

Family & Friends.....June 5th, 2019

Boy the raccoons are sure cute to look at when you're not mad at them! They are a real problem where your bird feeders are concerned. Have you ever had one stare you down, while you are shouting at them to go away, when they are at your feeders? They have the audacity to glare at you while looking like an adorable outlaw where redemption has never entered into their head. They can guzzle down all the bird seed at one sitting. Their masks are not just for show, they actually help them to see better with the black markings that fall across their eyes. They see with their hands and rely on sense of touch to locate the goodies. That might mean your garbage can. The raccoon is highly intelligent, resourceful, eats weeds and small pests, problem solvers, and good climbers and swimmers. They live about three years in the wild and around twenty in captivity. They carry dangerous diseases, especially rabies. We should be very careful about approaching one. They can be aggressive. God must have had a lot of fun when he designed this creature. I am always in awe of His creations! God is love, God is great!

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way,
and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:6*

We are thankful each week for our visitors: Austin Gambrell (Dumas, TX), Cheri Grissom, Carolyn Garrett, Brian, Beth, Jaxson, Jake, Jaelyn Watkins (Michie, TN), Cleo Dreves with daughter Jane (Springdale), Debra Lewis (Rogers), Finnley & Orion Oxford (Neosho, MO), Cliff & Linda Wheelock (Centerton), Jim & Jaxon Caylor, Brenda, Reese, and Caliopy Taylor (Bentonville), Mark & Janelle Engle, John Shepard (Bella Vista), Abigail Butcher, Lyla Kinder, and Greyson & Sterling.

Those on our prayer list: Don Cope requests prayers for his sister Glenda Jones who has been diagnosed with cancer. George Bowman is at North-west Hospital having tests run and needs our prayers. Mary Kerley is now at home following her hospitalization. She is contemplating a Heart Valve replacement. Pray for her decision and success of the procedure. We have been asked to pray for Glenn Williams and Margaret Beaty's sister, Louise Powell. Continue to remember and pray for David Reeves, Chuck Pippin, David Bradley, Susan Duffy, Ava Sailors, Mike Lacey, Mattlee Grace, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and all the flood victims in areas affected recently.

Prayer for the sick, "Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing illness today, whether in body or mind. Restore strength to their bodies and joy to their spirits. Comfort them and allow them renewed health, so they may bless and serve you, now and forevermore! In Jesus' name, Amen!" This was shared by Evelyn Lessly.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Salmon, canned chicken, BBQ sauce, shampoo, and spinach.

To become whole, yield to the Holy Spirit.

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

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....479-855-1636
Dallas Dobbs.....479-271-8609

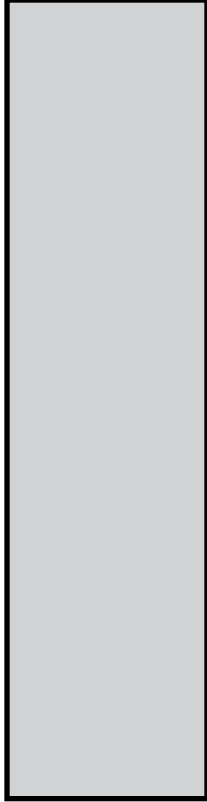
DEACONS

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

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3201
Selwin Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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MEMBER

Jesus Style Evangelism

Evangelism! It's commanded: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always..." "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." "...You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

God enables. There's no doubt that God is at work in the lives of His people, enabling us to accomplish His commission: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3.20). "May the God of peace... That great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ..." (Hebrews 13.20-21). "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus... For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" (Philippians 1.6 & 2.13).

Our problem is: Do we recognize the open doors that God places before us, or are we oblivious because we are *not* soul sensitive? Not sensitive to the opportunities because we've forgotten our kingdom mission and purpose, "to seek and save the lost." It's easy for us to become so wrapped up in our own schedules that we become unaware of His open door.

Jesus is our example. Three things we note...

- Jesus was into *personal* evangelism. First and foremost, He shared God with friends and family. Half of the Apostles were previously known to Jesus, and He spent ninety percent of His time with these twelve and a few women. Indeed! Most people come to know Jesus, not by strangers, but by someone they know.
- A careful study of the four Gospels reveals an interesting fact: Of the sixty recorded encounters Jesus had with others, eight of them were with the social elite, twelve were with average folk, and forty were with the hurting, the poor,



the hungry, sick and bereaved, the outcast and downtrodden. Check it out! Jesus didn't mingle with the prophets, priest, kings. Does this tell us something? Our most effective evangelistic efforts will *not* be with the rich and socially elite, but with those who have a perceived need. If we're to follow Jesus, we must care about people as individuals, knowing not only their cultural context, but also about their personal needs.

• In the parable of the sower, Jesus seems to be telling us that broadcasting the seed onto all kinds of ground is the least best way to share God's Good News. You're not hearing me say we shouldn't use today's media or technology, but the best result comes from sowing the seed on ground that God has cultivated. Take time to examine the conversion narratives in the Book of Acts, and you'll find folk who had an intimate relationship with God to begin with: The Jews on Pentecost, the Samaritans in Acts chapter eight, (They had been exposed to Jesus by the woman at the well), the Ethiopian treasurer, Saul of Tarsus, Cornelius, Lydia, etc). Why should this surprise us, searchers are open to God's intent in their life. Perhaps we would do well to focus more of our efforts on the Good Soil. Be open to the heart, the ground, already cultivated, fertilized, and is awaiting our planting efforts. Amen?



Become a good listener. It's easy to see from the above points that we do our best work with family, friends, acquaintances, by listening. Sometimes we start our evangelistic efforts by talking first and listening later, or at worst, never listening at all. Where are they? What do they need, want, expect? What is their life about? What's their current relationship with God? Listen, telling them we have all the right answers before we know the question is presumptuous, arrogant, and generally a turn off. Again, listen to Jesus as he shares truth at Jacob's Well, at Simon's house, the Woman taken in adultery, with Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, the thief on the cross, etc.

Have a plan. Sharing Jesus, teaching truth, takes time. Perhaps this is the downfall of most of us. We must set aside a time for evangelism, or we won't do it. Amen?

- A time for prayer. Ask God to make our heart soul sensitive, that we will see the open door when it's presented. Pray for wisdom in sharing, that we use the right words, illustrations, and ideas that will mean most to them. Pray for the person that God will providentially soften their heart, making them receptive.
- Spend time in the Word. Search for material on how to best reach the lost.
- Spend time with those we're trying to win, become involved in their lives, establish credibility in a culture skeptical of Christianity.

Indeed, people are headed for eternity! We can make a difference.

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Learning To Love

Born in New Garden North Carolina on May 20, 1768, Dolley Payne was raised in a large and wealthy Quaker family on a Virginia plantation. After being married for only three years to her first husband, John Todd, a severe outbreak of yellow fever claimed the lives of her husband and youngest son.

In 1794 Aaron Burr introduced the 26-year-old widow to James Madison (43). They were married four months later. Dolley would become the most popular First Lady, overshadowing all others for decades.

When the capital city was burned by the British in 1814, Dolley Madison famously rescued a portrait of President George Washington. During her reign over Washington society Mrs. Madison gained a reputation as the quintessential hostess. Henry Clay said of her, "Everybody loves Mrs. Madison," to which Dolley was said to reply, "That's because Mrs. Madison loves everybody."

Is not that what Jesus wants us to do? "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." "This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself: 'On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22.36-40).

- Jesus states that the identifying mark of faithful Christians was their love for each other. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13.35).
- Paul echoed that the "more excellent way" for believers to live is love. "Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians" 13.13).
- John also called all Christians to prove their claim on eternal life by their love for fellow Christians. "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death" (1 John 3.14).
- And Peter issued the simple command: "Love the brotherhood" "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Pet. 2.17).

Time and time again inspired writers reassert the need for the Lord's church to show true love: "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints"... "Let brotherly love continue" (Ephesians 1.15 & Hebrews 13.1). By so doing the unbelieving world may realize that they too might share in a love and God above will recognize and reward us for becoming more like Him. "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

—David Bragg
Greensboro, NC

BUT THE
Greatest
of these is
Love

A CHAPLAIN FRIEND POSTED THIS IN HIS BLOG...

- **Nothing is opened by mistake any more than the mouth.**
- **Shakespeare once said; "Men of few words are the best men."**
- **Benjamin Franklin said; "The heart of a fool is in his mouth but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart."**
- **Solomon wrote; "The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil."**

FOR THE RECORD: 6/9/19

Sunday Class..... 187	Sunday AM Worship..... 290	Sunday PM 122
Wednesday..... 124	Offering..... \$10,474	Budget..... \$11,400

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 6/16/19

Welcome & Elder's Prayer	Dallas Dobbs	AM Song Leader	Lance Bowman
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Aaron Sloan	AM Closing Prayer	George Turnage
Greeters.....	Mike Huffaker & Frank James	PM Song Leader.....	David Reeves
Ladies Encouragement.....	Cindy Johnson & Nancy Cash	PM Closing Prayer.....	Howard Hurst
Server	Aaron Bagwell	Server.....	Tim Duffy
Server	Charles Flanary, Mike Hale	Server	Gary Hodge, Chris McSweeney
Server	Richard Myers, Jeff Oxford	Server	David Saunders, Raman Salimi
Nursery.....	Betty Smith & Cindy Johnson	Van Driver.....	Jim Branstetter
Worship Coordinator.....	Woody Barker	Video Operator.....	Marquis Elliott

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 6/12/19

Song Leader.....	Sammy McCain	Speaker.....	Malcolm Winters	Announcements/Prayer.....	Ken Rosenbaum
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