

**Family & Friends..... May 8, 2019**

Happy Mother's Day! We honor our precious mothers on this special day, and let them know how much we love them and how important they are to us. We also remember the mothers who are no longer with us, but the precious memories we have will stay with us forever, for our mother's love will always be with us. Anna Reeves Jarvis celebrated Mother's Day when she held a memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia in 1908. Anna's mother, Ann Jarvis, was a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War. Anna's campaign was for Mother's Day to be recognized as a holiday in the U.S. as a personal celebration between mothers and their families. President Woodrow Wilson made this happen when he signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, to be held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers. Anna was upset about the commercialization surrounding this day as time when on. Her version of the day had involved wearing a white carnation as a badge, and visiting ones mother or attending church services, not the flowers, candy, and cards. History is interesting. Thank you Lord for all of our mothers and bless them today with Your love. Happy Mother's Day to my mom also!

*The fear of the Lord leads to life,  
so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.  
Proverbs 19:23*

We are always happy to have our visitors: Patricia Heffner (Central Point, OR), Becky McCartney (N Venice, FL), Dana and Maria Blankenship (Bragg City, MO), Finnley Oxford, Bob & Shirley Spellmann, (Neosho, MO), Stephanie and Olivia Waters (Monett, MO), Terry & Ranan Hester (Searcy), Laura Beth James (Garfield), Debra Lewis (Rogers), Abby Rogers (Bentonville), John & Logan Hearron, Tim Webb, and John Shepard, (Bella Vista)

Those on our prayer list: Caliopy Taylor is scheduled to have knee surgery later this month and requests our prayers. Tim Short broke his leg and will have surgery Wednesday, May 8th. Dolores McBride is doing better after her hospital stay at Washington Regional. Mary Green is now at home after her hospitalization. Bill Evans will have eye surgery on Thursday, May 16th. Danny Cannon asked for prayers for his father who had heart surgery and is not doing well. Continue to remember and pray for David Bradley, Jim Campbell, Susan Duffy, Ava Sailors, Mattlee Grace, Mike Lacey, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Congratulations to Randall & Tori Hunt on their baby boy, Sydni now has a baby brother. Remington Jarret arrived Monday the 6th, 8lbs. 9oz., 20 1/4 in. long. Both mom and Jarret are doing fine. We don't want to forget the grandparents who have to be beaming with joy, and great grandmother Rosalyn Patterson.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Hospital: Carrots, refried beans, children's shampoo, mandarin oranges, and BBQ sauce.

Children may not inherit their parents' talent, but will absorb their values.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day. *Karen*

**Bella Vista  
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40  
989 NW McNelly Road  
Bentonville, AR 72712

**Return Service Requested**

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM
Evening Worship	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	6:45 PM
Bible Class	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089  
Don Butcher.....855-1636  
Dallas Dobbs .....271-8609

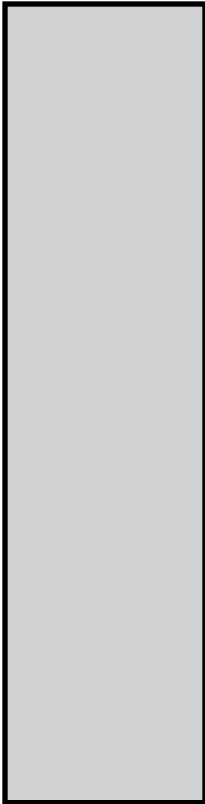
**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker Bryan Busbee Don Hairless Joe Hott  
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

**MINISTERS**

Randall Caselman.....855-4447  
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135  
Selwyn Nel .....Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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**Bella Vista**

**Greater Love**

Greater love is a simple phrase but has much more meaning than just two words. So, lets break it down.

