asks is that we continue to watch him, continue to learn, and continue to move forward with him. Will we?

-JEFF GRISHAM

Communication is a marvelous blessing from God. He has enabled us to exchange ideas and to express our love one-to-another. We can't imagine a world without communication? God not only blesses us with this ability to communicate with one another, but also with Him. We talk to Him in prayer and He speaks to us in at least three ways:

**Through nature.** *The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. (Psalm 19:1-2)*

**Through Divine providence.** He brings people and situations into our lives, which provides us with guidance and opportunities, to serve and share the gospel.

**And through His inspired Word.** Nature tells us God is. Providence gives us opportunities. The Bible tells us how to have a relationship with Him.

Are we hearing the voice of God? Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." In the Word we find God, direction, peace, comfort, purpose, and rest. Several times in scripture we find Jesus saying, "He who has an ear to hear, let him hear."

How can we equip ourselves to better hear God? We must tune Him in, receive the Word. In the electronic communication world, there are signals in the air on many frequencies: AM, FM, TV, police, emergency, military, ham, aircraft, boat, microwave and satellite. But we don't hear them unless we are tuned in. Folks, God IS speaking to us... Are we listening? Are we tuned in?

If we are to hear the voice of God, we too must tune Him in, invite Him to speak, and then listen for His communication. How many of us are spending quiet time in meditation and in the Word?

We must avoid selective hearing. Sometimes we develop a habit of hearing God say ONLY what we want Him to say. We are selective in the verses we read. We are found listening only to those we know will say what we want to hear. I had a lady tell me once, when I pay the preacher, he'll say what I want him to say. She never came back again. Paul was speaking of these kind of listeners when he told Timothy, "Preach the Word....For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them teachers to say

*what their itching ears want to hear."* I wonder how many blessing we rob ourselves of by this narrow minded selective process.

We must keep our ears sensitive to things spiritual. Many of us have actually damaged our ears by listening to Satan, so that we are no longer sensitive to the whisper of the Spirit. Paul tells of those who had lost their sensitivity, "Although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their foolish hearts were darkened. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts....They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator."

We must be willing to obey what we hear. The Word of God is purposeful, powerful and penetrating. Within it is the power to convince and convict, power to change our lives, to give us direction, forgive our sins, comfort, guide, and sustain us, save us in heaven. But only if we are willing to obey it's commands.

Jesus declared, "The one who hears these words of mine and put them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock...But he who hears and does not is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

Take time today, perhaps right now to thank God for his blessing of communication. Listen! Do you hear Him?

-RANDALL CASELMAN

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/13/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Bill Alumbaugh      Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
Greeters ..... Joe Hott, Gary McCool      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Harold Phillips  
Closing Prayer ..... Roger Arnold  
Nursery Workers ..... Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jerry Orr      Song Leader ..... Mark Bagwell  
Greeters ..... John Bowman, Don Cope      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Tom Verkler  
Closing Prayer ..... Tracy Bowman  
Nursery Workers ..... Monica Klingman, Vicki Lunsford      Van Driver ..... Mark and Wilma Bagwell

#### March Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mike York      Streaming Coordinator ..... James Beaty  
Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson      Video Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson