

Family & Friends..... June 30, 2021

We have been having lots of rain and flash flood watches in our area, but no tornadoes. The rain brings down the temperatures which makes it more tolerable. Portland, Oregon, is having a historic heat-wave. So hot that some of the roads were buckling up. The Western U.S. is having extreme hot temperatures like Washington State and California. Massive grasshopper outbreak in the Western part of the country. They like warm weather. So much hail in the middle of Iowa's summer that it made it look like it had snowed. Bizarre and amazing cloud formations in Colorado and Montana. A tornado made its way through Chicago, Illinois. Costa Rico had a volcano erupt and tropical storm Danny entered into Georgia. The Sea Lions made their way on the beach of Chili at the seaside town of Tome. There are lots of them! They escaped the ocean to get away from their predators like the killer whales. Some have taken up with the residents, but have the local dogs in a stew. It looks like we are going to have some pretty good weather for the 4th of July weekend. The rain has brought the temperatures down. We should be thankful for living in the beautiful area of the Ozarks. Hope you can make it to the church for the cookout at the church building. Enjoy and stay safe. Thank You Lord, for our many blessings. Happy Birthday America!

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. - Romans 8:2

Those on our prayer list: Continue to remember and pray for those who have recently lost loved ones: Margaret Beaty and James in the loss of Ron Beaty. Lee McCain in the loss of his brother, David. The Van Pelt and Hodge families it the loss of Leone English. Tara Gamble in the loss of her husband and son. Continue to pray for those who are battling cancer, Jennifer Oxford, Lou Hollo, Pat Musson, Hilda Jones, Judith Carmical, Michelle King, Rebecca Hedges, Monica Klingman's father, Bob, Susan Duffy's father. Virginia Whittington, Joe & Kay Hott's daughter, Heidi, Mike Lacey, Zeryl Clark, Robert Horton, Joyce Hurst, Glen Whitman, Kim Weiler, Muriel McSweeny, the Fan-nings neighbor's 2- year old daughter who has leukemia, Chad Trott, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, the families in the building collapse in Miami, and those who are helping in the rescue.

Thanks to the ladies who gave the Bridal Shower for Madelyn Ingle & Joshua Sloan. She had a very nice shower! Madelyn thanks you all.

We rejoice with Aly Christiano in her decision to put on Christ in baptism last Sunday afternoon. We also welcome our new members, Logan and Jamie Holthaus along with their two sons, Jude and Liam.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: crushed pineapple, spam, canned chicken, aluminum foil, cool aid, and olive oil. Food Pantry Items: Tuna Helper, gluten free items, chicken helper, Jell-o, pudding, and brownie mixes.

When God shows you a problem, He may ask you to be His solution. 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

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

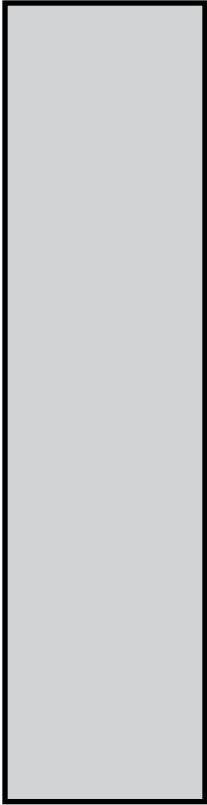
Tracy Bowman.....	479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....	636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs.....	479-640-4943
Perry Johnson.....	913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....	903-908-0203

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell	John Bowman	Chris Johnson	Bryan Busbee	Joe Hott	Robert Horton
Randall Hunt	Harold Phillips	Terry Roberts	Aaron Sloan	Mitchell Whittington	

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....	479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....	615-587-3208
Selwyn Nel.....	Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....	Bogota, Colombia



Bella Vista

The Call of Freedom

This week, maybe more than most, our focus shifts to the birth of this nation and the Founding Fathers' desire for, and achievement of, freedom. We are thankful to live in such free country and a wonderful place. Freedom. It is something we all want. It is something that is an identifying mark of our country, something we are proud of, something we have come to expect.

It is no surprise that we are proud of our freedom. It is no surprise that we want freedom. Freedom is very attractive. We see this attraction as we watch our children grow. As infants they are totally dependent on us for everything, but as they grow we see them long for freedom. We hear the battle cry for independence when they are toddlers when they tell us, "I'll do it myself." We see it as they wait impatiently to gain more and more independence. Whether it is the countdown to getting a driver's license, or to graduate from school, or to turn 18 and be considered an adult, or moving out to begin their own independent lives, we get to witness the attraction that freedom possesses.

I don't believe this is an accident. We were created this way. In the beginning God created us with free will and free choice. It is an integral part of our humanity. We want to do what we want to do. God wants us to have freedom. He wants us to choose him freely. He wants us to come to know him, to see who he is and what he's done for us, and choose to live the way he has called. He knows that choosing his way leads to our ultimate freedom.

