

Family & Friends..... August 18, 2021

Last week was an interesting week. I could almost imagine what it might be like to be in a hurricane while the wind and rain came with a vengeance. The unusual sound the storm was making made it worth paying attention to. Our neighborhood feral cat, Snowwhite, has been missing. She had a litter of kittens and was looking sick. Everyone has been looking for her to take her to a vet. They finally found her today; she had been hiding in the woods behind our house. No sign of her babies. The neighbors noticed three raccoons in our back yards, and we had a sinking feeling what their fate might have been. We will know soon if the mama is sick. Why do I tell you this, it is all part of nature, so we move on. She is a beautiful and brave little cat that has been living in the wild taking care of herself and looking out for her babies. She brings our neighbors together, and that's a good thing. I felt she deserved to be mentioned. There is always a lesson to be learned in everything we encounter. Pray for our young people and the teachers who are starting back to school with the challenges they all face. They need lots of prayers! We thank You, God, in everything, no matter what the circumstance may be. You are greater than any trial or tribulation we may be going through and You give us peace.

Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father. Ephesians 5:20

Those on our prayer list: Phil Ward had a partial knee replacement last Tuesday and doing well. Doug Klingman had a toe removed on his right foot on August 17th. Chris O'Neal had surgery on Monday the 16th. Delores Haley needs prayers for her son, Leonard, who has Covid. Joe Hott is suffering with severe arthritis pain in his neck and shoulder. Orlene Webb is having trouble with her legs and struggling to walk. Becky Jones' daughter and granddaughter have Covid. Bob Musson is waiting for a surgery date. Continue to remember and pray for Mary Montgomery, Josh Metheny's father, Pat Musson, Robbie Arnold, Hilda Jones, Lynn Barnica, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus.

We are always happy to announce our visitors: Jared & Rebecca Mayes (Leominster, MA), Bob & Teri Ziegler (Stilwell, KS), Joshua & Madelyn Sloan (Joplin, MO), Lee Moore (Marion, AR), Jerry & Pat Snyder (Rogers), Alice Johanson (Centerton), Nathanael & Jessica Green, and Brad & Kelli Homeyer (Bella Vista).

We thank Jared & Rebecca Mayes for being with us this Lord's Day. Jared is trying out for the new ministry position. Great job Jared!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: pie fillings, egg noodles, spam, spinach, fruit cups, and bleach. For Our Food Pantry: breakfast muffins mixes, applesauce, fruit cups, cake mixes & muffins, Ravioli, and applesauce.

A heart touched by grace brings joy to the face. 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
Selwyn Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

Bella Vista

MINISTERS

That We May All Be One

As we follow the story of God throughout the Bible we see his desire for his people to be united. We see it in Genesis 2 where God says, "It is not good that man should be alone." God exists in eternal communion, eternal relationship as Father, Son, and Spirit. Humanity, created in the image of God, is made for relationship.

Nowhere in Scripture is God's desire for relationships among and unity of his people more evident than in the prayer of Jesus that John records for us in John 17. On the very night when Jesus was arrested and would be headed for the cross, we hear him pray. If this were you and I facing what Jesus faced, I can imagine that prayer would be a prayer for our deliverance. Jesus does that. Matthew, Mark and Luke all record Jesus asking God to take away what he was about to face. But John gives us more about that prayer. Jesus prays for himself, as he knows what is about to take place. Then he prays for that little group of followers that have devoted their lives to him, as he knows what they are going to face in the very near future. Then he prays for all who would become his followers, as more people will come to see him and know him.

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (John 17:20-23 ESV)

With the horror of the crucifixion only hours away, Jesus makes a plea to the Father for the unity of believers. What a thought! I think this illustrates for us how important this really is to God.



There are a few things we need to keep in mind when it comes to being united as God's people.

Unity has God at the center. We can rally around different causes. We can cooperate on various projects and even ministries. But true unity is found in God. The prayer of Jesus is that we be one in Him and the Father. It is an invitation to be part of that eternal community of Father, Son and Spirit. Causes may get resolved. Projects will be completed. Ministries may change based on various needs. God is always constant and must be the focus of our unity.

