

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

August 2014

IT'S HARD TO CONVINC YOUR CHILDREN

It's hard to convince your children that the church is the most important thing in the world when you are negligent about attending its services and supporting its work.

It's hard to convince your children that the church is the greatest institution in the world when you permit them to miss services to go elsewhere.

It's hard to convince your children that the church is to be held higher than anything when you insist that they do their homework for public school but permit them to neglect their Bible study.

It's hard to convince your children that they should respect the church when you continually criticize the leadership, belittle the teacher's work and appear a habitual faultfinder.

It's hard to convince your children the work of the church is important, when you have no part in what work is being done, either financially or personally.

It's hard to convince your children sin is a serious matter when they know you do things that are wrong, and you are not concerned about making the necessary corrections in life.

It's hard to convince there is really a heaven, and a hell, when they realize that this life is the most important thing there is to you, and they don't see you making much preparation for a life after death.

It's hard to convince your children, when you don't even try to convince them of much of anything--- just let them do their own thing.



Making Copies

It was a rough couple of weeks when the copier went down. I'm sure you noticed that the bulletins were not the same. The information was there, but they weren't very...welcoming? Oh, the information was there, but the colorful art didn't grace the front page.

I was getting ready to print my booklets for Deeper Life Camp. I ran a test copy in the morning and proofread it. When I came back from lunch, I was ready to print, except it seemed like the copier was in sleep mode and wouldn't wake up. I unplugged it, restarted it, opened doors and checked every ink level. It just wouldn't come on.

Finally, after restarting it one more time, it looked like it was going to boot up...not really. Halfway through it gave a firmware error and went back to sleep.

The repairman brought in a replacement part that didn't fix it, so he had to take the copier to the shop, leaving us with the old HP inkjet printers. They work to make a few copies, but not a whole booklet or a bulletin printed front and back. The quality is not nearly as sharp and it takes forever.

Sunday school teachers were inconvenienced (by the way, please thank the teachers who work hard to put lessons together to teach your children). A lot of things that go on behind the scenes that help make the church tick didn't get done with the same quality if they got done at all – just waiting to get our copier back so we can do them well.

It just made me think about us as a church and about each one of us individually. Are we making copies? Not paper and ink. Not color or black and white. Are we making copies of believers?

Paul wrote about imitation extensively.

*Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **Philippians 3:17***

*Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 1:13***

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. **1 Corinthians 11:1***

Regardless of the success we might have as a church, we must look at our own walk with the Lord and ask ourselves, "Am I doing all I

can to make copies?" Paul was always about making copies – making new disciples. Imitate my way. Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

One thing I notice about copiers: no matter how good the copier is, if you make a copy of a copy of a copy and on and on, eventually you get deterioration. The copy 20 times removed from the original doesn't look nearly as good as the first. So we don't want to imitate Jerry, who imitates Billy Graham, who imitates Charles Spurgeon, who imitates John Calvin, who imitates Augustine, who imitates Eusebius who imitates John who was an apostle of Jesus. You get my drift? You imitate Christ so that you are a good example to follow and so that someone can follow you. Your goal, however, is to get that person who is imitating you to learn to bypass you and know Jesus so well that he/she will begin to imitate the original!

Imitating Christ isn't about becoming Christ. It is reflecting Christ. As John the Baptist said, "He must increase and I must decrease." It is never about me; it is always about Jesus.

Jesus own words: "*For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*" **John 13:15**

As I close, let me give you an example of NOT imitating Christ. Valley Falls was recently visited by the folks from WBC. Every time I see that group, I never see Jesus. I never see love. I never see grace. I never see humility. I never see forgiveness. I never see compassion. I never see kindness.

Jesus came full of truth and grace, not just truth or just grace. Truth (especially when it is only a very small amount of truth) without grace is not imitating Christ, it is imitating the Pharisees. When I see that group, I see judgment and condemnation. I see coarseness and hatred. I see pride and self promotion. I see Pharisees. Jesus did not call us to make more Pharisees. He called us to make Jesus followers – disciples.

So let's be the best copy of Jesus we can be so we can teach others to be copies of Jesus. Don't go into 'sleep mode' and not wake up. Put aside self and unashamedly share Jesus with the world. Always remember, I must decrease so Jesus can increase.

Mike

Recipe Swap

SESAME PASTA CHICKEN SALAD

¼ c. sesame seeds
16 oz. bow tie pasta
½ c. vegetable oil
1/3 c. light soy sauce
1/3 c. rice vinegar
1 tsp. sesame oil
3 T. sugar
½ tsp. ground ginger
¼ tsp. pepper
3 c. shredded, cooked chicken meat
1/3 c. chopped fresh cilantro
1/3 c. chopped green onion

Heat a skillet over medium high heat. Add sesame seeds and cook stirring frequently until lightly toasted. Remove from heat and set aside.

