

Family & Friends..... March 6, 2024

Changes. Someone once said, "The only thing that is constant is change." We may be forced out of our old ways that might impose better ones on us. What is important is how we anticipate change and react to it. Change puts us out of our comfort zone sometimes. We make changes all through our lives. Some are good and some are bad. We make changes when we get married, have children and raise families, in the workplace, when we lose a spouse, and it reminds us that we are getting older. Oh, that hurts, getting older. The biggest change we make is when we become Christians! That is a good change as long as we stay on the right path. We help each other as loving Christians with good moral values as we make our Christian journey to be with our Lord. We want to keep our congregation growing. That is wonderful change and progress. "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." – Albert Einstein. To God Be the Glory!

*We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
(1 Corinthians 15:52)*

Our visitors put a smile on our faces: Ted Irby and Steve & Terry Tillery (Bella Vista)

Those on our prayer list: Ava Sailors is in Circle of Life Hospice. Please pray for Zeb and the family. Continue to remember and pray for Howard Hurst, Amy Rooney, Susan Duffy, Doug Klingman, Kacie White, Janlyn Brewer, Frances Thomson, Mary E. Harris, Kat Spencer, our military and police force, our country, and for the people in Texas and Oklahoma who are fighting the wildfires, and the families who have lost homes and loved ones.

Items needed for Children's Home: Cleaning supplies, paper plates, trash bags, shampoo, and toothpaste. Food Pantry: Large cans of soups for families, snacks for kids, and Tuna & Chicken Helper.

God is always at work on behalf of his people. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
John Caylor.....903-520-2131
Perry Johnson913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

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

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Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

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



Jesus Vs. Issues

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (Titus 3:9-11)

'Tis the season. As I sit in the office today putting together this bulletin, there has been a constant stream of people coming into the building to vote in this year's primary elections. Thinking about our national elections brings to mind all kinds of issues that are constantly paraded in front of us, inviting us to get involved and to pick a side. As a matter of full disclosure, I am not against voting. I think it is important to let our voices be heard, and to take advantage of the opportunity to "have our say." Also, as a matter of full disclosure, I don't believe that which political party or issue wins is any surprise to God.

I do think that it is a good time to remember what is most important, and the call that we have as people of God. While various issues are important, and while the direction one political group may lead as opposed to another may be seen as more favorable to Christians than the other, these are not the most important things.

LIFELINES



We see this in the life of Jesus. All throughout is ministry, people were constantly trying to pull him into the middle of one issue or another.

The religious leaders quarreled with him over how to keep the Sabbath (John 5). A lawyer asked Jesus to weigh in on what should be considered the most important commandment (Luke 10). Two brothers wanted Jesus to arbitrate their inheritance (Luke 12). He was asked about whether or not it was good to pay taxes to Rome (Matthew 22). Over and over, people tried to draw him in to various controversies over various issues. And over and over, Jesus refused to get involved in the controversies, but pointed people to what was most important.



I think there is a great lesson here for us. Our focus is to be on joining God in his mission to reconcile people to himself because of what he has done in Jesus and not on issues. The reason is simple. Issues tend to divide people. Look around and see. It is everywhere. People are divided over all kinds of issues. They are at one another's throat over the various issues of our time. Focus on these issues leads us to label and categorize other people, to dehumanize them and treat them as less than us because of our differences on various issues.

Unfortunately, this bleeds over into the church. People are looking for hope, for community, for real purpose in

life, and for something that really makes a difference in the world. In short, they are looking for Jesus. They are looking for all that Jesus came to bring. It doesn't take much imagination to think of what happens when someone is looking for Jesus and instead finds a group of people fixated on issues that are of far less importance.

Jesus wasn't content to settle for a position of the issues of the day. Instead, he pointed to something bigger, something better. It's not about whether or not a man could carry a bed on the Sabbath. It was about God's care for people, and that suffering could be relieved no matter the day of the week. It wasn't about setting one law above another; it was about loving God with all we have which leads to loving people the way we should. Life is more important, people are more important than to fight over an inheritance. Life is far less about paying taxes to Rome and much more about living up to the image of God in which we were created.

The early church was faced with a litany of issues that threatened to stop the movement. In Acts 6, there was a complaint that the Grecian widows were being neglected. In Acts 15 a council convened to come to a solution as to how to deal with the Gentile converts. Paul wrote to various churches with various issues

that had the potential to do real damage to the spread of Christianity and the mission of God. In each of these cases, the apostles took their cue from Jesus. People were more important than one's personal view on a particular issue.

My prayer is that during this particular season when all kinds of people are trying to draw us into all kinds of issues that we remember what is most important. The good news of the Gospel of Jesus is that we can have hope, a future, and a place of belonging. We have been called to partner with God in his work of reconciliation, to carry the news of what he has done because of his great love. And that we continue to prioritize that mission as we carry the Gospel to people for whom Christ died, regardless of their position on any particular issue.

- JEFF GRISHAM

St. Patrick's Day Block Party

at
Wishing Springs

2PM - 5PM **SUNDAY**
March 17

Hosted by Pedal it Forward
and Pedal Kids USA

- Community Rides
- Indoor Bike Playground
- Outdoor Bike Skills Park
- Community Booths
- Sale at Pedal it Forward



SUNDAY SERVANTS March 3, 2024

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & ScriptureJosh Metheny Song LeaderMatt Grisham
GreetersMike Johnson, Roy Barnica, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Jerry Snyder
Closing Prayer.....Phillip Strickhausen
Nursery Workers Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....Nathan McCurry Song Leader Hayden Fulkerson
GreetersMike Johnson, Bill Evans, Bob Spaw Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Perry Johnson
Closing Prayer.....John Caylor
Nursery WorkersPatti Bertschy, Shannon Mitchell Van Driver Stan Hankins

March Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator James Beaty
Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell