

**Family & Friends..... May 15th, 2019**

Looks like Blackberry Winter has paid us a visit. This usually happens from early to late spring. Mini winters pop up and spring is interrupted for a few days. *This occurs whenever air flow in the upper atmosphere is "blocked" over high latitude locations such as Greenland and the Canadian Arctic, and the cold air is diverted over and into the contiguous U.S.* Blackberry Winter is a term used for a period of cold weather that follows the blooming of blackberry vines. It signals the blackberry vines to start growing. Have you ever tromped through the woods when the blackberries are ready to pick? It was fun until I was picking a berry and was face to face with a worm staring at me. I started screaming and everyone I was with started running toward me. Yep, I humiliated myself pretty bad. I am just glad it wasn't a snake I confronted, because I would probably be laying on the ground then. I hope my friend Kate is reading this, because she was one of those people that thought I was in danger. Sorry Kate, apology a little late after twenty something years. Thank you Lord for our different Seasons. They are beautiful! You bless us with love, our Family & Friends daily as we journey through our walk with you. You are awesome!

*And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.*

Welcome to all our visitors: Dan & Becky McCartney (N Venice, FL), Robert & Tacey Williams (Broken Arrow, OK), Abel Johnson (Olathe, KS), Kapten & Ashley (Rocky Comfort, MO), Kole Kasischke (Stella, MO), Michael Lance (Mountain Home), Keith & Ana Caselman (Farmington), Melba Keen (Fayetteville), Destiny Cummings (Pea Ridge), Amber Fraser (Rogers), Holley Skinner (Searcy), Jim Caylor and Myra Sisk (Bentonville), John Shepard, Leonard Haley (Bella Vista), John & Kerry Layton and Abigail Butcher.

Those on our prayer list: Barbara Roberts' mother, Mollye Gonzales fell and fractured her hip and neck. She is in Washington Regional and requests our prayers. Caliopy Taylor is scheduled to have a knee surgery May 23rd and requests our prayers. Bill Evans is scheduled to have eye surgery on Thursday the 16th. Pray for Joe Hott's sister, Barbara Bell. Continue to remember and pray for Shirley Hale in the loss of her brother, Wayne, Mary Green, Tim Short, David Bradley, Jim Campbell, Susan Duffy, Ava Sailors, Mattlee Grace, Mike Lacey, Dolores McBride, Marvin Thomson, our military and police force, our missionaries, our country and president.

We welcome our newest member Amanda Alsip, (604 SW Diamond Drive, Apt. 12, Bentonville, 72712. Phone 479-306-9107). Seek her out and give her a big hug! Don't forget our Graduation Celebration on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Our graduates this year are Abby McCain, Lance Bowman, Hannah Dunlap, and Caliopy Taylor. This is their special time, come and support them!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Freezer bags, liquid fabric softener, bleach, children's shampoo, and Cascade.

*The heart filled with praise brings pleasure to God.*

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**

**Strong Sense of Family**

Trevor Match was being interviewed on ESPN radio, asked about why he thought that Clemson had built such a strong football program in the last few years. His quick response was, "They have built a strong sense of family." He talked about how Head Coach Dabo Sweeney and his staff wanted players to see their coaches not just as coaches but also as husbands and fathers. Consequently, the coaches' families spend a lot of time around the athletic facilities or hanging out with the players. They have intentionally built a strong family environment that doesn't compartmentalize but rather coalesces. Recruits talk about sensing it when they make a visit, but, more importantly, players on the roster speak just as strongly about it.

How many teams make such an emphasis isn't clear, but you don't seem to hear that said often enough. While I find such human interest stories heartwarming, it makes me wonder, "Do people describe our congregation with similar terminology?" Are we creating, developing, and nurturing a strong sense of family?

The early church definitely majored in that priority. From the time the first church of our Savior was established, we find this emphasis: *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2.42-47).*

Often, New Testament writers spoke of the church with family terminology: *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"... From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"... "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you*

**MEMBERLINES**



ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth"... "Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity"... "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you" (Ephesians 2.19; 3.15; 1 Timothy 3.15; 5.1-2; Titus 2.1-8).

The church exists as a sub-community within the broader community around them. People from that broader community are looking for greater intimacy and meaningful relationships. One place they often turn is to various churches. Whether through our efforts to evangelize or through their seeking that brings them within our walls, we have an opportunity to expose them to a "strong sense of family."