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8-10 minutes or until al dente. Drain pasta, and rinse under cold water until cool. Transfer to a large bowl.

In a jar with a tight fitting lid, combine vegetable oil, soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil, sugar, sesame seeds, ginger and pepper. Shake well.

Pour sesame dressing over pasta and toss to coat evenly. Gently mix in chicken, cilantro and green onion.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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.valleyfallscc.org.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Cody Church
4 JENNA WATKINS
6 Becky Arnold
10 Amanda Hughes
Brian Barrett
12 Austin House
Clinton & Erin Thomas (2000)
Gene & June Dedeke (2012)
14 Chris Sanders
Sarah & Chuck Toy (1971)
15 CYNTHIA MCAFEE
16 Christy Smith
Kaitlyn Speer
17 RALPH & CINDY SHEAD (1974)
Tom & Leah Brown (2005)
Tom & Shirley Harris (1979)
Kenzli Turner
18 Rhonda Mitchell
Linda Beightel
20 Melody Hosler
21 Carolyn Starkey
22 Caleb Gatzemeyer
25 Hunter Dean McGuire
26 SARAH SHEAD
28 PHIL MCAFEE
30 Chris Dedeke
Cooper Taliaferro
Robert Kirk

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in August

Congregational Prayer:

Stan Farr

Scripture Readers:

3-Thomas- Ruth 1:15-18

10-Joan Phillips- 1 Sam. 15:22-23

17-Grove- 1 Sam. 16:7-13

24-Mitchell- Psalm 51:1-12

31-Turner- 1 Kings 3:5-14

Nursery:

3-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn

10-Carol Welborn/Nik

17-Linda Durand/Jackson

24-Jo Tichenor

31-Sarah Hollis/Libby

Greeters/Ushers:

3-Thomas

10-Phillips

17-Grove

24-Mitchell

31-Turner

Lord's Supper Preparation:

3-Thomas

10-Phillips

17-Grove

24-Mitchell

31-Turner

Communion Table:

3-Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Andy Arnold

10- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Matt Branam

17- Stan, Jay

Steve Carson, Ben Trotter

24- Jay, Stan

Dennis Tichenor, Kevin Gatzmeyer

31-Stan, Jay

Clint Thomas, Curt Gatzmeyer

Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Vocals: Stan Farr, Matt Branam

Church Offerings

June 29-\$1541.00

July 6-\$1945.00

July 13-\$2782.00

July 20-\$2132.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on August 9th at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr will be cooking.

CARRY IN DINNER: The church will be having the quarterly carry in dinner here at the church on August 17th immediately following church. Please mark your calendars and plan on staying, the Sheads will be here sharing about their ministry. They are one of the ministry's we support.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: The newsletter went to press before the school supply drive so be looking for news on how everything goes in next months newsletter.

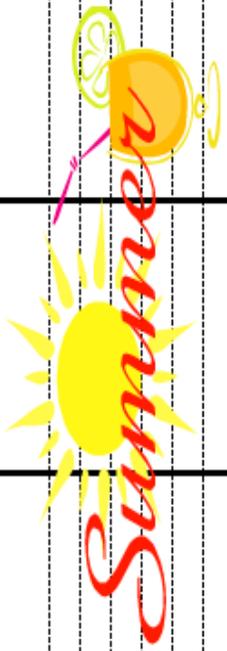
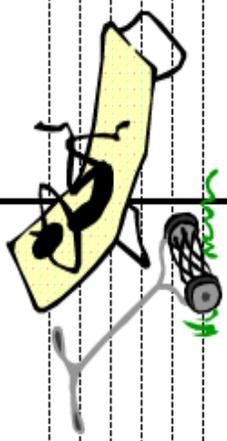
SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(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 until fall.

BIBLE STUDY: Both bible studies will be on hiatus until fall.

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.

2014		AUGUST				2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
							
3 2:00 PM Worship Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	4	5	6 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Elders	7	8	9  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	
10 5:00 PM Youth Group	11	12	13 6:15 PM Worship Practice	14	15	16	
17  Sheads will be here Carry in Dinner 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	18	19	20 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Elders	21	22  mowing at camp	23	
24 5:00 PM Youth Group 31 5:00 PM Youth Group	25	26	27 6:15 PM Worship Practice	28	29	30	

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

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

