

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

November 2012

A PENNEY'S REMINDER

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and

picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America"

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is Holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

Vote the Rock

Most of us have probably heard of Rock the Vote. Using music, popular culture, new technologies and grassroots organizing, Rock the Vote has registered more than 5 million young people to vote, including a record-shattering 2.5 million registration downloads in the historic 2008 election.

While it is commendable to want to get as many people as possible to vote, it seems the 'Rock the Vote' demographic gets their information and values from venues like MTV and Comedy Central. Those values normally are polar opposites of Biblical values.

There is a better way to go to the polls. Instead of Rock the Vote, let's Vote the Rock. *1 Cor 10:4 ...the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.* Now I'm not trying to propose a WWJVF campaign (who would Jesus vote for); I'm just saying we need to look at God's word and the values that Christians **ought to** have in common with Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

First, we do have a responsibility to participate in our government. God has established our government and granted us the right to participate. Voting gives us the opportunity to loyally serve God in the political process.

Second, we must make sure that we elevate the issues that the bible deems more important. The traditional definition of marriage is important to Jesus (Matt 19:4-6). Protection of the most vulnerable is also at the top of the list. God is a God of life; children are a blessing from God, so we need to protect the unborn, the aged and the disabled from a culture of death and convenience.

If you have spent any time reading the bible, you will realize that money is not Jesus' number one issue. In fact, we are told that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Jesus told the rich, young ruler to sell all he had and give to the poor. And we all remember the story about the rich man who built all the new barns to hoard his harvest and his life was taken

from him that very night. What good does it do to gain the whole world but lose your soul?

Money itself is not evil and we are not prohibited from earning a good wage or establishing wealth. Therefore, it is not wrong to vote with the economy in mind, but it is wrong to put the economy above issues of life and traditional biblical values.

So it is our responsibility to find out what the candidates stand for. Do they stand for life, freedom, traditional marriage and hard work? Or are they more likely to support abortion, redefining marriage and the government taking what God has blessed you to be able to work for. (Yes, the bible absolutely tells us to help the poor, but it also tells us this in *2 Thes 3:10: For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."* Our charity to the poor is to be voluntary and through the church.)

Please participate. Your vote does count. Let's get out and Vote the Rock!

Vote of Thanks

Of course no one has forgotten that November is when we celebrate Thanksgiving. This month there has been so much focus on the election. People argue about whether our nation is going down the right or wrong path. Which policies are failures and which will bring prosperity? Both candidates try to convince us that the other will ruin this nation.

In the midst of all the negative that is going on this election season, let's remember that we live in (what I believe is) the greatest nation in the history of the world. A nation founded on biblical principles. A nation that is still the land of the free and the home of the brave. We are only that way because of the grace and mercy of God. So even if the election doesn't go the way you think it should, we still need to thank God that he gave us this land and we can still freely worship his Holy Name in the United States of America!

Mike

Recipe Swap

PUMPKIN MAPLE COFFEE CAKE

1 ½ c. flour
¾ c. brown sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. baking soda
2/3 c. buttermilk
½ c. canned pumpkin
1/3 c. oil
½ tsp. maple flavoring
2 eggs

Topping: ½ c. sugar, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp. maple flavoring

Preheat oven to 350*. Grease a 9x9 square baking dish. Mix together dry ingredients- set aside. Mix together wet ingredients, add dry to wet and mix well. Mix together topping. Spread half the batter in the baking dish. Sprinkle with half the topping. Repeat layers. Bake for 25-35 minutes.

Optional: to the cake batter you can add 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice. No topping, frost with maple cream cheese frosting.

Maple Cream Cheese Frosting:

8 oz. cream cheese, ¼ c. butter, 2 ½ -3 c. sifted powdered sugar, 2 tsp. maple flavoring, pumpkin pie spice or other spice your choice.

Beat cream cheese and butter together until creamy. Slowly add powdered sugar. Add flavoring and mix well making sure to scrape sides of bowl. Frost cake and dust with pumpkin pie spice. Refrigerate leftovers.
Becky Arnold

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Jacob Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Huertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons

June Dedeke needs prayers.
Wayne Arnold having radiation.

TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to set your clocks back on Nov. 4th. Spring ahead Fall back!

COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST: If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

RECYCLING: We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

COLLECTING FOR ALPHA: Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.)