The Bible has a lot to say about God's desire for our freedom and what he wants us to do with that freedom. Here are just a few passages where this is seen.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

LIFELINES



Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:32-36 ESV)

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin." (Romans 6:1-6 ESV)

Just in these two passages we see that God wants us to be free. He sent Jesus so that we could become free. Real freedom is available!

Unfortunately we often misunderstand freedom. We think that freedom means doing what we want, how we want, and when we want to do it. Freedom becomes all about me and my life. It doesn't work like that. Freedom can be granted, but it must be maintained. How are we to remain free?

Paul tells us in Galatians 5:13-15

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another' "

Peter says it this way in 1 Peter 2:16

"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."

So, wait a minute. Scripture says that we need to use our freedom to serve God and othes. If we submit to God's way and become his servants, aren't we giving up our freedom? God knows that the only way to gain freedom, and to maintain freedom is to use it for something greater than just our own needs. Think about the life and freedom that we want: a life free from pain, free from worry, free from care, free from oppression, free from conflict, free from the baggage of sin that weighs us down. Such a life is available if we give up trying to do things our own way and freely choose to come to God and follow in the steps of Jesus, being transformed into his image by the Spirit that he offers. Then we are free to love, serve, worship, live, and have a life with meaning. Then we have real hope of an eternal life of real freedom living in God's presence.

Freedom. It is not surprising that we want it. It is not surprising that we want to move toward it. It is not surprising that we celebrate it. This weekend as we take time to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy here in this country, let's celebrate the freedom we enjoy in Jesus Christ. Let's look for opportunities to put that freedom to use in serving and loving others.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Knowing and Doing

Each one of us must take resonsibility for our life and make the right choices. There will be ups and downs; none of us are perfect. It is simply a matter of knowing what is right and then doing what is right.

The apostle Peter wrote, *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him (Christ) who called us by His own glory and goodness."* (2 Peter 1:3) All things peraining to life and godliness come throuh our knowledge of Jesus. Adding the Christian graces mentioned in verses 5-7 of 2 Peter 1 *"in increasing measure will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (v. 8) Simply put, our effectivness and productive-ness as Christans come from, or as a result of, our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Knowledge is the key to our relationships with God. Jesus once said, *"Woe unto you lawyers! (experts in the law) For you have taken away the key of knowledge: You entered not in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."* (Luke 11:52) Solomon wrote: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* (Proverbs 1:7) Speaking of the Gentile world, Paul wrote: *"They did not like to retain God in their knowledge."* (Romans 1:28 Sad indeed!)

Knowledge is power. *"A man of knowledge increases in strength."* (Proverbs 24:5) God one said through Hosea the prophet, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6) Therefore, the apostle Peter admonishes us to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 3:18)

Will Rogers said: "We are all ignorant, just ignorant about different things." Isn't that true? There is an old saying, "The greater the radius of light, the greater the circumference of darkness." The more we learn the more subjects we touch on that we know very little about. We cannot afford to be ignorant of God's Word! Jesus said to the aristocratic Sadduceess of His day: *"You do err, not knowing the scriptures."* (Matthew 22:29)

We, as Christians, usually *know* more than we *do*. Paul gave his personal testimony concerning his knowing and doing in Romans 7. He said, *"For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."* (v. 15) in his concluding remarks he said, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"* (v.24) then came the answer, *"Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (v. 25) There is hope through Christ!

In the upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus girded himself with a towel and stooped down to wash the disciples' feet. What an example of humility and service. God washing feet! Jesus asked them the question, *"Do you understand what I have done for you?"* (John 13:12) Then Jesus said some things to push home His lesson. First, he said, *"No servant is greater than his master."* Then he said, *"Nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."* Jesus concludes with the punchline: *"If you know these things, happy are you if you do them."* (John 13:17) *It is not just a matter of knowing, but rather of knowing and doing!* Many Christians are not happy simply because they have never gotten out on the playing field of action and put into practice the truths they have come to believe and accept in a passive way. Frances Bacon called such truths "bedridden truths."

John Drinkwater wrote the following poem entitled "The Prayer."
"Grant us the will to fashion as we feel,
Grant us the strength to labor as we know,
Grant us the purpose, ribbed and edged with steel,
To strike the blow.

Knowledge we ask not, knowledge thou hast lent,
But Lord, the will----there lies our bitter need,
Give us to build above the deep intent
The deed, the deed."

We would all do well to pray that prayer every day! Faith is necessary, love is the supreme virtue, hope is the anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, but there is absouely no substitute for the deed, the deed!

-CHARLES CASH
From *Lifelines* August 2016

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/4/21
Early Service (8:15 AM)
Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Dallas Dobbs Song Leader Alex Thompson
Greeters..... Mike York & Harold Phillips Closing Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
Communion Scripture & Prayers Joe Hott

Second Service (10:30 AM)
Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Ray Reiss Song Leader Chris McSweeney
Greeters..... Curt LaPorte & Chris Johnson Closing Prayer Tom Verkler
Communion Scripture & Prayers Kirk Franklin

July Worship Coordinators
Worship Coordinator Mike Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Elijah Johnson
Audio Coordinator Jm Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell