

Family & FriendsApril 9, 2025

"The little sunflower's journey is over. My husband told me my little sunflower was gone. I was so busy, I forgot to look out the kitchen window this morning. I felt a tinge of sadness because it had given me so many days of joy. I knew its journey would be over soon, but I didn't want to let it go. I enjoyed seeing its light shine. I was blessed with a beautiful surprise, nine Nerine Lilies were growing right in front of where the sunflower had been." Will we be ready when God calls us home? Heaven will be much more beautiful than anything we can imagine. No more weeds or struggles. Our journey will be over, and we will be with our Lord. Our peace now is knowing we are walking with God to be with Him, as He walks along with us. Watch for the beauty in God's creation. Thank you, Lord, for the beautiful flowers we see and the surprise ones the dear birds make happen!

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20

We are always blessed with our visitors: The Bryant Families, Douglas Owensby, Bryan Reynolds, Elizabeth Silver, Charles Collinsworth, Sherry Johnson, Landon Crabtree, Jessica Wheeler, Mitch Rogers, and Larry and Carolyn Dye and family.

Those on our sick list: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the family of Zeb Sailors, who passed away last week. Also to Danny Cannon in the loss of his mother. Please keep both families in your prayers. Hillary Porter has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Jennifer Busbee is waiting on tests and surgery. Continue to remember Susan Duffy, Dabney & Linda Doty, and those families in the storms that hit last week that lost loved ones or were injured, and lost homes or were damaged or lost everything they owned.

Items needed for Children's Home: Pork & Beans, Mayo & mustard, spinach, spaghetti & sauce, shampoo (adults & Kids). Food Pantry: pancake mix & syrup, ramen noodles, instant potatoes, green beans, packets of white & brown gravy, saltine crackers.

Because of God's love, we are never truly alone. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

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ELDERS

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

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
Presley Williams.....479-567-0993

Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

REACHING FATHERS - MOVING CLOSERS - GROWING DEEPER

Highway 71 and County Road 40
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)	



Preemptive Action

We seek growth. We want spiritual growth, to grow in maturity, to grow in love, and to grow the kingdom. It is inevitable that in the context of growth - whether personal growth or church growth - opposition and difficulties will come. In the context of churches, it is extremely difficult or even impossible to avoid conflict. It is almost inevitable that feelings will get hurt, for fear to get the better of us, for our devotion to our own opinions for direction to lead to conflict of some sort and for these conflicting views to avoid colliding with one another.

So, what do we do when that happens? It's an answer that we are familiar with, even though it is often difficult. We find it all over Scripture. We are called to be forgiving people, to forgive one another and be reconciled to one another. Plenty of examples and instructions to this end come to mind. We think of Jesus forgiving those who have put him on the cross, or Stephen asking for forgiveness for those who are throwing the stones. We hear Jesus say, *"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* (Matthew 6:14-15).

These are great Scriptures to help us deal with the conflict that will arise. But, what if there

LIFELINES



were a preemptive action we could take? Could there be something, some change in attitude, or some things we could do to mitigate conflict on the front end of the process?

Listen to Paul as he opens the letter to the church at Colossae.

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel” (Colossians 1:1-5)

I think there are some things we can find here to help.

First of all, we look at the way this letter is addressed. To the “saints.” That word gets misused or misunderstood quite a bit. There are certain groups for whom the term, “saint” refers to a super-spiritual person. They are well above the rest of us in terms of their relationship with God and their abilities. This idea of being a “saint” often suggests someone who is very nearly perfect.

What it really conveys is the idea of those who are holy. Those who are dedicated to God. Those through whom God works. Those in whom the Spirit of God dwells and are being sanctified and transformed. Instruments

CHRIST
in you
the **HOPE**
of **GLORY**
Colossians 1:27

to be used by God for his purpose. Paul makes no distinction among the various brothers or sisters in the church in Colossae. He simply refers to them all as “saints.”

What if we were to see our brothers and sisters as people who are holy, beloved of God, used for his service, called by him. People of inestimable value to the God who created them. People on whom God places a high value, considering the price that was paid. Would we treat them differently? Would we talk about them differently? Would we be more willing to listen to their opinions instead of dismissing them because they are different than ours? It seems that viewing others as “saints” ought to inform how we treat one another. It seems reasonable to think that if God values them as much as he does, that for us to devalue them would land us in a difficult place.

Paul doesn’t stop there. He continues to talk about how he gives thanks for them. He is thankful for their faith they have demonstrated. He is thankful for the love he hears that they have for one another. And he is thankful for the hope they share.

Are we thankful for all of our brothers and sisters? Are we thankful for their faith, or do we question whether or not they are truly committed? Are we thankful for the love they exhibit, or do we question that if they don’t treat us the way we think we ought to be treated? Are we thankful for the hope we share? We share a common hope.

Paul mentions in this section that this hope that is known is as a result of the gospel. There’s a lot wrapped up in that little word “gospel.” “Gospel” – the incarnation, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is Paul’s prescription for the troubles of the world. It is Paul’s prescription for the troubles of the church. In it we see the love that God has for all of his creation. We also see in it the life to which we are called. We see faith, submission to the will of God, self-giving love, and that peacemaking is costly. We see the lengths to which God will go to call his people to him. These things should give us pause before causing trouble and division within the body of Christ for the sake of having our own way.

As we seek to grow, opposition will come. Difficulties and tensions will arise. What if we began to engage in some preemptive actions? Might that help us to remain united in purpose and be the spark for genuine growth?

-JEFF GRISHAM

Behold Your King

Reflecting on the Passion

Join us at Bella Vista Church of Christ on Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm for our observance of the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Come and experience the passion story with us.

April 17th, 2025
7:00 pm

Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

989 NW McNelly Rd.
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-273-2434

office@bellavistachurchofchrist.com



SUNDAY SERVANTS April 13, 2025

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Josh Grisham
Closing Prayer Jerry Snyder Communion Scripture & Prayer Josh Coberly
Greeters Josh Porter, Mike Hale, George Howie
Nursery Workers Sarah Sloan, Hillary Porter

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Zach Ballard Song Leader Lee McCain
Closing Prayer John Caylor Communion Scripture & Prayer Austin Bishop
Greeters Josh Porter, Mitch Whittington, Mike York, Mary Beth Thomson
Nursery Workers Darlene Sherrrod, Brenda Branstetter Van Driver Mike Hale

April Worship Coordinator

Worship Coordinator Kim Metheny