

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2015

LIGHT UP THE CHURCH BUILDING

A little story that illustrates the problem of attendance goes like this:

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to people in his town. At last he decided to build them a church building.

No one saw the complete plans for the building until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a candle which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

Does anyone at our church want to try to save the electricity we normally use on Sundays or Wednesdays? Should we start giving out candles next Sunday? This is just a story but it has a stinging point. Those who seldom, if ever, attend worship or Bible Study in the evening may be like those of whom it was said: "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matthew 4:16). That is, if they happened to see the church building in the evening from a distance.

Jesus also said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matthew 5:14-15). Attending all services of the church is letting your light shine – after all you come to worship God and study His word – then leave to serve.

Maybe it would be good to pray, "For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness" (Psalm 18:28).

The Word of the Month: New

There was the guy who still had his 1973 calendar on the wall. When asked why, he replied, "I don't like change."

We are getting ready to celebrate another new year. For some it means, "Ugh, another year older!" Others see it as a new opportunity. That is why so many people make New Year's resolutions. They want to do something different. They want a change. Lose weight. Exercise more. Read the Bible through in a year. Be a better mom, dad, son or daughter.

For people who don't like change, I can see where a new year might cause some consternation. I can also see where the Bible might cause these folks some stress as well. The Bible talks a lot about 'new.' If you don't like 'new', there are several topics in the Bible that will cause you problems.

See, God likes doing new stuff. **Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)** *Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

The problem people have with new things is they like the way things are. They like the status quo. They don't want to see change. Jesus understood this about people. **Luke 5:37 (ESV)** *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.*

Wineskins were made from the fresh skins of animals. As the grape juice fermented, it would expand and the new skins would stretch to accommodate that without bursting. After the juice is wine and stops fermenting, the skins dry out and become more brittle.

After the wine is consumed, if you tried to put the grape juice into the old, dried out skin, when it expanded, the skin would burst, wasting all the juice.

Jesus continued, "**Luke 5:38-39 (ESV)** *But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'*" That is the people who say, "Oh, I like the old way! It is better! You keep your new stuff." The old and the new don't mix well.

The problem with that attitude is Jesus was bringing new stuff. God is in the business of new. **New covenant: Jeremiah 31:31** *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,*

The old covenant was written on stone. The new covenant is written on our hearts and minds. Sins under the old covenant were paid for by the blood of bulls and goats and other sacrifices. The sin wasn't really erased, just pushed forward into

another year. Sin under the new covenant is paid for once and for all by the blood of Jesus. His sacrifice takes our sin away. New is better.

New mercy: Lamentations 3:22-23 *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* After we become Christians, since we are no longer under the old sacrificial system, we merely need to confess our sins to God and he will forgive them. Every day we get to experience his mercy afresh.

New song: Psalm 96:1 *Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!*

God's daily mercy should cause us to break out in joyful song. A clean slate every day; a new song to go with it.

New creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

When we submit to the new covenant through faith in Christ, there is a change. The old self dies and we are born again.

Part of being a new creation is...

New heart: Ezekiel 36:26 *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

New commandment: John 13:34 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* Since we are new creations with a new heart, we are called to love in a new way. We love others in the sacrificial way that Christ loves us.

Guess what? All this new stuff means we will have a new destination.

New heaven and a new earth. Isaiah 65:17 *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. Revelation 21:1* *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

As we turn the page from December 2014 to January 2015, let's remember that new is good. We have been blessed by many new people who weren't here two years ago. New folks always change the dynamic of a church. This is awesome! Let's keep growing!

Dedicate 2015 to the Lord. Let us as a church strive to reach new people and look for new ways to share God's unchanging truth. God is doing a new thing in Valley Falls. Let's be a part of it!

Mike

Recipe Swap

SLOW COOKED CORN CHOWDER

2-1/2 cups milk
1 can (14-3/4 ounces) creamed corn
1 can cream of mushroom soup,
undiluted
1-3/4 cups frozen corn
1 cup frozen shredded hash browns
1 cup cooked ham, cubed
1 large onion, chopped
2 T. butter
2 tsp. dried parsley
Salt and pepper to taste

In a slow cooker, combine all ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours.

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, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill, Jason Cherry, Aaron Cook

Peyton and Cooper Taliaferro are not feeling well. Peyton has Strep throat.

