

Family & Friends..... July 21, 2021

The amazing Dragonfly! They are brilliant in colors with metallic blues, greens, and gold. Fossil records show they have been around for hundreds of years. They have the biggest eyes in the insect world. Their bead like eyes provide 360 degrees of stereovision, allowing them the ability to spot insects in any direction without turning or moving their heads. Like the birds with whom they share airspace, their vision is as incredible as their speed. They are as fast as rockets with their two sets of paper-thin wings and are masters of flight and glorious beyond. They don't call them Mosquito Hawks for nothing. They gorge on mosquitoes and catch them in the air by hundreds and are successful 95% of the time. It can be said they are beneficial to humans as a natural mosquito control. They only eat their prey while flying, otherwise they would starve. Like other insects it begins with an egg that hatches into a flightless larvae form called the nymph. Only in the last weeks of its life does it metamorphose into the predatory, migratory adult. The Dragonfly goes through what they call incomplete metamorphose of three stages, while Butterflies go through four stages. They spend most of their life in the larvae stage underwater before turning into adult stage that is short in life. Then you will see their beauty as they glide across ponds and open fields. What can we learn from the Dragonfly? Those who are in Christ Jesus are new creatures. Every stage of growth comes with its change. Take every change in life with purpose and courage as Christians. We need to go from the immature stage to one of flight. We can rejoice, love, and have faith even amidst struggles and difficulties. Appreciate the beauty of the insects with rainbows for wings! God is good!

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2

Those on our prayer list: Robbie Arnold's biopsy went well on her kidney and she is waiting for results. Keep Robbie and Roger in your prayers. We have many who need to be on our prayer list: Lou Hollo, Jennifer Oxford, Pat Musson, Judith Carmical, Hilda Jones, Monica Klingman's father, Bob, Mike Lacey, Loisell Tyler, Donovan Harris, Chuck Pippin, Priscilla Paugh, Kim Wyler, the Hott's daughter, Heidi, Robert Horton, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus, and those who have it now.

We want to thank Parker for planning and taking charge of Vacation Bible School this year. A big thanks to all those who helped in preparing, decorating, cleaning, to our teachers, and all who attended to make this a special event! We also want to thank our man on the grill, Jim Caylor, for turning out some great burgers and hotdogs!

Our Children's Home list: green beans, spaghetti sauce, applesauce, salad dressings, paper plates. Our Food Pantry: Gluten Free Products, Tuna & Chicken Helper, Jell-O, puddings, and Brownie mixes.

If you want to be wise, listen to Jesus. 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	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)	

Phone: 479/273-2434

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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

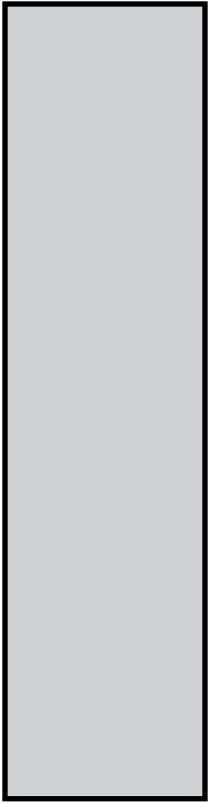
DEACONS

- 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

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Bella Vista

Pass It On

I was about twelve years old when I was first recruited to help serve the Lord's Supper in my home church. The five men who would serve all lined up in the foyer and made their way down the edge of the auditorium and took their collective place on the front row where they waited until time to step up, surround the table, and serve. The trays for the bread were easy to handle at that age, as unleavened bread isn't very heavy. The trays for the grape juice, however, were another story. The ones we used were the stainless steel trays but with actual glass communion cups. This added some difficulty, especially for a young kid. I always tried to be positioned so that I would only have to carry one at a time because carrying two would be a little difficult and to drop the tray would have been an embarrassment from which it would be difficult to recover. Fortunately, that embarrassment was avoided. But we were always careful, understanding how important it was to pass the trays without incident. I still reflect on those experiences from time to time. I still remember the nervousness, the feeling that everyone was watching. I remember the stillness and solemnity that surrounded that time in worship, and continues on today. There was something very important about the passing of the trays.

There is still something important about passing those trays; far more important than avoiding public humiliation. The importance lies in what it is that we have the opportunity to pass in that service. The communion service; a time each week dedicated to remembering the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is a formative event in the life of the church. It is a part of the service where emblems of the body and blood of our Savior and Redeemer are taken by those who have pledged to follow him and be faithful unto death. It is a part of the service whose roots go far past the pages of the New Testament, all the way to Israelite dwellings in Egypt centuries before the birth of Jesus.