**First, the word Greater.** It is defined by an amount or intensity considerably above normal or average. The first mention of this word is in the Old Testament: *Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night.* There are 72 scriptures that use the word greater in the Bible. When I hear the word Greater, I think of something that is the best. Nothing can be better. In recent years we heard a movie called the Greatest Showman, who was the best in what he did. *John 13:16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.* Here we learn that our God is the greatest. When we were younger and learning about God you may remember saying a prayer – God is Great God is Good. He is **great** and cannot be compared with anything or anyone else.

**Now let's look at Love.** Love is defined by a feeling of deep affection. I found 106 verses about Love in the Bible. The best Biblical definition of Love can be found in *1 Corinthians 13: 4-5 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

When we combine these two words we conclude that Greater Love is an intense feeling of affection above normal or average. The ultimate example of Greater Love is found in *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* This is the ultimate example of Greater Love because God sacrificed his ONLY son that he loved. To save us – YES, you and me from our sins so we will one day live eternally with him in Heaven.

He loves us and has made us his children. *1 John 3:1 says See what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of GOD.* This is hard to understand, and I want to tell you a story that may help us understand it better. This is a real story that happened not

**MEMBER LINES**



something out of a fiction book; we could call it a modern-day parable. It is about a mother's love. There was a girl named Kim and she was 15. The same age as some of us. She was at a school function. While Kim was in the restroom some guys put a drug into her coke. The next thing Kim remembered was waking up in a field where she was left all alone. She made her way back in to town where she called her mom to come help her. They took her to the hospital to make sure she was okay and filed a police report. She had been raped; her virginity was taken from her in such a sad way. They did not know if it was one or several that did this cruel thing to her. A month later she became sick and found out she was pregnant from the sad event. Today we hear about women having rights and it would be ok in the world's eye if Kim would choose abortion since she was wronged. Although she had been wronged, she decided to give this unborn child life. This was not an easy decision for her. She faced many challenges over the next months. She had to even go to the school board just to stay in regular school and finish her classes. One decision that came hard was the decision to give the child up for adoption. Kim thought that the unborn child would have a better chance in life with a loving family. Those that you would think would support her became distant. Teens in her church group didn't agree and said she was taking the easy way out. Well Kim continued with her decision and choose a Christian family to raise her daughter.

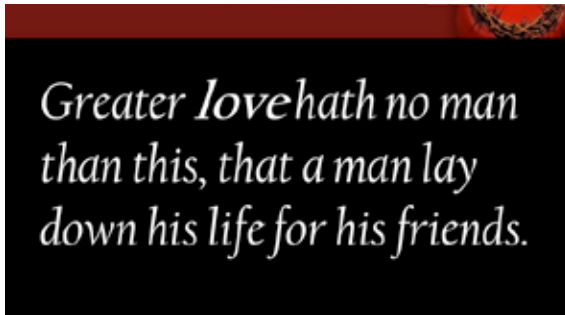
I am so glad that Kim choose GREATER LOVE of her unborn child rather than only thinking of herself. I know Kim is not God, but I think this helps us relate to something we can understand. God truly loved us that he sacrificed his son by letting him go to the cross to be crucified for us. I don't take this sacrifice lightly or think it is just some story in the Bible. It is a BIG DEAL! I understand it somewhat more than others because I was the child that Kim chose to give life.

So, the question I have today is how will we live knowing the sacrifice that God made for us? Let's read John 3:16 again and let's make it more personal. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son FOR Abby McSweeney and each of you.*

We all have received GOD'S GREATER LOVE the choice is ours to accept his great gift.

—ABBY MCSWEENEY,  
Bella Vista Church of Christ

This was a speach Abby gave at this year's LTC  
for which she was awarded a Gold Medal.



## Honoring Mother

### Is it right? Do we have scriptural authority to honor Mother?

Solomon, honored his mother. First Kings tells of Bathsheba visiting the palace of her son. When she arrived in the throne room, Solomon honored her: **1]** Arose to greet her, **2]** Bowed before her, **3]** Set a throne for her at his right hand. (1 Kings 2.19).