Danny Harris- pray for his recovery from surgery and a heart attack.

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 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 be not be having our regular meeting in Jan.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Don Carder
6 Reid Handke
7 Chelsea Meyer
10 Matthew Branam
12 Leah Brown
13 Jackson Reich
19 Jarret Mitchell
24 Lindsay Starkey
27 Ashley GrandPre
29 Leah Martin
30 Wayne Arnold
31 Linda Durand
Peyton Taliaferro
Nik Branam

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in January

Congregational Prayer:

Wayne Arnold

Scripture Readers:

4- Tichenor-1 Cor. 12:12-20
11-Arnold- 2 Tim. 1:8-12
18-Thomas-Psalm 106:36-38
25-Phillips- Rev. 4:8-11

Nursery:

4- Debbie Gerstner
11- Sarah Haybarker/Caitlyn Thomas
18- Glee Hosler/Nik Branam
25- Joan Phillips/ Libby Phillips

Greeters/Ushers:

4-Tichenor
11-Arnold
18-Thomas
25-Phillips

Lord's Supper Preparation:

4-Tichenor
11-Arnold
18-Thomas
25-Phillips

Communion Table:

4-Stan, Jay
Dennis Turner, Ben Trotter
11- Jay, Stan
David Grove, Kevin Gatzemeyer
18- Stan, Jay
Steve Carson, Curt Gatzemeyer
25- Jay, Stan
Dennis Tichenor, Matt Branam

Musicians

Worship Leader: Erin Thomas
Organ: Leah Brown
Piano: Donetta Farr
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Nov. 30-\$1724.00
Dec. 7-\$1651.00
Dec. 14-\$
Dec. 21-\$2048.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Jan. 10th at 8:00 AM. Steve Carson will be cooking.






MIDWINTER RETREAT: Midwinter retreat for grades 7-12 will be Jan. 17-19. Registration forms are in the foyer.

COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE: The Unity Service and soup supper is Jan. 18th at the Methodist Church. The soup supper is at 6:00 PM and the service is at 7:00 PM. The offering will go to the Community Christian Council and will mostly be used to help people with financial hardships in Valley Falls.

THANK YOU: I wish to thank the church for the gift card I received as a thank you for doing the newsletter. I appreciate it very much. Thank you. Christy Arnold

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY: Sanctity of Life Sunday is Jan. 18



2015		JANUARY					2015	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
				1	2	3		
4 2:00 PM Service at Linwood 5:00 PM Youth Group	5	6	7 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	8	9	10  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast		
11 5:00 PM Youth Group	12	13	14 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	15	16	17  Mid-Winter Retreat thru Monday		
18  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress Sanctity of Life Sunday Community Soup Supper 6:00 PM	19  Martin Luther King Day	20	21 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	22	23	24		
25 5:00 PM Youth Group	26	27	28 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	29	30	31		

Valley Falls
Christian Church
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Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: 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

Winter Weather Policy

Church: We WILL have church as long as Mike can get there. *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20.*

Assume Mike can get to the church, in the extreme case that he can't, we will post the cancellation on the media listed below.

Bible Study/other activities: If the Valley Falls schools are closed that day, we will cancel activities.

Also, check postings on the church Facebook page and the church website, valleyfallsc.org, for cancellations. We will also pass cancellations down the texting prayer chain. If all else fails and you aren't sure, call Mike at 785-817-6920

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Blessings from 2014

What a great year 2014 has been. We thank God for all the additions to VFCC this year. We want to recognize once more those who joined our fellowship in 2014.

Baptisms: Lauren Thomas, Nancy Gatzemeyer, Brian Barrett, Ty Gatzemeyer, Marty Gatzemeyer, Grant Haag (baptized by his Dad at Northland CC), Natalie Barrett, Myles Reich, Sarah Haybarker, Aleyna GrandPre, Ashley GrandPre, Sean Sullivan.

Those who placed formal membership in this local church body: Aisha Diveley

We don't want to leave anyone out. If you began worshiping with us this year, thank you! We look forward to each person becoming more involved in Christ's church as we grow in Valley Falls and Jefferson County.

Thank You, Thank you, Thank You

Mike and Gina wish to thank everyone for the generous gift of love this Christmas. You are all very dear to us.