But, by being faithful to New Testament teaching, we offer this in the context of truth rather than error. We cannot settle for simply offering truth, as eternally vital as that is. Along with it, we must love, embrace, and work to incorporate them into our family. God has His church designed to follow His written will in the context of a tight-knit, spiritual family. A true sense of family will draw them into a relationship with us. It will better open their hearts and minds to being drawn into a relationship with Christ. The net effect will be greater than a national championship. It will be many, many souls won to eternal life. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity to be spiritual family!

—NEAL POLLARD  
Denver, CO.

## Bind Us Together In Family

There can be no doubt that God created us for togetherness in family, church, and community. God's will for togetherness is found in the command, "what God has joined together let no man put asunder." The context is that of marriage, but the principle can be applied to family, religious and social interaction. We know this because of other scriptures. "I pray for those who will believe in me, that they may be one... Agree with one another so that there be no divisions among you... Watch out for those who cause division... For they are not serving Jesus, but their own desires... As much as possible, live at peace with all men." The question is not, does God want us to get along, but how?

**Ruptured relationships are healed when we are willing to...**

**Take the initiative.** Regardless of whose fault it is, we have a God-given responsibility settle the problem immediately. "If your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go reconcile." Who is at fault, who started it, and how the brother will react has nothing to do with our responsibility. We must take the initiative. "Don't let the sun go down on your wrath." Don't give the devil time and place to work. Silence is *not* golden. Do something today to heal the hurt. We are family!

**Sacrifice our own interest.** Culture teaches us to look out for number one. This is not Bible. No wonder families, churches, and nations are feuding. If we genuinely love others, we will be willing to sacrifice self on their behalf. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." There was a time everybody could quote it, but the words of Jesus have largely been forgotten: "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be the son of your Father in heaven." We are family!

**Encourage.** Anger and encouragement are mutually exclusive. They cannot occupy the same heart. "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other. Live in peace. Encourage the timid and help the weak. Be patient with all." Be an encouragement to family, church and neighbor. We are family!

**Show appreciation.** Jesus found something good to say about each of the Seven Churches of Asia in spite of their weaknesses. Think it! Say it! Write it! We must stop our fault finding, complaining and critical judgment of others. Tell them, I love and appreciate you because... *You fill in the blank...* Encouragement and expressions of appreciation bring genuine healing to strained relationships. We are family!

**Love is the answer!** "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always

hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Perhaps we'll never be more like Jesus than when we are loving and forgiving one another. Bind us together Lord, bind us together with love. God help us to believe and live like we sing, amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

**We're part of the family that been born again;  
Part of the family whose love knows no end;  
For Jesus has saved us and made us His own,  
Now we're part of the family that's on its way home.**

**When a brother meets sorrow we all feel his grief;  
When he's passed thru the valley we all feel relief;  
Together in sunshine, together in rain,  
Together in victory thru His precious name.**

**And tho some go before us, we'll all meet again;  
Just inside the city as we enter in;  
There'll be no more parting, with Jesus we'll be  
Together forever, God's family!**

**And sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry;  
Sometimes we share together, heartaches and sighs;  
Sometimes we dream together of how it will be**

### FOR THE RECORD: 5/12/19

Sunday Class.....164	Sunday AM Worship.....275	Sunday PM .....139
Wednesday.....135	Offering.....\$10,992.00	Budget.....\$11,400

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/19/19

Announcements.....George Turnage	AM Song Leader.....Chris McSweeney
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Steve Kinder	AM Closing Prayer.....Gene Geren
Elder's Prayer.....Dallas Dobbs	PM Song Leader.....Anthony Christiano
Greeters.....Howard Hurst & Don Cope	PM Closing Prayer.....Aaron Sloan
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.....Cheryl & Lauren Rosenbaum	Van Driver.....Bryan Busbee
Worship Coordinator.....Mike Lunsford	Video Operator.....Aaron Bagwell

### WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 5/22/19

Song Leader.....Josh Grisham	Speaker.....Ray Reiss	Announcements/Prayer.....Mike York
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## Honoring Our Graduates

Abby McCain  
Lance Bowman  
Hannah Dunlap  
Caliopy Taylor