

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

May 2014

CLONE THE SHEPHERD!

I just finished reading a fine article by a brother about the dangers of cloning and the sin involved if it is ever done for the wrong reasons. But part of his article made me think of one way in which we have a great need for clones in the church. In the article he said, "Especially pertinent is the question of human cloning. Newsweek asked the question, "Today the sheep-tomorrow the shepherd?" Yes, clone the Shepherd!

Too many in the church are cloned from other sheep or those in the world. We want to **LOOK** like everybody else, **DRESS** like everybody else, **SPEND** like everybody else, **BE** like everybody else. When others change, we change. We do everything we can to fit in with the Smith's and keep up with the Jones'. We are simply cloning ourselves after sheep.

There are examples of those in the Bible who had a choice between being cloned after the sheep or the Shepherd. In 1 Sam. 15 Saul had a choice to make: utterly destroy the Amalekites as the Lord instructed (vs. 3), or spare the best as the people desired (vs. 21). We know his choice (vss. 9, 24). He was cloned after the sheep. We also know the result (vs. 26).

The rulers in Jn. 12:42 faced much the same decision. They heard the word of the Shepherd proclaimed and believed it. But would they be cloned after Him? At the present they were cloned after the Pharisees. They decided to stay as they were, "for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (vs. 43)

It is time to clone the Shepherd! The apostles were His clones. In Acts 5 they are being persecuted for following Him, but in vs. 29 they boldly say, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Oh, for more people with that attitude today!

Paul makes it clear after whom he is cloned. In Gal. 1:10 he says, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." Notice that Paul admits at one point in his life he was cloned after men ("if I STILL pleased men"). But in Acts 9 the Shepherd comes into Paul's life, and he becomes a changed man. In 1 Cor. 11:1 we see the cloning of Paul to be like the Shepherd when he says, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

Can we speak like Paul to others? Are we imitating the Savior to that degree? Have we cloned the sheep or the Shepherd?

CLONE THE SHEPHERD!

Alpha Christian Children's Home

I am excited to announce that on May 11, we will be welcoming Jeff Mulpas to VFCC. Jeff is the director of Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, Kansas. Jeff will be sharing with us about the ministry during the Sunday School hour and will be bringing the message during our worship service.

This is from the Alpha website (alphachristianchildrenshome.com): *The Alpha Christian Children's Home was established in 1972 to help children who need a home or intervention in their lives. Children in need at Alpha include those who are being raised by grandparents who are no longer able, children who have been abused, neglected, orphaned, troubled, or poor, & children from dysfunctional families. Alpha is Christian people working together to provide for children in need. Children can find open arms here with the love and care they need. The homes are nestled in a beautiful country setting on 170 acres of wooded, hilly land with scenic ponds and creeks winding throughout.*

Every child needs to know that someone cares for them; we are ready to give that love to each child coming to us. In a time of great trouble for our people and country, there are many children that need someone to teach them of Christ and God's Word and give them a home and love.

The children are raised in a family atmosphere with Christian parents, giving individual attention to each child and their particular problems and needs.

Living at the Alpha Christian Children's Home represents to these children a chance to heal; correct past mistakes; experience a Christian family's love & security; learn to respect one another; share in household responsibilities as a family, learning how to do laundry, cook, mow the lawn, etc.; gain a solid education; learn how to keep one's actions, goals, and accomplishments disciplined; and learn how a life with Christ as Savior and Lord will be full of blessing and purpose.

Our motto is "Alpha and Omega: for a child, Alpha is a beginning, and when they find Jesus, there is no ending."

We will be taking a special offering during the worship service for Alpha Christian Children's Home when they are here on May 11.

The Story

Here is something else I am excited about! On June 1 VFCC will begin a journey through The Story. It is a comprehensive study that will include each Sunday School class as well as the preaching time during our worship service.

The Bible is central to our faith but many people are intimidated by its scope and size. The Story gives us a way to journey from Genesis to Revelation together in 31 weeks so everyone understands God's story and how their story intersects with it."

The Bible is the best-selling book in history and most of us have multiple copies of it at home. But how many of us are actually reading it and how many understand the scope and purpose of the Bible from beginning to end? A Gallup survey reports the average American household has four Bibles. However, research by Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (2008) found that only 16 percent of Americans read the Bible every day.

My prayer is that we can reverse this trend, starting right here at VFCC. I believe The Story is the right tool to increase Biblical literacy and will help us understand God's story from Genesis to Revelation and how our own stories intersect with God's. The Story consists of 31 chapters of carefully-selected scriptures sequenced in chronological order. The Story presents the word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel.

