

**Family & Friends..... August 8, 2018**

It was a beautiful Lord's Day filled with lots of sunshine! Looking up in the sky yesterday, I saw the most amazing clouds. They were so pretty. I felt like I was in Colorado looking at the mountain ranges from a distance through the clouds. How do these clouds form? There is always moisture in the air, it is known as water vapor and humidity. It is water vapor in its gaseous state. When you have a parcel of rising air, as it cools it reaches its dew point. It goes from water vapor to liquid. You then have tiny drops of water that make the clouds. Clouds can contain millions of tons of water. Our Master Creator knew exactly what He was doing when He created clouds. We can also tell when there is a storm on the horizon. We have storm clouds in our lives at times, but God is always with us. He will help us through these times if we let Him. We can draw closer to God and become a stronger Christian. Let's enjoy the good times when the clouds are shining with their beauty and give God the praise He deserves. God is good! To God Be The Glory!

*Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them,  
and a voice came out of the cloud,  
"This is My beloved Son, listen to Him."  
Mark 9:7*

We would like to welcome Doug & Monica Klingman back into our fellowship. They placed membership Sunday morning. If you haven't met Doug & Monica, please give them a big hug, and get acquainted with this nice couple.

It always makes for a happy day when we have our visitors: Diane Christiano (Racine, WI), Andrea & Anna Wald (Anderson, MO), George Bowman (Rogers), Bob & Jill Stone (Centerton), David & Susan Cluck (Gravette), Brenda Taylor and Traci Owen (Bentonville), Eugenia Harrison, Donovan Harris, Kelli Homeyer, Joy Sawyer, John Shepard, and Alana Underwood (Bella Vista), and Michael Mansell.

Those on our prayer list this week: Debbie Helms had cancer surgery on Tuesday the 7th at Rogers Mercy Hospital. Harold Akridge continues to have serious health problems. He and Charlotte request a place in our prayers. Continue to remember and pray for Joe Hott's niece, Jennifer Montgomery, Mark Tucker's mother, Shirley, Marvin Thompson, David Bradley, Robbie Arnold (taking a new medication), Jennifer Oxford, Ann Clark, David Pippin, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president. Our son, Lee, says it's raining ash down on them where he lives in California. Remember the fire fighters, and military who are trying to put out these fires, along with the people who live there.

Items needed this week for Fair Haven Children's Home: taco sauce, cereal, toilet paper, pop tarts, juice, and refried beans.

*Many are brought to faith by trouble.*

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

**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  
Selwin Nel .....Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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**Bella Vista**

**Created In His Likeness**

*"You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the Earth by the Master Craftsman."*

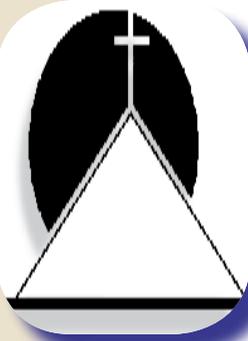
**Max Lucado**

On the sixth day of creation, "God said, 'Let us make mankind in our own image, in our likeness,' so God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7. NIV)

There is no account in the Bible like the creation narrative. We see our Creator, taking a dark, blank canvas and creating everything we can see, smell, and hear. The famous American writers, Thoreau, Longfellow or Wadsworth could not write anything more beautifully than the creation account in Genesis. The world's greatest painters Rembrandt, Picasso or Van Gough, with all their famous works combined could not paint anything that could compare with God's living, breathing creation.

I had a dream that I was there each day of creation watching God. "God reached out and took the light in his hands, And God rolled the light around in his hands until he made the sun; And he set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness, spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between the darkness and the light He hurled the world; And God said: That's good!" In my dream I watched His omnipotent power bring giant bodies of water with all the sea life together in perfect harmony. On the last day of creation, I am standing alone in the overhead surgical gallery watching the Master Craftsman as He begins His last work. His greatest creation would come from a lifeless mound of dirt, laying loosely on the surgical table. Before my eyes, God takes the dust and He magically creates the first human man. Man is without life, he is motionless, like one of the many pieces of drift wood that has washed up from one

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of God's great oceans. Gently God leans over man and He personally breathes into his nostrils the breath of life. God is performing the first miracle CPR. Suddenly, this new creature, man, effortlessly takes his first breath, smoothly inhaling and exhaling. Man's body, this complex structure, made up of billions of small cells, tissues, and organs all begin working perfectly because of his Creator. He lays there motionless for a few minutes and then he effortlessly stands up and for the first time he sees the beautiful garden that God created for him. God took His special human creation and gave him the most perfect beginning. He gave him an environment like none other in the world and gave him a mate, someone that he could love and share his special, beautiful life with. God's plan for them was to have children and live in the garden forever. He planned they would never experience unhappiness, sickness, disease, or death. God had the picture-perfect plan for Adam and Eve, they were created in absolute and total excellence. God created an untold number of animals, fish in the sea, birds in the air, reptiles and bugs of all kinds but He only created two humans.

Can you see how special they were? *"He deliberately planned us, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the Earth."* God saw something in man that he couldn't see in himself. He made man in His likeness. If God held up a mirror He wouldn't see the physical features of man, God would see Himself, perfect in every way. At that special moment in time, He saw a human man who could love, enjoy the beauty of the

garden, be thankful and appreciate how special he was, because at that instant he had the only immaculate life ever made. For this one moment in history man was matchless, he enjoyed happiness beyond comparison, he had no flaws, he had no sins. He, like His creator, was perfect.

