

**Family & Friends..... September 14, 2022**

Woolly Bear Caterpillars or Woolly Worms have a reputation for being able to forecast the weather. A good time to look for these fuzzy wuzzies are in the Fall. There are two generations of worms each year. The second- generation worms in September are considered the “weather prophets.” You can hunt for them under leaves and logs or find them crossing the road. Once you spot a woolly worm along its way on the ground or road, you will see them everywhere! They are more active during the day as they feast on common plants. They over-winters as larva. Their entire body enters a “frozen” state until May when it will emerge as the Isabella moth. If you see one, observe the colors of their bands. Folklore says if the rusty band is wide, then it will be a mild winter. If you see more- black on the band, the more severe the weather will be for the winter facing us. It might be fun to check it out and see if these little fuzzy wuzzies know the forecast for us this year! To God Be the Glory!

*By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established. Proverbs 24:3*

Our visitors put a smile on our face: Keith & Janet Gant (Singapore), Rick & Lisa Hendrix (Washburn), Sandi Koneman (Garfield), Shirley Blythe, Addie, Alivia, and Lili, Steve & Lael Ellison, and Jared & Andrea, Jaden & Jackson Olmstead. (all from BV) and Jacob McCoy with Abby.

Those on our prayer list: Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to the family of Elfieda Stice. Please keep the family in your prayers. Susan Duffy has been diagnosed with Chronic Restrictive Lung Disease. Nancy Cash had her surgery, is home and resting, waiting to hear from her doctor. Roy Barnica's father, Lynn, has cancer on one kidney and had a PET scan this week to see if it has spread to other areas. Continue to remember and pray for Pat & Bob Musson, Penny Huskey, Bob & Vicky Douthit, Charles & Glenda Jones, Reeves Family, Jennifer Oxford, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

We have a new deacon, Tyler White, and he says he is ready to go to work for the Lord. It's good to have you for our new deacon!

A baby shower for Abby Willis will be on September 18th from 3:30 to 5:30 in the fellowship hall. They are expecting twin girls!

Items needed for Children's Home: Pop Tarts, corn muffin mix, spaghetti sauce, pears, and body wash. September Food Pantry: Chicken & Beef Broths, instant potatoes, tuna, Tuna & Chicken Helpers, Taco Seasoning, and gravy mixes.

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

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

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

# Bella Vista

# MEMBERS

## Rest

*All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:27-30)*

Rest. What a welcome thought! Rest. The invitation extended to those in the audience that day would have certainly been welcome, even if a little confusing. That invitation is still a welcome sound as we read it again, but can still be confusing.

We know that God expects things of his people, and that those things are often difficult. We read of God's interaction with his people all throughout Scripture and take note of the demands that he makes. We are familiar with the Law given at Sinai. We hear God's repeated instructions to remember and live out his commands. Some 20 times in the book of Deuteronomy alone, God instructs his people to be careful to do all that he has commanded. As we continue through Scripture, we notice the consequences for failing to keep the commandments.

Jesus is speaking to a group of people who know this very well. They are trying, striving, to live out the commandments of God. They have heard the rabbis speak of the yoke of the Torah. They are focusing on being the people of God and finding it difficult. They are looking for rest and relief.

We can relate. We know that as we make our way through life, and as we are faced with difficulties and temptation, it is not easy to be obedient. The life of discipleship can be hard. So when Jesus tells us that his “yoke is easy” and that “his burden is light” we may wonder if it can possibly be true. We know the effort that it takes to be disciples. We look for rest.



## Eagles For Christ

What Jesus is offering, both to that crowd that day and to us, is rest. It is not rest from God, but rather rest in God. Rest. It is something that God wants for his people. It is something that God has always wanted for his people; so much so that rest was prescribed for the people of God. *“Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”* (Exodus 20:9-11) This was not to be a rest from focusing on God or his commands. It was rest in acknowledging who he is and what he has done. That rest is still offered to us, and still what God wants for us.

**We can rest in what has been done for us by Jesus.** It is incredibly comforting that our salvation, our reconciliation, our adoption into the family of God is not dependent on our goodness or righteousness, but on the righteousness, the goodness, the grace of God. We do not have to earn our salvation; in fact we cannot earn it. Only because of what God has done in Jesus, can we be reconciled to him. Through Jesus, God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. We can rest in his grace.

**We can rest in the knowledge that as God’s people nothing can defeat us.** Troubles will come. We will encounter opposition and temptation. We will face difficulties and we are all subject to the frailties of this life. As people who belong to God and who wear the name of Christ, no difficulties will destroy us. Because of the resurrection, because God has defeated sin and death, we have a hope that cannot be taken away from us. No matter the trouble that comes our way, God will not abandon us.