(Continued on back page)

RECIPE SWAP

CHEWY PEANUT BUTTER BARS

1c. flour
1/3 c. sugar
1/2 c. butter or margarine

Filling:

2 eggs
1/2 c. corn syrup
1/2 c. sugar
1/4 c. crunchy peanut butter
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 c. flaked coconut
1/2 c. semisweet chocolate chips

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; cut in the butter until crumbly. Press into a greased 13x9x2 baking pan. Bake at 350* for 14-16 minutes or until lightly browned. In a mixing bowl, mix eggs, corn syrup, sugar, peanut butter and salt until smooth. Fold in coconut and chocolate chips. Pour over crust. Return to the oven for 15-20 minutes or until golden.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis 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, Ruth Churchill

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.

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 be having our regular meeting on May 10th at 9:00 AM.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Griffin Munson
- 2 Sarah Toy
- 4 ERIN SHEAD
- 5 Gina Kirby
- 8 Lauren Thomas
- 10 Dan Strang
- 11 Morgan Ratliff
- 13 Austin Kirby
- 14 Andy Arnold
- 16 Sadie Tichenor
- 17 Sophia Smith
- 19 Glee Hosler
- 21 Dennis & Jo Tichenor (1988)
- 22 Myles Reich
- 24 Gary Smith
- 27 Wayne & Christy Arnold (1978)

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in MAY

Congregational Prayer:

David Grove

Scripture Readers:

4- Arnold- 1 John 5:6-13

11- Thomas-

18- Anna Kirby- 1 John 5:14-17

25- Grove- 1 John 5: 18-21

Nursery:

4- Debbie Gerstner/Jarret Mitchell

11- Joan Phillips/Caitlyn

18- Carol Welborn/Libby

25-Sarah Hollis/Nic

Greeters/Ushers:

4- Arnold

11- Thomas

18- Kirby

25- Grove

Lord's Supper Preparation:

4- Arnold

11- Thomas

18- Kirby

25-Grove

Communion Table:

4-Stan, Jay

Clint Thomas, Curt Gatzmeyer

11- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Jarret Mitchell

18- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Andy Arnold

25- Jay, Stan

Steve Carson, Matt Branam

Musicians

Worship Team: David Grove, Stan Farr,
Jay Welborn, Matthew Branam

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

March 30-\$966.00

April 6-\$1828.44

April 13-\$2677.00

April 20-\$2010.00

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 May 10th at 8:00 AM. Jay Welborn will be hosting.


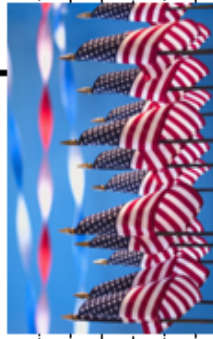




CAMP NEWS

CAMP PREREGISTRATION: If you want to preregister for camp and save money, the date to do that is May 4th.

MOWING AT CAMP: It will be our turn to mow at camp on June 21st and Aug. 23rd.

COOKING AT CAMP: It will be our turn to help cook and take desserts on June 11th and July 7th.

VBS: Vacation Bible School will be June 2-6, from 7:00-9:00 PM this year. This is earlier than we have had it in a few years so be sure and mark your calendars and spread the word. There will be a VBS meeting on May 3rd at 10:00 AM.

2014		May					2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
				1	2	3		
4 No Service at Midland Men leaving for Kiarmichis	5	6	7	8	9 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast 9:00 AM SOS Men Returning	10		
11  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress	12	13	14 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	15	16	17		
18 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress	19	20	21 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	22	23	24		
25	26  Memorial Day	27	28 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	29	30	31		

Valley Falls Christian Church

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Valley Falls, KS 66088

Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
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

About Mission Lake Christian Camp

Mission Lake Christian Camp serves approximately 250 campers from 1st through 12th Grade each year through camps and held in the summer and retreats during the fall and winter.

2014 summer schedule

Grades 9-12 (Sr High), June 8-13
Grades 6-8 (Jr High), June 15-20
Grades 3-5 (Junior), June 22-26
Grades 1-2 (Day Camp), June 28
Grades 7-12 (Deeper Life), July 6-11

Camper fees for each camp are on the web site.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(cont. from pg 2)

This curriculum is unique in that it provides 31 weeks of study that will literally put the whole church on the same page for over half a year. Through this, we can grasp a better understanding of God's plan from the beginning to the end. We can grow closer in our families and as a family of God as we share with each other what we are learning and how it is affecting us. And we will see more clearly how our story intersects with God's story.

We will tell you how to get a hold of some resources that may help you as we embark on this journey. They aren't required, but they may help you follow along. The decision is entirely up to you. Your story, God's story – let the journey begin!

Mike