

**Family & Friends..... August 4, 2021**

The month of July ends and now hello, August. August is a little unique in a standard year, there is no other month that begins on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, August begins on the same day of the week as February. Some of the hottest days of the year often happen in August. Make sure you stock up on all your fresh garden veggies while you still can! Support our farmers! It's time to buy school supplies and all that it entails with starting back to school. Be happy when you get a summer rain in August. We still have more light to read by. History in the month of August: The Model T Ford known as the "Tin Lizzie", and the first mass produced car, went on sale in 1908, the Great Train Robbery in 1963, World War 11 ends in 1945, First Roller Skating Rink opened in the U.K. in 1875, the first communication satellite, Echo 1, was launched in Florida, Columbus set sail on his first voyage in 1492, and the sandwich was created when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two pieces of bread in 1762. Try as hard as you can to keep the flies out of the house, they always find a way of getting in. Enjoy the rest of summer! Take a summer nap and have a nice glass of iced tea when you get up. God gave His Seasons for a purpose. To God Be the Glory! God is good!

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

Those on our prayer list: Phil Ward is scheduled to have knee surgery August 10th. Chris O'Neal has a malignant tumor on one of his kidneys. They are waiting to see the surgeon for a date. Jeff and Jennifer Oxford will return to the Mayo Clinic sometime in August and will be there until October for Jennifer's clinical study and treatment. Roy Barnica's father, Lynn, is in Rogers Mercy Hospital. Mary Montgomery asks for your prayers as she deals with health issues. Jenny Avery, a friend of the O'Neals, is in ICU on a ventilator with Covid. Pray for the Holthaus family's son, Jude, who is two and broke his leg. Continue to remember and pray for Heidi Hott, Judith Carmical, Pat Musson, Robbie Arnold, Hilda Jones, Rebecca Hedges, Mike Lacey, and for me, Karen, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the virus that has affected our country and around the world.

We thank our guess speaker, Cory Spruiell, and his wife, Ashley, for coming to Bella Vista and meeting the congregation. Cory is a candidate for the College/Young Family minister position. Good job!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: gravy mix, peaches, canned chicken & tuna, soups, and toilet bowl cleaner. For our Food Pantry: cake mixes, frosting, breakfast muffin mixes, applesauce, fruit cups, and Ravioli.

Invest your life in what pays eternal dividends. 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

**LORD'S DAY**  
Early Worship 8:15 AM  
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM  
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

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

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

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**Bella Vista**

**Can This Be True?**

*"So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us," (Acts 17:22-27 ESV)*

What an awesome scene! What it must have been like to be present at that moment and hear those words from Paul. What a beautiful passage of Scripture! These words continue to echo down through the years from when they were first spoken, and when we hear them and think about them, they have a lot still to say to us.

**First, God does not need anything from us.** This must have been a shock for that crowd. This is a totally new concept for the people to whom Paul speaks in Athens on that day. Their view of deities was one where humanity served and fulfilled the needs of the powers that be so that these deities would take care of them. They believed that if they offered the right sacrifices, performed the right rituals in the right way at the right time, it would manipulate their gods into protecting and blessing them. Paul informs them that The God, the One who created all that is seen and unseen has no needs and is not dependent on humanity to provide for Him.

**WITNESSES**



**Second, this God, The God, our God desires a relationship with us.** Even in God's self-sufficiency, he is not cold or distant or uncaring. God exists in eternal community, eternal relationship as Father, Son and Spirit. He created us for relationship with Him and with one another. This is amazing! This is almost unbelievable! God, who is sovereign, majestic, awesome, all-powerful, who spoke the universe into being, wants to have a relationship with frail and broken humanity.

**Third, God wants us to seek him, find him, and join ourselves to him.** Paul tells the people in Athens that day that God is all-powerful and self-sufficient, desires a relationship with them (and us), and that he is active in our search for him. He has created within humanity a desire to seek him. He does not remain hidden, but is close to humanity in hope that we will find him. Imagine how that must have sounded. Can this be true? Is there really a God like this?

It is true! It was true the day Paul spoke these words. It is still true today. And the implications of this are huge. God created us on purpose and for a purpose. We are the works of his hands, made in his image. This is not just a few, special people, but all of humanity is created in the image of God. This is something we need to remember as we interact with others on a daily basis; all human beings have this intrinsic value.

