

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

November 2016

A LITTLE INSPIRING MESSAGE FOR THE DAY!

THE BUZZARD

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10-12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is
look up

Thanks and Help!

Thanksgiving time. Turkey, Charlie Brown specials, mashed potatoes, stuffing, getting stuffed, football, more turkey...oh, yeah, and giving thanks!!

There have been many positive happenings at VFCC recently that should be acknowledged. However, it is always scary to publicly thank many people because you run the risk of leaving someone out and offending them. So I just won't do it.

Just kidding!

Here are some things I am thankful for as the pastor at VFCC.

First, I am thankful for the Lord. No brainer, right? Except – transparency time – I so often feel inadequate for the task and overwhelmed by everything. It is by the grace and strength of the Lord that I am able to do any of this. Paul dealt with the same feelings of insufficiency. **2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (ESV)** *Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant...*

Next I am thankful for my wife. Gina keeps me on track. Well, she tries but I am awfully stubborn! I am so thankful for her love and support.

I am thankful for my children and their spouses. God has truly blessed us in that area.

That's the way it should be. God first, spouse second and your children third.

Finally, church family. People are stepping out of their comfort zones and trying new things and it is crazy fun to watch!

I am thankful for JAMs and everyone involved in that. We have 39 students enrolled in the Wednesday afternoon program. It has more than exceeded our expectations! Thank you to the leaders and those who have answered the call to help when our numbers skyrocketed. Thank you for those providing snacks. This is a great way to minister to the young people of the community, many who are unchurched.

I am thankful for the school supply/outreach ministry. I'm thankful for everyone who picked up the huge task of putting it on in 2016 and for those who are carrying it into the future. This is an enormous undertaking and requires the whole year to plan and raise funds.

I am thankful that the S.O.S. group has been resurrected. I already see them meeting important needs within the body as well as providing an opportunity for fellowship.

I am thankful for the m&m group that is beginning. This is living out the mandate in Titus 2:3-5 that the older women should teach the younger.

I am thankful that there is now a time specifically set aside just for prayer at the church. We began meeting Thursday mornings from 7-7:30 a.m. so the body of Christ can come together and pray. Thank you to all who have come to lift up this church and community. Thank you to all who prayed from home as well! Thanks to all our prayer warriors – you can never have too much prayer!

I am not only thankful for the new, but the established as well. The list is long and if I leave anyone out I apologize in advance.

Thanks to all who teach Sunday school, lead Bible studies and work in the nursery.

Thanks to everyone who has taken a yellow folder to oversee a ministry for a year.

Thanks to those who get us through a worship service: the music ministry, servers, greeters, scripture readers, bulletin and newsletter preparers, etc.

Thanks to all the board members who oversee the ministries of the church.

Thanks to those who work on the building, mow, beautify and clean so it is well maintained and looks good every week.

Thanks for giving financially to support the church and the work we do in the community.

I am thankful for the salvations we have witnessed this year. These new Christians were either invited to church or witnessed to by you! If they happened to choose this church on their own, they were loved enough to stay and hear the gospel.

(continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

PUMPKIN PECAN COBBLER

1 c. + 3 T. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¾ c. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. cloves
½ c. pumpkin puree
¼ c. milk
¼ c. melted butter or oil
1 ½ tsp. vanilla
Topping:
½ c. sugar
½ c. brown sugar
¼ c. chopped pecans
1 ½ c. very hot water

Preheat oven to 350*. In a medium sized bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and spices. Set aside.

In a smaller bowl, stir pumpkin, milk, melted butter and vanilla together to combine. Pour into dry ingredients and mix to create a thick batter. Pour into a small 8 inch casserole dish with high sides.

In a separate bowl, stir sugar, brown sugar and pecans together. Spread over the top of the batter evenly. Pour hot water over the entire thing {WITHOUT STIRRING A THING!} and bake for 40 minutes or once the middle is set. Be sure to place on a baking sheet in case it bubbles over. Cool 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve with more pecans and vanilla ice cream. Makes 8 servings.
Lindsay Starkey

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Nic Byrd, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Heuertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, 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.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Grace (Arnold) Farwell
4 Nolan Reich
7 Curt Gatzmeyer
Avery Gatzmeyer
Matthew & Brittany Boyce
9 Shelly Gatzmeyer
10 Tessa Haybarker
12 Eli Farr
13 Kati Haybarker
15 Joan Hosler
16 Brittany Boyce
18 Libby Phillips
20 Doris Bixler
21 Sheila Farr
Melissa Scrivner
24 Curt & Shelly Gatzmeyer (2013)
25 Dodie Bolz

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: On Nov. 20 it will be from 5-6:30 (gets out ½ hour early)
On Nov. 27 there will be no youth group.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need volunteers to take the Christmas Program folder for this year and one or two people to accept the Vacation Bible School directorship. Both folders are in the foyer.