Reminds me of Michelangelo's famous painting of God's finger touching Adam's.

—HAROLD AKRIDGE  
Bella Vista Church of Christ

**"In the image of God  
He created him; male and  
female He created them"**

## Hearts In His Image

"Let us make man in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1.26a). What an interesting verse! We may not know all that this means, but we do know that we have the ability to think, we have consciousness, and a conscience. We can know right from wrong and that knowledge impacts our conscience. For instance...

Our relationship with God and others is a result of a heart condition, a result of how we think. Solomon said, *"as a man thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Proverbs 23.7). Jesus said: *"For out of the heart comes the issues of life. The good man does good because of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man does evil because that's what is in his heart. For where your treasure is, there is your heart also."* (Luke 6.45 Matthew 6.21).

The Biblical heart is a comprehensive term for our whole personality. It's where we think, desire, and understand. The heart contains our will; it's the seat of consciousness, understanding; it's where decisions are made; where approval or guilt is announced. The heart is the authentic you and me. No wonder Scripture speaks of *"God searching for good hearts and that He meets us and lives within our hearts."* (1 Samuel 16.7 & Romans 5.5).

It's interesting to note that attitudes of the heart have direction: We are to love God, vertically, with all our heart. We are to love our neighbor, horizontally, as ourselves (Luke 10.27). In our creation verse, God said let Us, speaking to the Spirit and to His Son, Jesus. Then it was Paul who admonished that we are to have a Jesus heart; we are to conform to His image (Heart). Philippians 2.5, Romans 8.29, and Colossians 3.10. If we are to have a Jesus heart, mind, disposition, personality, image, what does that look like?

**We're to love God first and foremost, with all our heart.** At the Temple, age twelve, Jesus was about the Father's business. In the Sermon on the Mount, He contended that He had come to fulfill the Law, to keep it perfectly, to seek first His Father's kingdom and it's righteousness. In the Garden it was *"Not My will, but Thine be done."* Can we with integrity sing "Have Thine Own Way, Lord?" Having a Jesus heart is loving God, giving Him the right place in our life.

**Secondly, we are to have a genuine love for others.** Jesus reached out to others, touched people, because he loved them. Do we love others? Are we *"doing good to all men especially those in the household of God?"* Do we understand that serving others is serving the One who created us? Do we have a Jesus heart?

**Jesus accepted people where they were.** Jesus didn't demand a certain degree of righteousness before He would: Love them, talk with them, touch them, help them, die for them. Mark chapter two records Jesus having dinner at Matthew Levi's house. Jesus is eating with publicans and sinners. Then, the first thing we know, Matthew becomes a disciple. Indeed, *"While we were yet sinners, Jesus invites us: "Come to me, all*

*you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11.28-30). *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5.8).

**Like that of Jesus, our heart is seen in forgiveness and affirmation.** John chapter eight is a narrative of forgiveness. A woman is taken in adultery, but Jesus loved her, affirmed her need for forgiveness, and a changed lifestyle. Question!... Are we quick to name the sin of others, or are we, like Jesus, demonstrating a heart of forgiveness and affirmation? God help us to have a heart that looks for the good in others before we start pointing to their sin. Amen?

**We are to have a heart of inclusion.** We've gotta ask ourselves, are we calling sinners into our fellowship, or are we striving to exclude as many people as possible from our church? These two mentalities, these two hearts, are exemplified in First Corinthians 6.9-11: *"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (Read closely)... And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"* (1 Corinthians 6.9-11). Folk, self-righteousness is a sin. Jesus told of two men who went to pray: One was arrogant in his own self righteousness, he was filled with his own goodness. The other bowed his head in humility saying *'Lord be merciful to me a sinner.'* Jesus said one went home justified (Luke 18. 10-14). Where is our heart, proud in our own goodness, or seeing ourselves as the sinner we were and are? We are all sinners - Guilty or Justified.

God, form us into Your image, Your likeness, Give us a Jesus heart.

—RANDALL CASELMAN

### FOR THE RECORD: 8/5/18

Sunday Class.....170	Sunday AM Worship.....256	Sunday PM.....144
Wednesday.....155	Offering.....\$13,451.00	Budget.....10,718

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/12/18

Announcements.....George Turnage	AM Song Leader.....Anthony Christiano
Elder's Prayer.....Don Butcher	PM Song Leader.....Lee McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....John Bowman	PM Closing Prayer.....Joshua Sloan
Greeters.....Marquis Elliott & Charles Flanary	Server.....Mark Bagwell, Roy Barnica
Server.....Caleb Cannon, Michael Hale	Server.....Keith Hubanks, Mike Huffaker
Server.....Perry Johnson, Chris McSweeney	Server.....Bob Musson, Ray Reiss
Nursery.....Reagan & Jennifer Busbee	Van Driver.....Michael Hale
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer.....	.....Nancy Barker & Patsy Tarr
Worship Coordinator.....Woody Barker	Video Operator.....Richard Myers

### WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 8/15/18

Song Leading.....Lee McCain	Speaker.....Mike Lacey	Announcements.....Ken Rosenbaum
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