

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

July 2015

## **OUTREACH-H.O.P.E. 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "SUPPLYING OUR FUTURE IN THE PRESENT" SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2014, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

The school bell is about to ring and it is time to start bringing your donations for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual school supplies, new socks and briefs outreach project. Last year the project was greatly blessed by the outpouring of donated supplies and monetary gifts that we were able to help over 400 students prepare for the new school year. God has really blessed this project and everyone who has participated. **WE WILL BE MEETING ON FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 PM TO SET UP INSTEAD OF DOING IT SATURDAY MORNING. WE WOULD LIKE HELPERS TO BE THERE SATURDAY MORNING AT 7:00 AM.**

Please place supplies in the blue container in the foyer. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead there will be a container available in the foyer.

### **These are just a few of the items that students will need:**

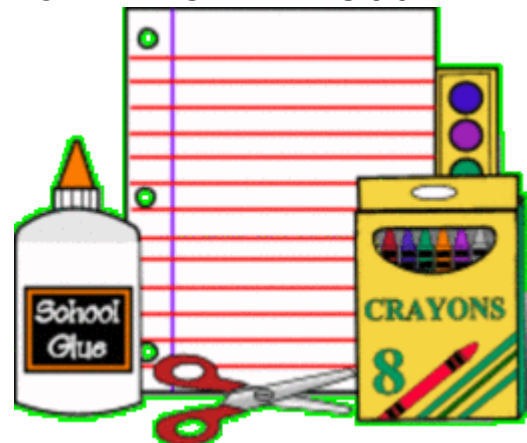
Red ink pens, colored pencils, highlighters, 3X5 index cards, color markers, big pink erasers, loose leaf notebook paper (wide or college rule), zipper pencil bag, glue and glue sticks, ball point pens, pocket folders, spiral notebooks (wide or college rule), 3 ring binders, book bags, pencil boxes, pencils, paints

### **DON'T FORGET THE SOCKS AND BRIEFS! WE CAN ALWAYS USE PLENTY OF THEM.**

Watch for sign up sheets in the foyer and please consider volunteering even if you can only help for a little while. There is lots of work to do before the door is opened. It is so rewarding to see the smiles on the children's faces and how appreciative the parents are for the help. Every year the number of families that seek help have increased. Please show God's love to others just as He has showed His love to us in so many ways.

The Kansas Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit will also be available, at no charge, to anyone for the following test: 2 vision test, hearing, blood pressure, and blood sugar. For more information contact a Lions Club Member.

**"LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP."** NIV GALATIANS 6:9



## The Word of the Month: Freedom

O thus be it ever,  
When free men shall stand  
Between their loved homes  
And the war's desolation;  
Blest with vict'ry and peace,  
May the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Pow'r that hath made  
And preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must,  
When our cause it is just;  
And this be our motto:  
In God is our trust!  
And the star-spangled banner  
In triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave.  
~Francis Scott Key

Thus reads the **second** verse of our National Anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner. Most people don't realize there is a second verse, let alone that the second verse credits the establishment of our nation, and by extension our freedom in this nation, to the power of God.

Yet I believe we are slowly losing freedoms in the United States. The First Amendment of the Constitution states, *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech..."*

Recent cases have shown us that certain flower shop owners, bakeries and wedding venues are not allowed the freedom to exercise their faith as they see fit. Their deeply held religious beliefs forbid them to provide services to gay weddings because they believe marriage is only for one man and one woman as ordained by God in the scriptures. Yet they have been fined, bullied and threatened with financial ruin – by the government!

By the time this is printed, the Supreme Court may have already ruled on same-sex marriage. They could rule that the issue is to be left up to the states. That is, each state can individually endorse or ban same-sex marriage in their laws or constitutions.

Or, they might rule that state bans on homosexual marriage violate the U.S. Constitution, thus making it legal in all fifty states. If it becomes legal across this nation, you can expect to see persecution against those who refuse to comply.

On campus after campus across this nation, the concept of free speech is a joke. Uttering words – or even making social media comments – that violate a university's accepted 'speech code' could get you expelled.

What are we to do? I believe we can stand up for our freedom in this nation. We do what we can to turn the tide in congress, the oval office, state and local governments and even in the schools and universities. Vote, be involved in the process and write (email) your elected officials – often. If push comes to shove, we obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Second, we need to realize that nowhere does the Bible guarantee the Christian gets to live in a free country. Christianity began and flourished in a Roman dictatorship. Throughout history, the more the church was persecuted, the stronger she grew.

Third, let's be aware that there are people living in this nation who are oppressed and in slavery, while those living in communist or Islamic nations experience true freedom.

The true freedom I speak of is our freedom in Christ. There are many who live in our free nation, yet are overwhelmed by the chains of worry, anxiety and fear. Others are slaves to their own selfishness and sin, with no relief in sight. They are slaves because they do not have Jesus as their savior.

True Christians living in communist China or North Korea or in Islamic nations like Sudan, Saudi Arabia or Egypt have no rights, but they experience true freedom from the burden of their sin and know they have a home of eternal freedom waiting for them when this life ends.