**We can rest in the fact that all things are under the control of God.** In God’s instruction to Israel in regards to Sabbath rest, we find two reasons given. One was to remember God as the redeemer. *“You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”* (Deuteronomy 5:15) The other was to remember God as creator (Exodus 20:8-11). We can rest in knowing that the world and everything in it is under the control of the Sovereign God of the Universe. We can take our hands off the wheel and rest in the fact that God has everything in his hands.

-JEFF GRISHAM

When I tell people the Bella Vista Church of Christ is starting a campus ministry at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), the responses range from excitement to bewilderment. I have found myself defending our decision to take on this endeavor more than once, which has made me think through the reasons why we are doing this more than I might have otherwise. Space, and the fact that I still have to write a sermon about the new ministry, limit the number of reasons I can list here. Please settle for these three now and I’ll give a few more from the pulpit on September 18th.

First, college is a cultural chokepoint. You would be hard pressed to find another place in our society where more ideas or viewpoints are so freely expressed. It seems clear to me that there should be someone on campus offering up the way of Jesus as a legitimate path to a fulfilling life. After all, we Christians believe that the Father created truth, Jesus claimed to be the truth, and the Spirit leads us in truth. Indeed, as Augustine said, “all truth is God’s truth.” Perhaps the reason why so many well-intentioned cultural ideas end up in such strange, wrong, and harmful places is that they do not start at the genesis of all things – in God. Paul seemed to understand this when he was in Athens (Acts 17:22-34). He acknowledged man’s universal need to look beyond himself for meaning (“I perceive that in every way you are religious”). He quoted their philosophers (“In him we live and move and have our being”). And, he gave a nod to their poets (“for indeed we are his offspring”). In all these places Paul found truth – God’s truth from unlikely sources. As my Aunt Nene would say, “even blind hogs can find an acorn every now and again.” When we go searching for truth outside of Christ, we are but blind hogs. Sometimes God, in his grace, let’s us find something worthwhile but if we acknowledge him as the source of truth the discovery makes that much more sense and is that much sweeter. Maybe there is no better place than a college campus to look for situations where worldly wisdom can be connected to biblical truth.

Second, we want to be a resource. If you hear me talk about this ministry, you’ll hear me say this – we are NOT trying to recruit young people out of their home churches. NWACC is a community college (in fact, it is the largest community college in the state), which means most of the students still live where they grew up and still attend the churches they grew up attending. Eagles for Christ is not a replacement for the local body of believers, nor is it a recruiting mechanism for the Bella Vista church. Instead, EFC seeks to be a

resource to area churches with students at NWACC. We want to provide community for college – a safe place to land when an extra amount of support is needed. College can be lonely, disorienting, and challenging intellectually and spiritually. EFC will always encourage involvement in a local church because there is simply no replacing a church family. In particular, EFC will encourage involvement in the church family the student grew up in. Our primary hope is that involvement in EFC will increase involvement in local area churches by softening the religious/secular line in the student’s life. The students your church sends to NWACC still need you to support, encourage, train, and equip them to overcome the faith challenges college students face. EFC is here to support your efforts.

My final point is related to my second - EFC exists for unity. You may have noticed that we live in divisive times. These days are divisive in every way imaginable and while I don’t think this is a new phenomenon, I mean a couple of different things when I say EFC exists for unity. One is that I hope this effort of mutual support and care for our Christian college students will help facilitate unity among Christians. This was quite literally Christ’s dying wish (John 17). We are all on the same team and I think it’s time we act like it. Maybe EFC can be one small way we can work together. The other way I hope EFC facilitates unity is in leading others to unity with Christ. What is interesting in Jesus’ prayer mentioned above is that the first kind of unity leads to the second kind of unity. “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.” Eagles for Christ isn’t just a campus ministry, it is a campus mission.

-CORY SPRUIELL

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 9/18/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Roger Arnold      Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
Greeters ..... Gary McCool, Joe Hott      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Dallas Dobbs  
Closing Prayer ..... Ray Reiss  
Nursery Workers ..... Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Mike Spencer      Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
Greeters ..... Howard Hurst, Don Cope      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Chad Dobbs  
Closing Prayer ..... Jack Johnson  
Nursery Workers ..... Robbie Balentine, Cheryl Royer      Van Driver ..... Mark and Wilma Bagwell

#### September Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mark Tucker      Streaming Coordinator ..... Aaron Sloan  
Audio Coordinator ..... Jim Caylor      Video Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson