

Family & Friends .....January 8, 2025

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!! I love to hear Louis Armstrong's song "What A Wonderful World" bringing in the New Year. "I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom, for me and you. And I think to myself, 'What a wonderful world.' I see skies of blue and clouds of white. The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night. And I think to myself, 'What a wonderful world.' The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, are also on the faces of people going by. I see friends shaking hands saying, 'How do you do?' They're really saying, 'I love you.' I hear babies cry, I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than I'll ever know. And I think to myself, 'What a wonderful world!" God did create a beautiful and wonderful world that we can all enjoy. To God be the glory! Just think how beautiful heaven must be!

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Psalm 19:1*

We love our visitors: Charles, Leo and Amelia Collinsworth, Sherry Johnson, Jeanne Melton, Elizabeth Silver, Jim Womack, Brad & Melanie Bryant, and Leighton & Kasey Bryant and Ludden & Truitt.

Those on our prayer list: Mary Jane Butcher will have eye surgery on January 14th in Springfield. She has a benign tumor behind her eye. Keep Mary Jane and Don in your prayers. Terry Balentine's mother is recovering from hip surgery and needs our prayers. Continue to remember and pray for Janice LaPorte and family in the loss of Curt, Susan Duffy, and Randall Caselman. Items needed for Children's Home: Dry Pinto, Navy, and Northern beans, egg noodles and macaroni, Spam, and toothpaste. Food Pantry: Muffin mixes, oatmeal packets, adult and kids cereals.

When you think of all that's good, give thanks to God. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
John Caylor.....903-520-2131  
Perry Johnson .....913-707-8379  
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

*Bella Vista*  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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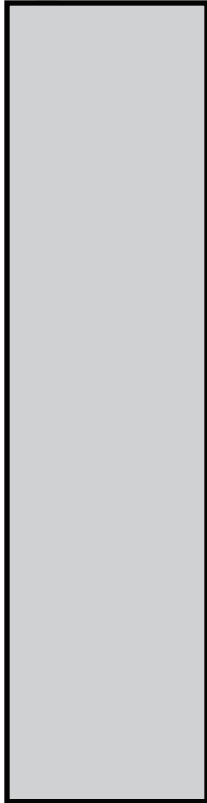
**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Leo Bratcher Josh Porter Joe Hott Randall Hunt  
Stephen Hunt Mike Martin Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mike Spencer Tyler White

**MINISTERS**

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

<b>SUNDAY</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)	



**We are updating our mailing list as we enter 2025. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or to begin receiving this bulletin via email, please contact us at (479)273-2434 or email us at: [office@bellavistachurchofchrist.com](mailto:office@bellavistachurchofchrist.com)**

***Into the Unknown***

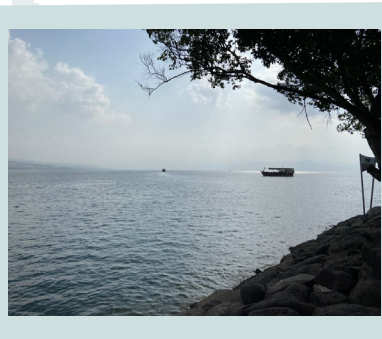
*Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. (Mark 1:16-20)*

It had been a day like any other. They had spent the night working, doing what they knew to do, doing what they had grown up doing. It wasn't just a hobby, or some recreational activity. It

**LIFELINES**



was their means of survival. They were fishermen. They had probably come from a long line of fishermen. They knew this lake well having grown up there and hearing the stories of successes and failures in fishing the Sea of Galilee.



It had been a day like any other. After spending the night and early morning casting nets in hopes to catch enough to be able to pay their expenses and feed their families, they sat mending their nets. Others were still casting nets, but these two were looking forward to some breakfast and some rest before coming back to do it all over again.

It had been a day like any other, but it wouldn't end like any other they had ever experienced. Today, something was different. Today, they would meet someone who was different. Today, they would be called to take the first step into a completely new life, to take a step into the unknown.

Scripture is full of moments like this, of God calling people into a new life, to take a step into the unknown. Abraham was called to leave his family, his home, all the things with which he was familiar in order to follow God to a place Abraham had never seen. Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to Canaan, not knowing what that would entail or how long it might take. As Israel crossed the Jordan to begin to take possession of that land that God had promised, we meet Rahab in the city of Jericho. She left everything she knew to become a part of a people she had never met because of what she knew of the God of Israel.

A Moabite woman named Ruth left her family behind to travel back to the land of Judah not knowing what the future might hold for her. On and on the list goes with a teenage girl from Nazareth named Mary, these men at the shore of the Sea of Galilee of whom we read, a tax collector from Capernaum, the rest of the Twelve, more and more disciples, Saul of Tarsus, and more and more.

We have heard and continue to hear the call of Jesus to follow him to a new life. This new life has new priorities, a new focus, and calls for us to walk away from the life we used to know and follow Jesus. Like those of whom we read in the pages of the Bible, the call on our lives is a constant one, a daily one.

It is interesting that when Jesus calls us to follow, he does not give us a detailed map of where exactly it will lead. There's no list of the things that we may face, the joys, the heartaches, the difficulties, the successes, none of those. He simply asks that we trust him each step along the way. He doesn't give us the full, detailed picture, only a piece at a time and asks that we have faith in the fact that he will be with us through it all.

That is a little scary. We would like to know all the twists and turns, all the possible hazards that may be in our way. We would like to be in control, to determine the path, and have some sense of security. Because of this, we sometimes struggle to follow him. We can't see where it might lead and we think that if we were in charge we would feel more at ease. However, the truth is that we only have the illusion of control. We don't have the ability to control the future. We don't have the vision to map our own way.

We are anxious about taking a step into the unknown. Could we remember that it is only unknown to us? We have been called by the one who knows exactly what the future holds and is the only one who can help us navigate successfully through it. He is the one who has walked the path that he calls us to walk and has offered, has promised to be with us every step along the way. He has promised to lead us all the way home to the land that God has promised. Can we demonstrate our faith in him today and everyday by following him into the unknown.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Link to Amazon List for Presley Williams



If you have questions or any furniture you're willing to give, please speak to a staff member.

## JANUARY

## Fellowship Meals

### January 8

Taco Pasta  
Robin Spencer  
Becky Pittman

### January 15

Chicken and Dumplings  
Marquis Elliott  
Mason White

### January 22

Spaghetti  
Keri Roberts  
Josh Porter

### January 29

Pork Carnitas  
Stephen Hunt  
Bernice Hunt

Sign up online or in the foyer



## SUNDAY SERVANTS January 12, 2025

### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....Leo Bratcher    Song Leader .....Tyler White  
Closing Prayer.....Aaron Sloan    Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Doug White  
Greeters.....David Saunders, Mike Hale, Don Cope, Nan Cope  
Nursery Workers .....Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....Lee McCain    Song Leader .....Tyler White  
Closing Prayer .....Tracy Bowman    Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Dylan Bowman  
Greeters.....Don Cope, Mike Lunsford, Bob Spaw, Deb Reiss  
Nursery Workers.....Darlene Sherrod, Debbie Martin    Van Driver .....Jim Branstetter

### January Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator.....Mark Tucker, Nathan McCurry