

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

March 2020

Galatians 6:2 (ESV) *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

I've preached that before. If you don't let someone know you have a need, you can't expect them to meet that need. If people don't know you have a burden, they can't help bear it.

Now I have lived it.

It is not always easy for the preacher to live out what he is preaching. There is a certain self-imposed requirement to have it all together. How in the world can the preacher help with your messes when he is a mess??

There is also an element of pride involved for the preacher to be able to appear to have all the answers and always be calm, while underneath the surface things are unsure and chaotic.

I have been preaching at VFCC weekly since September of 2003. I was called as the full time minister in December of the same year. During that time, I have preached approximately 800 sermons. I have never missed a Sunday that wasn't scheduled for any reason, including sickness – until February 23, 2020.

That's not to say I haven't been sick. I either rallied to feel better by Sunday or battled through it. Not this time.

I felt great preaching on the 16th. I was relaxing for a couple of hours at home after church before heading to the Preaching and Teaching Convention at OCC when I began to get a tickle in my throat. By the time I got to Kansas City, I had to stop and pick up cough drops.

By Tuesday afternoon, I felt poorly enough I decided to discontinue the conference and headed home the next morning. A Thursday doctor's appointment brought the diagnosis of Influenza A.

I asked the doctor when I could be around other people again with the intent of being able to set up for the funeral service on Saturday and preach on Sunday. I wasn't even going to ask for help!

How can someone help with a burden unless one makes the burden known?

I am so blessed to serve at VFCC. [I'll leave out the names; these folks didn't serve for recognition, but because they love the Lord.]

I received a call to find out how I was doing. I hadn't even told anyone I was that sick except those I absolutely had to (pride again?).

I was told not to worry about Saturday, it would be taken care of. So much work went into preparing the church for a service that approximately 240 attended! And I thought I could do this on my own!!

I was later told (lovingly) to stay home on Sunday morning. People filled in where they were needed. The church worshiped. You were preached a message from the scripture. God was glorified – and He didn't need me there to do it! God's people came together to do what God's people do! Bear one another's burdens.

I didn't get back into the office until Wednesday – and still wasn't 100%. So I have to say thank you to everyone who came together to be the church. Not MY church, but the Lord's church that we are all a part of.

I have to thank God for an illness that taught me humility. An illness through which God told me it is OK to let go and trust him, and taught me how much a church can care for her pastor.

No one is called to it all alone. That's why Jesus built the church. It's why he gave us each other. It's why he has to teach hard-headed pastors lessons every once in a while. It's why he called us to bear one another's burdens!

Mike



**Saturday
March 8th**



RISE UP

LESSONS FROM EZRA: WALKING WITH YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH

WOMEN'S EVENT | OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE | APRIL 3-4

Lessons From Ezra
\$35 Registration
Occ.edu/we

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be on March 14th at 8:00 AM. Wayne Flack will be cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress: We take a special offering of the pocket change you have been saving every 3rd Sunday during church. The money is divided between VFCC Youth programs and the School Supply Giveaway Fund.

Past sermons available online

Listen at **www.valleyfallscc.org**. If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.



FUNDRAISING FOR ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Several churches in Jefferson County along with us are collecting canned goods the month of March for Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, KS. Final Collection day is not determined so bring your canned goods early in March. Goods can be placed in the tub in the foyer.

NEEDS: UPC labels from Campbell's, General Mills, and Best Choice. Canned vegetables, canned fruits, Campbell's soup, Velveeta, breakfast cereal, easy mac packs, ramen noodles, snack crackers, pudding cups, fruit juices, pancake mix, stuffing mix, canned chicken gravy, nacho cheese dip, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, salsa, taco kits, spaghetti sauce, salt and pepper, onion powder, parmesan cheese, Splenda, coffee, disposable cups and plates, HE free and clear laundry detergent (no Tide due to allergy to it) HE Gain laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Clorox wipes, water softener salt, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels. On behalf of Alpha, thank you in advance.

March	Nursery	Greeters	Communion prep	Scripture reader	Communion table
1	Tiffany/Abby	J & A Mitchell	J Mitchell	A Mitchell Luke 10:25-29	Stan/Jay/ Wayne F /Brian
8	Brittany/Lauren	R & R Mitchell	R Mitchell	R Mitchell Luke 9:23-27	Jay/Stan/ Jarret /Kyle
15	Judy/Allison	Welborn	Welborn	C Brown Luke 6:46-49	Stan/Jay/ Clinton /Chad
22	Laura/Aleya	Flack	Flack	Flack Luke 9:51-56	Jay/Stan/ Ray /Jackson
29	Glee/Myles	Spencer	Spencer	Spencer John 11:38-44	Stan/Jay/ Wayne A /Curtis

March communion devotion and prayer: Ray Mitchell

Prayer Requests: Becky Arnold, Clay Beister, Emma Dockweiler, Hannah Blick's Family, Joy Farr McGuire-expecting March 10th, Christy Smith Dow and baby Faith

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, Gary Flack, Dayton Flack

Church Offerings:

Jan 5 - \$ 2,259

Jan 12 - \$ 600

Jan 19 - \$ 1097

Jan 26 - \$ 1,558

Our expenses average \$1500 a week

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Emery Mitchell

4 Donetta Farr

Mary Breitsprecher

8 Caitlyn Thomas

10 Jennifer Guffey

11 Kaylie Mitchell

13 Neil Parker-He would love cards

14 Gary & Betty Smith (1983)

15 RALPH SHEAD

19 Peyton Barrett

20 Grace Thompson

CASSIE WATKINS

28 Jeff & Carolyn Starkey (1981)

29 Isaac Reich

Jodie Cook

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

CHURCH ACTIVITY FOLDERS

Activity folders contain information on a particular event that the church participates in each year (or has participated in past).

The folders are in the foyer on the table. We need someone to chair each activity but then we also need several people available to help. Please take a look at them and see if there is a perfect activity for you to either chair or at least help with. Picking up a folder means you direct that activity this year.

Looking Ahead...



We Love Vacation Bible School!!

Join Us
this Summer

Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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 7-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek: JAMs (grades K-6): Wed. 3:30-5:00 Bible Study: 7:00-8:00 P

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
1	2	4	5	7
2 PM – Midland 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM - Elders	
8	9	11	12	14
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	NO JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 Board Mtg		8 AM Men's Breakfast
15	16	18	19	21
10 AM – Pocket change for progress 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study	1 PM - Elders	
22	23	25	26	28
5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters	3:30 JAMS 6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
29	30		28	30
24 5 PM – Youth Group	6 PM – Sunflower Crafters			