*(continued on back page)*

## Recipe Swap

### COOL CUCUMBER SALAD

1 medium cucumber, quartered and sliced  
1 medium tomato, chopped  
½ c. chopped green pepper  
1/3 c. chopped sweet onion  
2 T. lime juice  
2 T. red wine vinegar or cider vinegar  
¾ tsp. dill weed  
½ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper

In a large bowl, combine the cucumber, tomato, green pepper and onion. In a small bowl, combine lime juice, vinegar, dill, salt and pepper. Pour over cucumber mixture; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 15 minutes. Serve with a slotted spoon. Yield: 4 servings

**SPECIAL ALPHA NEWS:** Have you ever wondered where the box tops and upc symbols you save go? Or do you forget to save them and think it doesn't really matter? This is the 2015 totals for the year just so far. Campbells points: 22,249, General Mills Box Tops: 17,024 x 10cents each = \$1,702.40, Best choice upc symbols: 10,000 x 3cents each= \$300. This all helps purchase things the children need. Dillons also now has a community rewards charitable program which contributes a portion of your purchases to your favorite charity. If you want to help look it up online at [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards) The charity number assigned to Alpha is 19764.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Nik Byrd, 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, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam

**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](http://www.valleyfallscc.org).

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

**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 meeting again until fall.

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Janet & Robert Kirk (2004)  
5 Laura Reich  
8 Allene Mattox  
Sheila Sears  
9 Ronda Turner  
10 Norma Bryant  
Tiffany GrandPre  
11 PHIL & TABITA MCAFEE (1981)  
16 Caleb Mitchell  
17 Kaori Cazares  
18 Curtis Smith  
19 Abby GrandPre  
20 Dennis & Ronda Turner (1973)  
Aleyna GrandPre  
22 Mike Kirby  
Jacob Mitchell  
23 Jo Tichenor  
24 Christy Arnold  
David and Helen Grove (1966)  
30 Taylor Farr  
31 CINDY SHEAD

## Serving in JULY

### Congregational Prayer:

Wayne Arnold

### Scripture Readers:

5-Thomas-Psalm 2:1-6

12-Joan Phillips- Psalm 136:1-9

19-Gatzemeyer-Psalm 1:1-6

26-Grove- Jay preaching

### Nursery:

5-Debbie Gerstner/Cheyenne

12-Sara Haybarker/Caitlyn Thomas

19-Glee Hosler/Nik Branam

26-Joan Phillips/Libby

### Greeters/Ushers:

5-Thomas'

12-Phillips

19-Gatzemeyer

26-Grove

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

5-Thomas'

12-Phillips

19-Gatzemeyer

26-Grove

### Communion Table:

5- Jay, Dennis Turner

**Dennis Tichenor**, Curt Gatzemeyer

12- Jay, Stan

**Clint Thomas**, Ray Mitchell

19- Stan, Jay

**Dennis Turner**, David Grove

26- Jay, Stan

**Steve Carson**, Dennis Tichenor

### Musicians

Worship Leader: Erin Thomas

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

## Church Offerings

May 31-\$1335.00

June 7-\$1435.00

June 14-\$3207.00

June 121-\$1556.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

### Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

[www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The July men's breakfast is ?









**VBS NEWS:** We had a fantastic week of VBS!! We can't thank you enough for all you did to help make it such a great week. We had a total of 56 kids enrolled, with Monday being our biggest night with 48 kids. We averaged 42 kids throughout the week and 74 including the helpers. The church donated \$641 to Alpha Christian Children's Home plus several boxes of food items. Alpha will certainly be able to put all of that to good use. As far as we know now, we'll have Bible School next year, "same time, same station." Please mark your calendars and spread the word how much fun you had to attract new volunteers. Thank you again for all your time and effort and a special thank you to our snack people for being so flexible and pulling off moving their sight for the last night due to flooding. We appreciate you. Donetta and Carol

**BIBLE STUDY NEWS:** There will be no bible study during the summer. They will be back in September.

### WEDDING

Austin Kirby and Caitlyn Shaffer are getting married on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at El Porvenir Christian Camp, Montezuma, New Mexico. The church is invited.

**SHIRTS TO ORDER:** We are still selling shirts with the church logo on it. If you would like to order one the form is on the table in the foyer or you can talk to Donetta Farr or Nancy Gatzemeyer.

2015		JULY			2015	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>5</b></p> <p>2:00 PM Midland Worship Service 5:00 PM Youth Group</p>	 <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Elders</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> 
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Deeper Life Camp</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> 	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>  <p>10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Practice</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>  <p>Set up for school Supply drive 7:00 PM 8:00 AM-11:00 AM</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>  <p>School Supply Drive 8:00 AM-11:00 AM</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Practice</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> 	

*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

*(continued from page 2)*

**Galatians 5:1 (ESV)** *For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. This slavery is the yoke of trying to earn salvation and atone for sin through works, which is impossible. It is the yoke of fear when you are unsure of your eternal home. It is the yoke of anxiety because you trust in yourself or the government instead of the Lord to meet your needs.*

**Luke 4:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup> *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. When Jesus read these words from the prophet Isaiah, he said they found their fulfillment in Him. He is the true liberator!*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**John 8:31-32 (ESV)** <sup>31</sup> *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

The word of God is truth. Jesus is the truth; the truth will set you free. Free from worry. Free from striving. Free from the consequences of sin when you choose to obey God. Free to enjoy life as a child of the King!

Pray for our nation. Pray for national repentance. Pray for a return to our godly roots. Pray that freedom as our founders envisioned it will be restored. Pray that the United States can continue to be the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. But realize that only in Christ can we experience true freedom. Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

*Mike*