Serving in NOVEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Clint Thomas

Scripture Readers:

6- Carol Welborn-Gen. 1:26-31
13-Cheyenne Cook- 2 Cor. 8:2-7
20- Donetta Farr- Eph. 5:15-21
27- Carolyn Starkey- 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Nursery:

6-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn
13-Nancy Gatzemeyer/Aleyna
20-Laura Reich/Jackson
27-Joan Phillips/Libby

Greeters/Ushers:

6- Welborn
13- Cook
20-Farr
27-Starkey

Lord's Supper Preparation:

6- Welborn
13-Cook
20-Farr
27-Starkey

Communion Table:

6-Stan, Jay
David Grove, Lance Turner
13- Jay, Stan
Wayne Arnold, Curt Gatzemeyer
20- Stan, Jay
Ray Mitchell, Brian Barrett
27- Jay, Stan
David Grove, Aaron Cook

Musicians

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

Church Offerings

Sept. 25-\$1244.00

Oct. 2-\$1777.00

Oct. 9-\$1379.00

Oct. 16-\$846.00

Oct. 23-\$1823.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER: The church dinner will be Sunday, Nov. 20th after church. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay. Lists will be coming out soon to sign up to bring food.

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 the Dec. activities. 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 (caroling, cookie bake, ladies Christmas party, church Christmas dinner, food boxes, Christmas program) let Donetta or Christy know the date and your plans soon. We are open to any other ideas or activities too.

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.





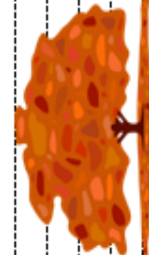

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The community service will be Nov. 20th at the Catholic church at 7:00 PM. We need to furnish 2 pies. If you can furnish pies let Mike know.

TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to set your clocks back on Nov. 6th. Spring ahead Fall back!

DECORATE THE CHURCH: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Nov.27th after church. Please plan to stay and help.

SOS: SOS will help the school supply ministry run a booth wrapping gifts at the Valley Falls Bazaar, Nov. 12 in the gym. We are asking for donations of wrapping paper, tape, ribbon, bags or tissue paper if you have any to spare. If you would like to be involved, please call Shelly 785-221-9996 or Nancy 785-806-4468.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: The church directory is in the process of being updated. A copy will be in the foyer for the next 4 weeks. Please review your information and make any changes. If you are not in the directory and would like to be included, add your contact information on the back of a page.

2016		NOVEMBER				2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1	2 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	3	4	5	
6  Time Change 2:00 PM Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	7	8	9 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	10	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM SOS to work booth at Fall Bazaar	
13	14	15	16 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	17	18	19	
20 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress Church Thanksgiving Dinner after church 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service	21	22	23 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26	
27  Decorate the Church	28	29	30 6:15 Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study				

Valley Falls
Christian Church
511 Oak Street
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 (grades 6-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek:

JAMs (grades K-6): Wed. 3:30-5:30
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00 PM
Prayer: Thursday 7:00 AM

(Thanks and Help continued)

It takes each person in the body of Christ to make it work the way God desires. Thank you.

So now, not to sound ungrateful... HELP!

Help! I need somebody. Help! Not just anybody. Help, you know I need someone, help.

We had three new students in the Jr/Sr High youth group last Sunday. We had ten in attendance with the potential for twelve or thirteen. It is really too much for one person and God may continue to grow these numbers. We are asking. If you feel the call, volunteer to help out with Sunday night youth group or provide meals/snacks.

Soon, yellow ministry folders will be out again for 2017. They are things like Mother's Day, Father's Day, funeral dinners, baby showers, etc. Please consider taking one to ensure these ministries and events continue.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JAMs will constantly need helpers and snack providers. The nursery needs more workers during the worship service. We are also looking for someone to oversee the nursery scheduling for worship time. It would be great to see more people during Thursday morning prayer. It is always good when we are looking to share the gospel and invite people to church. Encourage someone who hasn't been at church for a while. These are only a few of the areas you can help with.

I am thankful for what God has done here and am thankful in advance for what He has planned for the future. We need every person involved in one way or another. We have witnessed people meeting needs that God has put on their hearts to start new ministries and continue in the established ones. We are asking all who are able to help keep VFCC going strong!

Mike