Unity is formative. Unity is more than mere coexistence. Unity is not just tolerance. Unity is being one in direction and purpose. This means that we there will be some shaping that goes on if we are to be united. It means that we will have to listen to one another. It means we will have to serve one another in love. It means that we will have to submit to one another. It will take learning from one another, extending grace to one another, and bearing with one another.

Unity has a purpose. In this prayer of Jesus we see the purpose of this unity and that is to confirm that Jesus really is who he says he is. It is our witness to the world that God can take vastly different people with varied opinions, politics, backgrounds, and cultures and unite them in love and purpose. Conversely, when we fail to be united, when we fuss, fight, hold grudges, and participate in the divisiveness we see in the world around us, it appears that the Gospel of Jesus is ineffective and that the church is just another exclusionary group instead of the Kingdom of God where all are welcomed, valued and loved.

This passage also puts us, as followers of Jesus, in a unique position. We have the opportunity to be an answer to the prayer of Jesus. God, through what he has done in Jesus, has given us the Spirit that enables us to be united. The choice is ours. Will we lean on him, look to him, and rely on him to help us as we attend to the work of becoming one in him? Will we be an answer to the prayer of Jesus?

-JEFF GRISHAM



Ways We Can Bear With One Another

We would probably all acknowledge that not every Christian is easy to get along with. Sometimes it is personalities that collide. Sometimes unforgiveness enters the picture. Two people often have vastly different perspective on matters of importance. Others are just walking down a painful road, and we are unaware of how difficult it is for them. Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). The New Living Translation renders this, "making allowances for each other's faults." Living together in the community of faith carries with it the responsibility of getting along when it's difficult. From this text in Ephesians 4 and a sister passage in Colossians 3, I see seven ways we can bear with one another in Love.

1. Always Start with Yourself: Be Completely Humble. Three times Peter reminds his readers to be humble (1 Peter 3:8, 5:5,6). As someone who is not perfect, I can treat another imperfect person with respect.

2. Treat Others As You Want to Be Treated: Be Gentle. The Golden Rule reminds us that we should be treating others gently, as we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12). Francis de Sales said, "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

3. Give The Other Person Some Time: Be Patient. When we are tempted to be impatient with others, we should remember how patient Jesus has been with us. Paul says that we should be clothed with patience (Colossians 3:12-13).

4. You Do Not Know the Pain of Others: Be Compassionate (Colossians 3:12). Our experiences in life impact who we are and how we relate to others. It helps us to realize that we do not know the whole story of the person with whom we may be having trouble getting along.



5. Brighten the life of the Other Person: Be Kind (Colossians 3:12). Spurgeon said, "Kind words bring no blisters on the tongue that speaks them, nor on the ear which hears them. Kind words are never wasted. Like scattered seeds, they spring up in unexpected places. ... He who expects kindness should show kindness."

6. You May Have to Let Some Things Go: Be Forgiving. In Colossians 3:13, Paul reveals the measure of forgiving others when he writes, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Contemplating our own forgiveness from the Lord reminds us how much we need to forgive others.

7. You May have to Try Harder: Make Every Effort. Ephesians 4:3 says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Bearing with one another takes a deliberate effort - and it is worth the effort!

Bearing with one another can be a challenge, but it is a part of our calling. If you have difficulty bearing with the faults of others in your church or family, remember that someone else is doing their best to bear with you in love.

-JOHN DOBBS
Forsythe Church of Christ
Monroe, Louisiana

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/22/21

First Service

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Welcome, Prayer & Scripture | Joe Hott | Song Leader | Lee McCain |
| Greeters | Gary McCool/David Saunders | Communion Scripture & Prayer | Dallas Dobbs |
| Closing Prayer..... | | Aaron Sloan | |
| Nursery Workers | | Mary Bell Banks, Shannon Hubanks | |

Second Service

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Welcome, Prayer & Scripture..... | Jerry Orr | Song Leader | Mark Bagwell |
| Greeters | Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson | Communion Scripture & Prayer | Tom Verkler |
| Closing Prayer..... | | Perry Johnson | |
| Nursery Workers..... | | Robin Kinder, Brenda Branstetter | |
| Van Driver | | Wilma Bagwell | |

August Worship Coordinators

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Worship Coordinator | Mike York | Streaming Coordinator | James Beaty |
| Audio Coordinator | Homer Makinson | Video Coordinator | Marquis Elliott |