Outside Jerusalem we see three crosses. It's early afternoon and an eerie unexplained darkness has crept over the Holy City. Jesus honors His mother. He speaks to Mary and his dear friend, John. In paraphrase, He says: "*Mother, you need a son*". Then focusing on John, He says, "*Take care of her for me.*"

The fifth of the Ten Commandments from Sinai includes "*Honor your mother.*" The Apostle Paul speaks plainly to the church today: "*Honor your father and mother...that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth*" (Exodus 20.5 & Ephesians 6:2-).

It should not surprise us that great men outside of the Bible were steeped in the concept of honoring their mothers...

- Abraham Lincoln said: *All that I am, or can be, I owe to my angel mother:*
- Henry Ward Beecher wrote: *The mother's heart is the child's classroom.*
- John Gray is credited with saying: *The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.*
- Napoleon maintained: *The future destiny of the child is always the work of mother.*
- Oliver Wendell Holmes:  
*Youth fades, love drops, the leaves of friendship fall,  
But a mother's love outlives them all.*

### Why Should We Honor Mother?

**Because she first loved us.** Mothers are made in the image, the likeness of God - Like Him she first loved us. Mother gave us life. From the beginning, she surrounded us with a hedge of love. She carefully shaped our lives. She refused us too much freedom too soon. Though painful to her, she disciplined. I remember Mother whipping me and then I would catch her secretly crying about it. Most of us *can remember* a time when we did not know that God loved us, but we *can never remember* a time when we did not know our mother's love. Amen?

**Because she is eternally prejudiced in our favor.** I can recall Mother kneeling at the foot of her bed, taking my name to the throne of God. Let me tell you something - Regardless of where our mother is today, in this world or beyond, her prayer for us is still the same - That we will be God's child, God's person, that we will respond to His Word. You see, mother always wants the best for us. We honor her because she first loved us has an eternal desire for our betterment.

**Because time and life are running out.** Of all the things in this world, we take for granted, perhaps most is time. Folk, we do not have forever to honor mother. Satan is saying, you have all kinds of time to do good, to honor your Mother. Here it is, eternity will not provide enough time for the regret if we neglect and abuse the opportunities we have today of saying: *Mother, I love you!* A Phone Call. A Flower. A Hug. A Kiss. Honor her today by making things right if they're wrong. Time doesn't heal the wounds of abuse and neglect in a mother's heart. James said, *If you know to do right, then do it.* It is a sin not to honor mother.

Interesting isn't it that the Book of Proverbs ends with a chapter in honor of a wife and Mother: "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate" (Proverbs 31.28-31).

Mother's Day - Use it to personally say: *Thank you. I love you.* If mother is gone, then thank God for her: Her memory, her love and her discipline. Of course, the best way to honor any mother is to adjust our life to her prayer. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN



### FOR THE RECORD: 5/5/19

Sunday Class.....	175	Sunday AM Worship.....	266	Sunday PM.....	129
Wednesday.....	128	Offering.....	\$14,736.00	Budget.....	\$11,400

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/12/19

Announcements .....	Curt LaPorte	AM Song Leader .....	Lee McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Cecile Boothe	AM Closing Prayer .....	Bryan Busbee
Elder's Prayer.....	Tracy Bowman	PM Song Leader.....	Lance Bowman
Greeters.....	Howard Hurst & Don Cope	PM Closing Prayer.....	Chris Johnson
Ladies Encouragement...Doris Rhodes & Barbara Roberts		Server.....	Andrew Albers, Jim Branstetter
Server .....	Don Cope, Marquis Elliott	Server .....	Greg Fulgham, Keith Hubanks
Server .....	Frank James, Gary McCool	Server .....	Ray Reiss, Jerry Schimming
Nursery.....	Nina Verkler & Caliopy Tayloe	Van Driver .....	Jim Branstetter
Worship Coordinator .....	Mike Lunsford	Video Operator.....	Aaron Bagwell

### WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 5/15/19

Song Leader.....	Lance Bowman	Speaker.....	Don Butcher	Announcements/Prayer.....	Jerry Orr
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