We will not be having our regular meeting in November, December or January. We will meet again in February.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Grace Arnold
4 Nolan Reich
9 Cylus Tichenor
12 Eli Farr
13 Kati Haybarker
15 Joan Hosler
17 Heidi Hawk
18 Libby Phillips
20 Doris Bixler
21 Sheila Farr
23 Leota Bolz
29 Laikyn Hawk

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

CONCERT: The Tim Hawkins concert is in Kansas City Nov. 17th.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The community service will be Nov. 18th at the Catholic Church at 7:00 PM. We need to furnish 2 pies.

CHRISTMAS BOXES: We need to bring all shoeboxes, preferably wrapped but if not wrapped, the sooner the better. Also if anyone has extra wrapping paper that would be very much appreciated also. Please leave it in the foyer.

Serving in NOVEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Steve Carson

Scripture Readers:

4- Rachel Arnold-1 Cor. 9:1-14

11-Carsons- 1 Cor. 9:15-27

18-Farrs- Psalm 100:1-5

25-Carolyn Starkey- 1 Cor. 10:1-13

Nursery:

4-Debbie Gerstner/

11-Glee Hosler/Curtis Mitchell

18-Linda Durand/Rachel Arnold

25-Sarah Hollis/Jarret Mitchell

Greeters/Ushers:

4-Linda Durand

11-Carsons

18- Farrs

25-Carolyn Starkey

Lord's Supper Preparation:

4-Linda Durand

11-Carsons

18-Farrs

25- Carolyn Starkey

Communion Table:

4-Stan, Jay

Dennis Tichenor, Cylus Tichenor

11- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Jarret Mitchell

18- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Clint Thomas

25- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Andy Arnold

Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby,

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Vocals: Jay Welborn, Stan Farr, Carolyn Starkey

Church Offerings

Sept. 30-\$1789.30

Oct. 7-\$1922.00

Oct. 14-\$1413.00

Oct. 21-\$1313.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Nov. 10th at 8:00 AM. David Grove will be hosting. The men's breakfast will be permanently changed to the second Saturday instead of the first.

CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER: The church dinner will be Sunday, Nov. 18th after church. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay. We will deliver food boxes to the shut-ins just before dinner.

HOLIDAY SEASON: I know it seems like Christmas is a long way away, but it will be here before you know it. It is time to be thinking about decorating and the Dec. activities. I don't want to panic you, but we need to get the dates on the calendar so everyone can plan ahead to participate. If you are heading up any of the activities we've had before (decorating the sanctuary, caroling, cookie bake, ladies Christmas party, church Christmas dinner, food boxes, Christmas program) let Donetta and Christy know the date and your plans soon. We are open to any other ideas or activities too.

VERTICAL CHURCH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS NOV. 4TH: Church was never meant to be safe. Or comfortable. Or predictable. God isn't any of those things. Church is supposed to arrest our pride. Church is meant to crush our selfishness.

Church was created to carry our heartache and comfort our affliction. Church is where we find community, express compassion and engage in mission. But church without God does none of that.

Make the change that changes everything and learn how to go Vertical at church. Discover the things God has designed and given us to welcome His glory and provoke His manifest presence.

When church stops being about us, it can be about God again. And when God comes back to church...it's time to order more chairs.

2012		NOVEMBER					2012	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
 Time change 5:00 PM Youth Group			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders			Men's Breakfast 8:00 SOS 9:00AM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting					
5:00 PM Youth Group						Tim Hawkins Concert in KC		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 11:30 AM Church Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service								
25	26	27	28	29	30			
Church Decorating Party after church 5:00 PM Youth Group			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study					

Valley Falls Christian Church

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On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Worship – 10:00 AM
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

Midweek Bible Study:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Dear Friend, This year we anticipate reaching an important milestone in the history of Operation Christmas Child-100 million gift filled shoe boxes since 1993! Your shoe boxes represent more than smiles and laughter; they become Gospel opportunities that open doors to share the love of Jesus Christ with children and their families around the world. We give God all the praise and look forward to the best Operation Christmas Child season ever!
Signed Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse.

If you would like to participate, please have your boxes filled and turned in to church by Sunday, Nov. 11. Here are the Do's for boxes:

1. Shoe box- use an empty shoe box (standard size) or a small plastic shoe box size container.
2. Boy or Girl- decide boy or girl and age group: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 yrs. and mark the top of the boxes accordingly.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

3. Fill with gifts- small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag) comb, washcloth, etc., hard candy and lollipops (please double bag candy), t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips

4. Include \$7 donation- this will cover shipping. Place inside an envelope and place on the top of the items in the box.

5. Drop off- Place a rubber band around the box and bring it to the church by Nov. 11.

Personal note- In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. You may include your name and address so they can write back if they want.

DO NOT INCLUDE: war related items, chocolate, liquids or lotions, vitamins or medicines, or anything breakable.