

Family & Friends..... October 25, 2023

The Thanksgiving Holiday is soon approaching us. Mike Martin would like to thank all those beautiful brothers and sisters in Christ who help with our Food Pantry and all of our members who bring food for the pantry and other donations for other things we need. It is much appreciated. It's a blessing for those who need it, and for those who help make the Food Pantry run smoothly. They would like to focus on the needed items for Thanksgiving now. This is the list: Stove Top Stuffing mix, green beans cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, turkey gravy, canned pumpkin pie filling, marshmallows, pie crusts, and any monetary donations for the turkeys would be great. They would prefer no frozen turkeys this time. I would also like to thank Mike who is our deacon in charge of the Food Pantry. We would also like to say just how much Eugenia Garrison's precious personality and smiles will be missed at the Food Pantry with which she helped. She was very much loved! Every day is Thanksgiving for all! God gives us blessings all day long. We just need to take time to notice and to thank Him. To God Be the Glory!

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

We are blessed with our visitors: Parker and Bennett Spaw (Harrison), Milo & Karen Hadwin (Searcy), Elizabeth Harper (Rogers), Cynthia Evans, Ted Irby, and Steve & Terry Tillery (BV), Quinton & Lynda Merryweather, and Lisa Bontempo.

Those on our prayer list: Cheryl Royer is recovering from her surgery. Homer Makinson is recovering at home from his recent car accident. Susan Duffy had tests this week to check the progression of her lung disease and continues to struggle with pain. Doug Klingman had surgery and is recovering. Bob Boynton fell last weekend and broke his hip. Maggie Wicker's heart cath showed no blockage. Continue to pray and remember Monica Klingman's dad, Bob, Lou Rue Crawford, Dollye Alberson, Donna Rowland, Jennifer Oxford, Janice LaPorte, Amy Rooney, Lynn Barnica, Becky Pittman, the country of Israel and those who lost family and friends, and peace for the Middle East.

Our generosity meets needs and glorifies Jesus. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
John Caylor.....903-520-2131
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Josh Porter Joe Hott
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

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SUNDAY

Early Worship 8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

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



God of the Mustard Seed

I believe that deep down; each of us has within us a desire to leave this place better than we found it. We want to make a difference; we want to be remembered for the impact that we made. It begins when we're little and people will ask us, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

There are very few, if any who would say, "I would like to toil in anonymity." Or, "I want to be a faceless, nameless cog in the machinery of life." We want to be doctors, scientists, teachers, firefighters, policemen, or the president of the United States (and with the field that we currently see, that seems more and more possible). We want to make a difference. I believe with everything in me that if we are people who truly want to make the world a better place, if we really want to make a difference, then we there is no place better for us to be than in the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is what makes a difference.

Yet, here's what often happens: we have these dreams and visions and plans for our lives. We are going to do something great, but one day we look around and something has changed; life has happened and the plans we had seem to be a distant memory. Must to our dismay, we seem to be ordinary and unimpressive. That would be incredibly discouraging if it weren't for this.

LIFELINES



He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." (Matthew 13:31-33)



In these two very small parables, Jesus talks about one big thing and two seemingly insignificant things. The big thing is the Kingdom of Heaven, the redemptive work of God in the world. It is what changes the world and makes it a better place. He then said that ordinary, small, seemingly insignificant things like mustard seed and leaven accomplish this idea, this process of heaven coming to earth. God can do, and in fact does, some amazing and extraordinary things through some of the most ordinary people and practices.

When we look at scripture we see, what we sometimes think of as Spiritual Giants. We see people like Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Hannah, David, Solomon, and Daniel; and we think that there is no way we can do the things in the Kingdom of God like they did. We look at the Apostles and all they were able to accomplish, seriously wonder if we can accomplish nearly what they did. But, when we start really looking at these Great Heroes of the Bible, and really examine their lives, it amazes us to discover

that these were ordinary, everyday, run-of-the-mill, people who have the same failings, the same propensity to sin as we do. Yet, God accomplished great Kingdom Work with people who are absolutely ordinary.

Then there are practices that we see as unimportant. Gathering with the church is one. Being joined in fellowship and service with other members of God's kingdom can produce some great things. It is in our worship together that we encounter God who saved us. It is the fellowship of the Spirit that has been given to us. It is where we sit at the table with Jesus, our host. It is a transformative event. The church is the vehicle through which God has chosen to communicate his message of redemption to a lost and dying world.

Prayer is another seemingly small practice, but we are told over and over in Scripture what can be accomplished through it. We may see it as ordinary, as unimpressive, but we forget that God is the God of the mustard seed and leaven. He is able to do great things with our ordinary.

We look for the next big spiritual high, or sometimes just more recognition for ourselves, and neglect the ordinary things like studying God's word. Can anything good come from this seemingly unnoticed, unimpressive act? The answer is "yes" when we let that word get inside us and we begin to live out those commands and ideas. The answer is "yes" when the word becomes flesh in our lives.

Think about this. A manger, a cross, and a tomb; something small and insignificant, something ugly that polite society would shun, and a place where people would rather not be; but God did something amazing with them. We are ordinary everyday people who struggle with so many things, and sin is the chief among them. But, God can do amazing things if we will surrender our will and our lives to him.

The challenge for all of us is to not neglect the ordinary, the unimpressive, the marginalized people and practices. God can do amazing with our ordinary. Paul to the Ephesians wrote, "to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

-JEFF GRISHAM

This Sunday!!!

You're Invited!

FALL FESTIVAL

GAMES • FOOD • TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29
3:30pm until Dark
Bella Vista Church of Christ

Scan to SIGN UP to help

SUNDAY SERVANTS October 29, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Lee McCain
 Greeters Josh Porter, Billy Helms, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Randall Hunt
 Closing Prayer Phillip Strickhausen
 Nursery Workers Shannon Hubanks, Patsy McCool

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Nathan McCurry Song Leader Kyle Dillard
 Greeters Josh Porter, John Winslow, Eric Gibson Communion Scripture & Prayer Jeff Oxford
 Closing Prayer John Caylor
 Nursery Workers Shannon Mitchell, Debbie Martin Van Driver Stan Hankins

October Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mark Tucker Streaming Coordinator James Beaty
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott