

Family & Friends.....June 9, 2021

Randall & Georgia's Celebration of 35 Years with the Bella Vista congregation turned out to be a grand day! Sunday morning's attendance was great and also Sunday evening. Our two new Elders, Perry Johnson and Ray Reiss were installed. We are blessed to have all five of our Elders and their wives. I met some very nice ladies who sat in front of me from Paragould, where I grew up. We were also blessed with visitors who were there for Randall and Georgia's special day. Don & Ola Harless and Dennis & Regina Reinig came from Oklahoma, Jared Dockery and family from Searcy, Bob & Patsy Boynton, and Nathan Almond from Van Buren. Mary Louise Harris and J.B. & Patsy Tarr called with their best wishes from Florida and Kansas. We missed all of them when they moved and still do! We want to give a big thank you to all those who helped plan, set up, and clean up for this event! Pot Luck was delicious, and that is because we have some great cooks. It has been sad for all of us to say our farewells to Randall and Georgia, but we are happy for them also. We wish them well on their next journey. Thank you, Lord, we have been blessed many times over and over in this congregation with their love and service for us and others.... To God Be the Glory.

If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; And where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.
John 12:26

We're happy to announce that Mary Bell Banks daughter, Kathy, and son, Ervin, were baptized into Christ last week. What a joyful event!

Those on our prayer list: Please pray for all those who have recently lost loved ones and their families: Billy & Debbie Helms, Glen & Jerry Kirkes, Mike & Robin Spencer, the Perkins family, and the Klingman family. Muriel McSweeny is still struggling from her fall last week that fractured two vertebrae, and in a lot of pain. Pat Musson had a fall last Thursday. She suffered some cuts and bruises, but nothing broken. Jeff & Jennifer Oxford are at Mayo Clinic for a checkup for Jennifer. Continue to remember pray for: Sharon Van Pelt's mother, Alex and Heidi Hodge's grandmother, Leon English who is on home hospice, Hilda Jones, Cliff Wheelock, Ron Beaty, Heidi Hott, Glen Orlia Whitman, Judith Carmical, Mike Lacey, Krista Magness, Zeryl Clark, Kim Weiler & family, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

A big welcome to our new members Joe & Christy Slocum and Don and Linda Goings! We are happy to have you all here with us to worship and serve our Lord.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: baked beans, taco sauce, mustard, spam, and paper plates. For Food Pantry: relish, oil, mayo, ketchup, mustard, pork & beans, baked beans, brownie mixes.

A solid foundation gives strength to a building and a life.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day.... *Karen*

**Bella Vista
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

LORD'S DAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

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
Selwyn Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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Bella Vista

Navigating Change

Change happens in a hurry doesn't it? In the past month we have witnessed graduations, weddings, baptisms, births, deaths, and other life events that remind us of the consistency of change. Here we are in the first part of June 2021. Only a year ago we were in the early stages of a pandemic that changed the way we lived day-to-day, and will probably carry changes that will stay with us for a long time.

But things are supposed to change, aren't they? In fact, as we observe nature and the change of seasons, it seems to be that this is God's way of communicating to us the constant nature of change. Everything changes.

We have several changes that are occurring here in this church. This past Sunday we welcomed two new shepherds in the morning, and said goodbye to a minister and his wife who have served this congregation for 35 years that evening. Change happens quickly. Change is inevitable. We need to know how to navigate it.

I want you to go with me to John 14. Jesus is looking into the faces of a group of people who are about to undergo a serious change. We know that eleven of the twelve disciples are there. For these eleven men, life was about to change dramatically. Others who may not have been present here would all too soon witness the crucifixion and be involved in this change as well. It is in the midst of this situation, and his knowledge of what is about to happen that Jesus gives some instructions on dealing with change.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the

MEMBER



truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

John 14:1-7 ESV

First we need to be confident in what we know. There are a lot of things that we may not know. We may not know how everything is going to turn out. We may not be certain of the direction that life may take. We cannot be certain about exactly what will happen in the future. But we can be certain of who Jesus is and we can be certain that if we are in Him, our ultimate future is secure. And while we may not know everything concerning Jesus, we need to be confident in his identity as the only way to God as we continue to grow in our knowledge of him. When uncertainty rushes at us, we need to remember and rely on who Jesus is and continue to place our trust and hope in him.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:15-17 ESV

We need to rely on the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised his disciples his help and his presence through the Holy Spirit. That same promise is available to those of us who are in Christ today. We can follow the lead of the Spirit, listen to what he has given us through Scripture and rely on him as we bring our concerns to God in prayer.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. -

John 15:1-5 ESV

We need to abide in Christ. Notice how important he says this is. Apart from him we can do nothing. But, with him, all things are possible. We can have a relationship with him and the Father. We can have the Holy Spirit of God live in us. We can be forgiven, redeemed people with real hope and a future. We can confidently navigate changes that come our way if our relationship with and confidence in Jesus doesn't change. May God bless us as we all navigate the changes that life throws our way.

—JEFF GRISHAM

Give Thanks

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2:6-7

“And let the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in work or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Colossians 3:15-17

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

The Apostle Paul writes often in the letter to the Colossians about being thankful. To receive Christ, to walk in him, to be rooted and established in him means to abound in thanksgiving. When the peace of God rules in our hearts it causes us to be thankful. Our thankfulness overflows in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that express the grace in our hearts. Whatever we do in word or deed we do in the name of the Lord with thanksgiving. Thankfulness is one of the hallmarks of a Christian's prayer life.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton (G.K. Chesterton) was an English writer, philosopher, lay theologian, and literary and art critic. He has been referred to as the "prince of paradox". Chesterton wrote this about thankfulness: "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Who wouldn't want to have their happiness doubled by wonder? Living a life of gratitude and thankfulness is one of the surest ways to know true happiness.

Not everything that happens to us in life is necessarily good. There are bad things that happen to good people and good things that happen to bad people. However, the Bible says that the Christian can be thankful in every circumstance.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians, *“Rejoice always, pray with-*

out ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) He writes to the church in Philippi, *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:11-13). These words to the Philippians were written from his prison in Rome and one of the major themes of the Book of Philippians is “Rejoice and again I say Rejoice!

Paul writes these words of wisdom to the church at Ephesus, *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God”* (Ephesians 5:18-21). There may be some who believe letting the good times roll and getting drunk is the best fun in the world. Paul contradicts this. A man under the influence of alcohol often is not himself. He may do strange things that he does not even remember a day later. Paul says it is better to be under the influence of God's Spirit than it is to be under the influence of alcoholic spirits. When we are led by God's spirit it leads to rejoicing with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, and it leads to thankfulness in all circumstances of life. *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”* (Philippians 4:4)

—L. SCOTT GAGE
Fayetteville, AR

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 6/13/21

First Service

Welcome & Prayer.....Roger Arnold Song Leader.....Lee McCain
Greeters.....Gary McCool/Ken Rosenbaum Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Bill Alumbaugh

Second Service

Welcome & Prayer.....Parker Willis Song Leader.....Mark Bagwell
Greeters.....John Bowman/Don Cope Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Bryan Busbee

June Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator.....Mark Tucker Streaming Coordinator.....Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator.....Homer Makinson Video Coordinator.....Matt Grisham