

**Family & Friends..... May 4, 2022**

I am patiently waiting for the hummingbirds to arrive and have heard some of them have already made their way here. The feeders are out and ready to go. The birds and wildlife have a way of boosting my spirit. After losing my husband, I need that now. I have three new red baby foxes, plus their mom and dad, which are living close to my backyard woods. They are sooo cute! When they are naughty their mom or dad round them up and bring them back to their den. One of the babies came to my sliding glass door and pressed its little face into the glass and looked at me. It was so special! The whole neighborhood is loving the new Fox Family.

I want to thank everyone for their support, help, love, food, calls, flowers, visits, and much more in the loss of my husband, Robert. God is so good and has blessed me and our family in many ways. I cannot even begin to thank everyone enough for everything they did for us. A big thank you to Nan and the ladies who prepared a meal for us after the memorial service. I love you all! It is a great blessing to have a church family so loving and caring for others. God bless you all.

*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.  
(Philippians 4:13)*

We love our visitors: Chasteen Bergenon, Austin & Kayla Bishop, and Jacob Haskins (Rogers), Sherry & Rosie Burnett (Bentonville), Nathaniel & Jessica Green (BV), and Tony & Jan Ball, Parker and Bryer.

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go to Robb Hadley in the loss of his wife, Charles Harvey in the loss of his wife, David Saunders in the loss of his mother, and Jessica Green in the loss of her grandmother. Please keep all these families in your prayers, along with the Horton family. Continue to remember and pray for Doug Klingman, Eleah Porter, Georgine Caylor, Steve & Karen Ashcraft, Pat Musson, Beth Lemmons, our missionaries, our military and police, our president and our country.

A big welcome to John and Suzanne Hayes who have placed membership with our congregation!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: salsa, corn meal, tuna, crackers, Jell-o, and trash bags. Our May Food Pantry: cookies/cake/brownie mixes, cooking oil, ravioli, beefaroni, jelly, Spaghetti-O's, honey, and instant potatoes.

When you think of all that's good, give thanks to God. 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**

<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)	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

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**ELDERS**

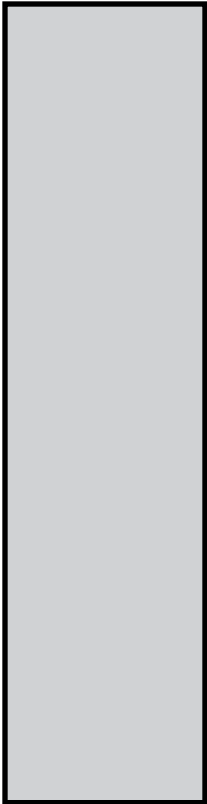
Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439  
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379  
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**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



**Bella Vista**

**LIVESTREAMERS**

**This Was Us**

*They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.  
(Mark 5:1-5 ESV)*

He would have been a frightening sight to see. His behavior was erratic. There was a wild look in his eyes. He was naked and filthy. He was scarred from self-inflicted injuries and scarred because of the attempts that others had made to bind him with chains. This fierce-looking wild man who lived among the tombs was the first person Jesus and his disciples met as they stepped out of the boat in the country of the Gerasenes.

We don't know all that much about him other than what Mark records for us. We wonder how long he has been in this condition. He may have started out life as most of the rest of us do. Imagine him as a little child; sitting in his mother's lap and the apple of his father's eye. He may have been found playing with his friends in the village and just being a normal boy. We don't know exactly when, but we do know that something terrible happened. He was demon possessed, and not just by one but by many (Mark 5:9).

We read this account and have some trouble relating to it. This narrative leads to questions of demonic possession and whether it still occurs like this today. We wonder what that must have been like. After all we have never experienced this, never met anyone like this before. Or have we?



## Youth Notes

As difficult as this may be for us to think about, we have more in common with this demon-possessed man than we might realize. We started out in life innocent. But somewhere along the way, at some time that may be difficult for us to pinpoint, something terrible happened. We began going our own way. We began drifting away from the God who made us until we found ourselves enslaved to sin. Like this man of whom we read in Mark's gospel, we became filthy. We stood naked and exposed before God with no way to make it right. We have scars. We carry the scars from the self-inflicted wounds from hurting ourselves in living a life of sin. We may even carry the scars inflicted on us by other well-meaning people who have tried to help but weren't able to deal with our sin. We have spent our time living with the dead, others who preferred to stay away from the source of life. This was us.

*And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. (Mark 5:6-8, 14-15)*

Somewhere along the way we encountered Jesus. Unlike the rest, we didn't scare him off. He didn't seem to recoil or flinch at our ugliness, our filthiness, or our nakedness and shame. He loved us even in that condition. He was able to deal with the sin that had enslaved us. He redeemed us, clothed us, and set our minds and hearts in the right direction. What it took on our part was to come to the realization that he is the only one who could free us from our enslavement, and to run to him for help.

*As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled. (Mark 5:18-20)*

The narrative that Mark gives us in this section is incredibly powerful. For when we realize all we have in common with the man possessed by demons, it will bring us to our knees in thanks to God for his great love for us. It will also move us to share our stories with those who are in need of the life-saving message of Jesus.

-JEFF GRISHAM

What an exciting time of the year! Spring brings so much new life, longer days, warmer temps, graduations, allergies, busy calendars and so much more. Speaking of busy calendars, it is about to be a busy June for the teens. We have our El Salvador mission trip June 10-18 for the first time in 3 years. It is so exciting to finally be sending a group to El Salvador again and we are thrilled to have 3 teens who will have the opportunity to serve in this way to start the summer. Right after that it's back to Green Valley again with plans for another great year. And as soon as we get back from Green Valley we'll be packing our bags again to head to Uplift at Harding University for the first time. Uplift is Harding's summer camp that provides a little taste of summer camp while also familiarizing students with a small taste of college living. And what better place to do that than Hardings beautiful campus?

While summer is just around the corner the fun never stopped as we just returned from a weekend at the Ark Retreat. Again, the first time in 3 years we have been able to have this retreat with our friends from Johnson, Mt. Comfort, Center Street, and Farmington. Our group had a great time this year as we spent the weekend reflecting on our freedom in Christ that Paul speaks of in Romans 6-8.



As always, we will kick off our summer in a few short weeks with our Senior Sunday celebration. I hope you will make plans to be here to celebrate 4 amazing teens plus 1 college graduate. This is such an exciting time of the year and we hope you'll join us in prayer for our seniors and for safe travels and plenty of growth for all of our teens this summer as we seek to grow deeper, move closer, and reach farther.

-PARKER WILLIS



**Graduation  
Celebration  
May 22nd 6:00  
pm**



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/8/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Bill Alumbaugh      Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
 Greeters ..... Chris Johnson, Gary McCool      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Joe Hott  
 Closing Prayer ..... Dallas Dobbs  
 Nursery Workers ..... Bobette York, Shannon Hubanks

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jerry Orr      Song Leader ..... Mike Martin  
 Greeters ..... John Bowman, Mike Johnson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Tom Verkler  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tracy Bowman  
 Nursery Workers ..... Jennifer Busbee, Reagan Busbee      Van Driver ..... Bryan Busbee

#### May Worship Coordinators

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