Arguably the single greatest saving act of the Old Testament is God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. God accomplished this by sending a series of plagues on the Egyptians, culminating in the death of the firstborn in all Egypt and the institution of

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the Passover. It was a formative event for the nation of Israel, as this would mark the beginning of their calendar and their beginning of being a recognized nation. Israel would be reminded of this great event repeatedly. In fact, from Exodus 29 through Deuteronomy 29 there are 41 specific references to God delivering Israel from her Egyptian bondage. This was something that they were to never forget.

God gives very detailed instruction on how the first Passover would be observed. Then he instructed Israel to keep this service on an annual basis. Moses passed along these instructions to the people of Israel. And, in Exodus 12:24-27 we hear him say:

You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

The communion service in which we participate each week has its roots here in the Passover. It was at the Passover meal that Jesus instructed his disciples to observe this simple, yet powerful, rite in his memory. It is a time of remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. It is a time to reflect on his body. It is a covenant renewal where we remember the great and precious promises of God and our responsibility to that covenant. It is also a wonderful opportunity to pass along something more than just shiny stainless steel trays. It is a wonderful opportunity to pass along our faith to the next generation.



Sometimes we miss the opportunity. Regrettably, as a young parent, I didn't see this as clearly as I should have. At that time in my life, the communion service became a time where my wife and I tried our best to make sure our kids sat in their seats quietly and reverently, but without telling them why. Somehow I missed the instruction that Moses gave the Israelites concerning answering the question of, "What do you mean by this service?" Fortunately, that opportunity comes again and again. Each Sunday we have the opportunity as a community of faith to gather and remember. We have the opportunity once again to tell about the mighty works of God as he rescued us with outstretched arms and mighty acts of love. So this Sunday, when those men come down the aisles and hand us those trays, let's remember the importance of what it is that we hold in our hands, and pass it along.

-JEFF GRISHAM

It Happens In Church

Church is not a place, but a group of worshippers, an assembly. There's more to church than just being present. Too often, going to church becomes a routine, a ritual, and a duty. Church has become just a place to go, a place to be seen. but god is interested in more than our presence. He is interested in our worship. We count attendance - God counts attention.

The objectives of worship can be better understood from a careful reading of Hebrews 10:22-25:

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Let us consider how we may encourage one another on to love and good works. Let us not forsake the assembling together as is the habit of some, but let us encourage and all the more as you see the day approaching.

We come closer to God. God is present in our worship services. God is in church. The question is, are we? Drawing near to God in the assemblies involves a discipline. Our mind, our thoughts and attention must focus on Him.

When we assemble and go home without even thinking of God, Jesus, and our relationship with them, we have wasted our time. Worship without drawing near is mockery.

Our faith is strengthened. Worship without faith is hypocritical. We assemble believing that He is and that He rewards those who seek to worship Him. Worship is to our benefit. We assemble to worship, honor and praise Him - but we become edified, strengthened and changed people. Isn't this amazing? We come to pay tribute to Him, and we leave blessed. Not all who come are blessed; only those who worship him correctly.



We are benefited and blessed. Proper worship must be "in spirit and in truth." We must be thoughtful participants in each act of worship. Sleepy, daydreaming, apathetic, worship robs us of benefits and blessings.

Sins are forgiven. In the act of worship hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience. For the baptized believer worship should have a cleansing effect. It seems impossible to me that a child of God could come to a Lord's Day worship and go home guilty. Worship demands we come before God with a broken, contrite, repentant heart, asking for His pardon, His acceptance of both us and our worship. People who assemble and go home harboring sin in their heart did not really encounter God.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. - 1 John 1:7

We are encouraged. God made us for relationships. Our assemblies give us the opportunity to encourage, edify, and strengthen one another. This Sunday take time to draw some new person into your friendship circle; express your appreciation to a brother or sister; compliment someone; or just listen to another talk.

Being mindful of these blessings will allow each of us to go home knowing we've been in the Lord's house. It will be easy for us to say it was good to have been there. And we will look with anticipation to the next time.

-RANDALL CASELMAN

From Lifelines, August 2007

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/25/21

Early Service (8:15 AM)

Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Roger Arnold Song LeaderMarquis Elliott
 Greeters.....Milke York & Harold Phillips Closing Prayer Randall Hunt
 Communion Scripture & PrayersBill Alumbaugh

Second Service (10:30 AM)

Welcome, Prayer, & Scripture..... Ray Reiss Song Leader Lee McCain
 Greeters..... Curt LaPorte & Chris Johnson Closing PrayerTracy Bowman
 Communion Scripture & PrayersPerry Johnson

July Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Elijah Johnson
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell