

**Family & Friends..... May 25, 2022**

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a fore-taste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His spirit, washed in His blood." This beautiful hymn was written by Fanny Crosby in 1873. As an infant she was accidentally blinded by a country doctor's application of a mustard poultice to her eyes. Yet as she grew into a tiny and energetic woman, she never became bitter or resentful. Her spirit was one of joy and enthusiasm. Her resolution was to enjoy life and to be appreciative of her many blessings. She led a full and active life. Fanny possessed a gift for rhyming at an early age and had an acute memory and a great gift of insight and deep concentration. William Bradbury challenged her to turn to writing Christian hymns. From that time forth, it is said she never wrote another secular song and that she prayed fervently prior to setting pen to paper. Many of her hymns seem to flow from her mind as fluidly as her conversation. Millions of Christians all over the world have been inspired and encouraged by her words. Her lifetime production of hymns has been estimated to exceed 8000! To God Be the Glory!

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)*

We love our visitors: Kellie Richmond (Craig, CO), Reese & Jessica Crawford (Bentonville), and Chassteen Bergeron.

Those on our prayer list: Continue to remember Jessica Green in the loss of her grandmother and Cindy Johnson in the loss of her sister. Muriel McSweeny had gallbladder surgery Tuesday. Cindy Johnson will have knee surgery Thursday May 26th. Pat Musson will be undergoing radiation treatments for cancer and asks for prayers. Pray for Mike Lacey, is having some problems after his surgery. Renee Reeves had a stroke. Continue to remember and pray for the Porter Family, Cory Roberts, Millie Pogue, Beth Lemmons, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and the babies that need the special formulas to survive and their parents.

Remember our 5th Sunday Fellowship Potluck Brunch this coming Sunday.

Items needed for Children's Home: Canned chicken/salmon, tuna, pie fillings, and trash bags. Food Pantry: Cookies/cakes/brownie mixes, cooking oil, jelly/honey, Ravioli/beefaroni/Spaghetti O's, instant potatoes.

When God calls, we need to answer. 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  
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

**WEDNESDAY**

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

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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**Bella Vista**

**MEMBERS**

**Is It Possible?**

*Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."*

*And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:22-33)*

He had sent them on ahead to the other side of the sea so that he could spend some time communicating with the Father. The crowds had all gone home and Jesus started making his way across to meet them. Although they had left quite a bit earlier, they were still in the middle of the sea trying to row against the wind. That's when they saw him. He was making his way toward them walking on top of the water!

It can't be, can it? They had never seen anyone do that. They had probably never even heard of anyone doing that. Reason and logic told them that this could not be a person, that's why they assumed it was a ghost.



For those disciples in the boat that night, seeing Jesus walking on the water was probably the most incredible thing they had ever witnessed.

Peter, however, was not content to just witness this great event. He wanted to participate. I can't imagine the sensation that Peter experienced when once called by Jesus, he stepped out of that little boat and didn't immediately begin to sink. It was impossible, yet he was doing it. It didn't take long before the wind and the waves caught his attention and Peter began to sink, but Jesus answered his frantic cry for help and rescued him from certain death.

There are so many things that capture our attention in this narrative. And while we think back on what it must have been like to witness this the way those first disciples did, we need to remember that this event remains incredibly instructive for us today as we strive to follow Jesus who makes possible the impossible.

We have watched the way in which Jesus made a difference in the world around him and we have said that we want to be like him, only to find out that it is not as easy as we had initially expected. We've had those days when it seems like nothing is going our way. We may have a difficult coworker who seems determined to cause us trouble. Maybe it seems as if nothing we do is good enough for our boss. Perhaps we have been in the crosshairs of someone who is having a bad day and we find ourselves on the receiving end of an unpleasant rant. We may find ourselves being pushed or pulled toward in the direction of sin that just seems too hard to resist.

It's on those days, when we are called to be loving, patient, and kind to those around us, that being like Jesus seems almost impossible. Extending forgiveness to someone who has hurt us may seem like something we're not going to be able to do. Trying to stay morally pure and ethically upright in a culture that hits us with opportunities to engage in sin like waves pounding the shore may seem as far fetched as walking on water. This narrative reminds us of our desperate need to be close to him, to reach out to him and to continually call out to him for help. It reminds us that we can overcome the struggles and temptations that come our way if we will keep him as our central focus.

We have all experienced rowing against the wind in one way or another. We all need to get across the sea of our own sins that have separated us from God. We found that it was impossible to accomplish this under our own steam. But God sent Jesus to make possible what was impossible for us. Let's stay close to him and focused on him as we continue our journey.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Christlikeness

Two beautiful hymns that we sing speak of being transformed into the image, or likeness, of Christ: The second stanza of "Take Time to Be Holy" and the chorus of "Oh To Be Like Thee."

*"Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
Abiding in Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be,  
thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see."*

*"Oh to be like Thee! Oh, to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer,  
pure as Thou art; Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy full-  
ness; Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart."*

The name "Christian" is a patronymic name, coming from the name "Christ." A vital part of wearing His name is becoming like Him. Religion is personal! Duty is individual! He, as Lord (Kurios), is to dwell in me and completely control my life. The more I look at Jesus, the more I follow Him, and have communion with Him, the more "conformed to the image of God's Son" I become. (Romans 8:29) How Christ must be thrilled to see disciples drawing nearer to Him by greater degrees of resemblance.

"Jesus Christ," said Phillips Brooks, "is the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity." He was not simply God's messenger, but God's message. To the Christian He is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer and Lord.

Some of the most awesome words ever to come from human lips were: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:19) God makes Himself understood through the life of Jesus. Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus! Look at His life! Listen to His Words! They are the Words of the Father. Faith must order one's life in harmony with what Jesus did and said.

Christianity proceeds upon the proposition that God the Father is what Jesus is. The apostle Paul put it this way: "In Him (Christ) dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col. 2:9)

Christ is the "image of the invisible God." It was Irenaeus who once said, "Christ became what we are in order that we might become what He is." Jesus left us the pattern and the perfect example along with "the power to become." (John 1:12) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)

The magnetism of Christian influence comes from the fact that others see Jesus in the Christian. This is the grandest and

most powerful argument for Christianity this world has ever known. The faith of people in religion in general does not rest upon higher criticism, theology, or even in logic, but in the life of one in whom and through whom Jesus lives.

The apostle Paul had this to say about his experience and life with Christ: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all could say what Paul said, or the similar words of Babcock:

*"I envy not the twelve. Nearer to me is He.  
The life He once lived here on earth  
He lives again in me."*

"Oh to be like Thee! Oh to be like Thee."

-CHARLES CASH

From *Lifelines* January 24, 2018



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/29/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Joe Hott	Song Leader .....	Anthony Christiano
Greeters .....	Chris Johnson, Gary McCool	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Dallas Dobbs
	Closing Prayer.....		Ray Reiss
	Nursery Workers .....		Janet Alumbaugh, Patsy McCool

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Tom Verkler	Song Leader .....	Stephen Hunt
Greeters .....	John Bowman, Mike Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Bryan Busbee
	Closing Prayer.....		Don Butcher
Nursery Workers .....	Monica Klingman, Vicki Lunsford	Van Driver .....	Bryan Busbee

#### May Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator .....	Mark Tucker	Streaming Coordinator .....	Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator .....	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator .....	Marquis Elliott