

**Family & Friends..... August 17, 2022**

Summer will soon be coming to an end and school has just started back again. We wish all our students well and hope they have a fantastic year! Autumn will be here in about thirty plus days, and with the way time seems to be flying by, it will be here sooner than we think. August is known for its bright planets and the stunning moon scenes in the sky. Then, if we throw in the Meteor showers and the supermoon, we may see even more beautiful and amazing views in the sky. Who doesn't enjoy seeing a shooting star in the night sky? In August of this year the planets are visible in both the night and the morning sky! Now, don't forget to eat your okra. Did you know it is a nutritious food source with many health benefits? Okra comes in two colors red and green. Both taste the same and when cooked the red okra turns green. Okra is rich in vitamin A&C and abounds in B vitamins. Okra can be fried, stewed, boiled, grilled, baked or eaten raw. Now, as for the slime issue, the secret is finding the right okra recipe. Keep feeding the Hummingbirds before they head South for the winter. They have lot of energy and need their nectar. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and fix a pan of cornbread, a pot of purple hull peas, and don't forget the okra. God is good! Thank you, Lord, for all our amazing blessings!

*There is an appointed time for everything. There is a time for every event under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

We are blessed with our visitors: George & Cynthia Ruff (Apple Valley, CA), Cody, Abel, Jasper & Emily Johnson (Olathe, KS), Jeremy, Bailey, & Ashlee Beauchamp (Little Rock), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Gary & Karen Oliveira (Centerton), Craig & Patti Bertschy (Hiwasee), Jon & Chelsea Reeves and DJ & Savannah (Bentonville), Steve & Kris Benton & Chris & Karrie O'neal & Samantha, Carolyn Brown. (BV) and Kathy Willis.

Those on our prayer list. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Debbie Helms in the loss of her mother, Loisele Tyler. Bob Boynton had a heart cath last Friday. Pat Musson is in Circle of Life in Bentonville in Hospice Care. She may have visitors, but keep them brief. Continue to remember and pray for Becky Donceel, Eric Gibson, Sheila Reese, Penny Husky, Bob & Vicky Douthit, the Hunt's daughter, Anthom, Charles and Glenda Jones, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and our president.

Don't forget to check your handouts for when each of your Care Groups will meet this month!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: snacks, spaghetti, beef & chicken broth, salmon, liquid dish soap. Food Pantry for August: rice, jelly/honey, canned vegetables, beans-dry or canned, peanut butter, oil (canola, avocado, or vegetable).

Jesus loves me! This I know. 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  
Perry 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

<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**

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# Bella Vista

# MEMBERS

**What Kind of Father?**

Luke chapter 15 contains one of, if not the, most well known of the parables of Jesus, the parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable, as well as the two that immediately precede it, is told in response to those who believed Jesus to be a little too welcoming. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15:1-2) In light of this, Jesus challenges his listeners to watch the actions of the older brother of the parable, while at the same time understanding our condition before God the Father. It is a beautiful story of love, mercy and grace, as well as our response to that grace that is extended to all.

The father in this parable, however, is often overlooked... at least one aspect of his character is rarely the focus. We have focused on his longing for his son. We have talked about his great grace and compassion. We have heard lessons and devotionals about the robe, the ring, the sandals, and the feast. But, have we stopped and thought about what we see in the character of the father early in the parable.

As Jesus begins this parable he speaks of the younger son who wants his inheritance now, and a father that grants the request. What kind of father would do that? What kind of father gives his son something that he really doesn't deserve and quite possibly won't be able to handle correctly? Surely there were signs. Surely there must have been indications that this young man couldn't be counted on to do the right thing. The request for the early inheritance clearly shows impatience and a lack of maturity. The only desire he has for the relationship with his father is for what the father can give to him. In asking for the early disbursement, he essentially tells his father, "I can't wait for you to die. Give me all that I care about now." How could anyone be so unbelievably cruel to someone



who had provided for, cared for and sacrificed for him or her? What's more, how could a father, knowing the character of this morally lacking, immature, selfish, ungrateful son just hand over his share of the inheritance?

As we stop and think about this little section of this great parable, understanding God as the father, we get a glimpse into the heart of God. God, who made us in his image, who has given us life and blessed us in many, many ways, has given us free will. He allows us to have our way even if it is not what is best for us. He lets us go our own direction, even if that direction is away from him. He allows us freedom, even freedom to rebel, even though it breaks his heart. Like a parent that wants the best for his child and continually watches that child make poorer choice after poorer choice, God weeps over our rebellion.

We hear God calling out to his rebellious people, Israel, in many places throughout the Old Testament. It doesn't stop there. Just a few chapters from this parable, Luke records Jesus's lament over Jerusalem. *And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."* (Luke 19:41-44)

This brings a question. If rebellion and suffering as a result are real possibilities, then why does he let us choose? God wants a relationship with humanity. But, he wants that relationship based on us choosing to love him. He wants us to freely choose him, understanding that he has loved us from the beginning, and has continually blessed us.

God wants us to "come to ourselves." He wants nothing more than for us to see how far we have traveled away from the image in which we were created, and to realize that we are not where we belong. He wants us to return to him. He watches, he waits, he yearns, and longs for our return. He wants us badly enough to send his son to make the way back to him so that we can be reunited with him; not only as servants, but as children with full family privileges.

Each and every day we have opportunities to choose to move closer or further away from him. He has done everything possible for us to continue to be a part of his family. Why would we want to move away from that kind of Father?

-JEFF GRISHAM

## The Close of a Busy Summer

Whew! Glad to finally sit back and breathe for a bit as summer has come to a close. July was full of activity from VBS to SWAT to our back to school lockout the first week-

end in August. It was great to have VBS for 4 nights again this year and to take a look at the fruit of the Spirit and learning how to be people who are led by God and his Spirit. One of our story rooms



was of Jesus in the wilderness and everyone got to experience that from a very realistic perspective as the A/C unit struggled to take on a full week of 100+ degree temperatures. Overall we got to see some great groups and plenty of visitors at every age level, I know we have several who are already looking forward to next year with eager anticipation.



Just over a week after VBS we jumped right into SWAT week where we were able to help out 5 different members of our church family/community on Sunday as well as write cards to

every single kid who attended VBS to tell them how excited we were that they came. We then got to spend Monday through Wednesday helping out at a community garden, a local thrift shop, boys and girls club of Bentonville, and much more!

Our teens were able to serve in so many unique ways that week help countless others with a few days work.



We finally ended the summer almost 2 weeks ago now with our back to school lockout with our biggest group ever. With a total of 26 people who were there most of the night we got to say bye to Ethan and thank him for his work as intern this summer, spend



some time climbing, putting me in a dunk tank, and ending the night as always with our 5 a.m. waffle house breakfast. This is always a great way to end summer and while I hate to



see summer has come to an end I hope you'll join me in praying for all of our students of every age as they begin this new school year.

-PARKER WILLIS

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/21/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Randall Hunt      Song Leader ..... Sammy McCain  
 Greeters ..... David Saunders, Terry Roberts      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mark Tucker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Bill Alumbaugh  
 Nursery Workers ..... Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... John Caylor      Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
 Greeters ..... John Bowman, Mike Johnson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Don Butcher  
 Closing Prayer ..... Perry Johnson  
 Nursery Workers ..... Jennifer Busbee, Reagan Busbee      Van Driver ..... Mark/Wilma Branstetter

#### August Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Harold Phillips      Streaming Coordinator ..... Kyle Dillard  
 Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson      Video Coordinator ..... Marquis Elliott