We have all tried to find various things to fill the God-shaped void in our lives, but were unsuccessful. We have tried (or are even possibly currently trying) wealth, power, pleasure, achievement, etc. with poor results. We have pursued other things that have led us in the wrong direction and have taken us away from God.

God has and continues to pursue us because of his desire to be with us. He did not leave us without a way to find him. He continually calls in all kinds of ways. The first is Creation. Paul writes to the church in Rome, *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

*(Romans 1:20)*

Scripture is another way that God reveals himself to us. Although the Bible was not written to us, it has been providentially preserved and passed along for us so that we can find God in its pages. Through the Bible we see all that God has done and what he promises to continue to do so that we can be his people and live with him face to face.

Let's spend some time this week reflecting on these great truths. God in his absolute power, majesty, sovereignty, holiness, righteousness, and love needs nothing from us. But this same God wants from us a relationship where we trust him enough to obey him and follow where he leads. And to make this happen, God has and continues to pursue us because of his great love and grace.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Listening to the Voice of God

Communication is a marvelous blessing from God. It enables us to exchange ideas and to express our love one-to-another. God not only blesses us with this ability to communicate with one another, but also with Him. We talk to him in prayer, and He speaks to us in at least three ways: (1) through nature..*The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the work of his hands...Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.* (2) Through Divine providence. He brings people and situations into our lives, which provide us with guidance and opportunities to serve and share the gospel. (3) And through His inspired Word. You see, nature tells us God is. Providence gives us opportunities. And the Bible tells us how to have a salvational relationship with Him. The question is, who are we hearing? Jesus said, *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* How can we equip ourselves to better hear God?

**Be tuned in through the Word.** In the electronic communications world, there are signals in the air on many frequencies: AM, FM, TV, police, emergency, military, ham, aircraft, boat, microwave, and satellite, but we don't hear them unless we are tuned in. Folks, God *IS* speaking to us..Are we listening? Are we tuned in? Who are we tuned in to?... God or the world? David reminds us to *be still and know that Jehovah is God.* Jesus often went to a quiet place to communicate with the Father. Samuel was called in the still of the night. If we are to hear the voice of God, we too must tune Him in, invite Him to speak, and then listen for His communication. How many of us are spending quiet time in meditation and in the Word? Listening?

**Avoid selective hearing.** When we were young, we could hear high frequency sounds, but through the years we are no longer able to distinguish them. They are within an audible range, but go unheard. Sometimes we husbands practice selective hearing with our wives, hearing only what we want to hear. Is it possible that some of us practice this with God? We are selective in the verses we read. We are found listening to teachers we know will say what we want to hear. Paul was speaking of this kind of listening when he told Timothy, *Preach the Word...For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around the teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.* I wonder how many blessings we rob ourselves of by this narrow minded selective process?

**We must be sensitive to things spiritual.** Too many of us have actually damaged our ears by listening to Satan, so that we are no longer sensitive to the whisper and nudging of the Spirit. The Hebrew's writer speaks of some *who have seared their consciences* to the point that they are no longer sensitive to God's communication. Paul writes to some who no longer listened to God, *Although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their foolish hearts were darkened. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator.*

**Be willing to obey what we hear.** The Word of God is purposeful, powerful, and penetrating. Within it is the power to convince and convict, power to change our lives, to give us direction, forgive our sins, comfort, guide, and sustain us, save us in heaven, but only if we are willing to obey its commands. Moses told Israel, *Be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left.* James said, do not merely listen to the word, do what it says. Jesus declared, *Those who hear these words of mine and put them into practice are like a wise man who built his house on the rock... But the one who hears and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.*

Let me encourage each of us to take time today, perhaps right now, to thank God for his blessing of communication. Then make a commitment to practice hearing God's communication, daily.

-RANDALL CASELMAN

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/8/21

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Roger Arnold	Song Leader .....	Lee McCain
Greeters .....	Gary McCool/David Saunders	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Bill Alumbaugh
Closing Prayer.....		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers .....		Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker	

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....	Perry Johnson	Song Leader .....	Anthony Christiano
Greeters .....	Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Stephen Hunt
Closing Prayer.....		Curt LaPorte	
Nursery Workers ..	Mary Jane Butcher, Mary Jane Harrington	Van Driver .....	Bryan Busbee

#### August Worship Coordinators

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