

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

August 2012

To Those of Us Born 1925-1970

To All The Kids Who Survived The 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps not helmets on our heads.

As infants and children we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes.

Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight. WHY?

Because we were always outside playing..that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were ok

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Play Stations, Nintendos and X-Boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies, or DVDs, no surround sound, or CDs, no cell phones, no personal computers, no internet and no chat rooms.

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from those accidents.

We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, 22 rifles for our 12th, rode horses, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen- we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friends house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the Law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever.

The past 50 to 85 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success, and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

Quote by Jay Leno:

"With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Nine Voices

I was privileged to spend Thursday evening at the Worship Forum at Mission Lake Christian Camp. This was the first year for this type of venue, so no one knew what to expect. Nine people showed up on Thursday (a few more were expected Friday).

The theme verse was *Hebrews 10:19-25 (NIV)* ¹⁹ *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,* ²⁰ *by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,* ²¹ *and since we have a great priest over the house of God,* ²² *let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.* ²³ *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* ²⁴ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.* ²⁵ *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We talked about how we need boldness (v 19), sincerity and faith (v 22) along with steadfastness in our worship. This passage also teaches that our worship should influence others.

We learned that worship is not just the songs we sing on Sunday morning, but it is a lifestyle for each individual.

I was honored to have been able to bring one of the messages Thursday night. I shared that sometimes our worship is unacceptable to God. There are barriers to our worship. These barriers don't have anything to do with music; they have to do with the condition of our hearts.

If we want authentic worship – whether it is our own quiet time, singing at church or leading with a worship team – we need to remove these barriers.

1. We need to make sure our actions aren't amiss. I am talking about sin. In 1 Samuel 15, God tells Saul through the prophet Samuel to go to war with the Amalekites. He is not to leave either human or animal of the enemy alive. Yet Saul disobeyed. He kept the choicest animals alive along with King Agag. When he was confronted with this, he claimed that he had obeyed the Lord because he saved the animals to sacrifice to God. Samuel's reply was that obedience is better than sacrifice – God did not accept this offering and in fact began the process to remove Saul from the throne of Israel.

Sometimes we read the bible, know all the worship songs, quote scripture and attend church faithfully all while we are harboring sin. I

am not talking about being perfect because no one is. I am talking about sin that we coddle, nurse, protect and hide because we don't want to give it up. Sin creates a barrier between God and us.

2. Do we come to the altar with anger (Matt 5:23-24)? Those verses tell us if we have something against a brother when we come to the altar, we need to leave our gift there, go take care of the problem and then come back to worship. When we have ongoing conflict in our lives or are holding on to anger and bitterness, God won't recognize our worship.

3. We have to look out for the assault of arrogance (Luke 18:9 and following). The Pharisee went to the Temple to pray – prayer is an act of worship. His problem was that he prayed about how great he was and how rotten the tax collector was. The tax collector was humble. He wouldn't even lift up his head and merely prayed 'Lord have mercy on me a sinner.' Jesus said the lowly tax collector went home justified. The arrogant Pharisee's prayers were not acknowledged by God.

4. We need to bring our A-game. Give our best. Don't settle for good when you can do better. God doesn't want your seconds or your leftovers. Malachi 1:13-14 tells us about the Israelites sacrificing lame animals (giving is a form of worship). God did not accept that worship. Whether we are leading, participating or by ourselves, God knows when we don't give our all even if no one else does.

How do we fix this? We need to give ourselves a heart exam. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul is getting on to the church because they messed up another form of worship – communion. He said we should examine ourselves before we take the bread and the cup. I think we should examine ourselves before we participate in any kind of worship. Then along with the Apostle Paul, we should *press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)*

It was neat seeing friends I haven't seen in a few months. It was good to be reminded about our worship of God. I enjoyed the discussion about worship as we broke into small groups. The best part for me, though, was nine voices. Nine voices and a keyboard. No microphones, just nine wonderful voices lifting praises to God. All pretense abandoned, no pride or worry, just nine voices giving everything in worship to our God in heaven. What a beautiful sound.

Mike

Recipe Swap

GLAZED BERRY SQUARES

2c. graham cracker crumbs
½ c. sugar, divided
½ c. butter, melted
12 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 ½ c. cool whip
1 ½ c. fresh blueberries
1 ½ c. fresh strawberries, sliced
¾ c. boiling water
1 pkg. (3 oz.) strawberry jello
¾ c. ice cubes

Mix graham cracker crumbs, ¼ c. sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 13x9 inch dish.

Beat cream cheese and remaining sugar in medium bowl with mixer until well blended. Whisk in cool whip; spread over crust. Top with berries.

Add boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl; stir 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Add ice; stir until melted. Pour over berries. Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Luke Cummings, Ryan Meyers, Jacob Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Huertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Carl Herring, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza June Dedeke needs prayers.
Wayne Arnold

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.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 not be having our regular meeting until fall.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Cody Church
4 JENNA WATKINS
6 Becky Arnold
12 Clinton & Erin Thomas (2000)
14 Sarah & Chuck Toy (1971)
15 CYNTHIA MCAFEE
16 Christy Smith
Kaitlyn Speer
17 RALPH & CINDY SHEAD (1974)
Tom & Leah Brown (2005)
Kenzli Turner
18 Rhonda Mitchell
20 Melody Hosler
21 Carolyn Starkey
25 Hunter Dean McGuire
26 SARAH SHEAD
28 PHIL MCAFEE
30 Chris Dedeke
Cooper Taliaferro

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in AUGUST

Congregational Prayer:

Dennis Tichenor

Scripture Readers:

5-Turners-1 Cor. 2:6-16

12-Welborns-1 Cor. 3:1-4; 18-23

19-Carsons- 1 Cor. 3:5-17

26-Farrs- 1 Cor. 4:1-5

Nursery:

5-Debbie Gerstner/Glee Hosler

12-Rachel Arnold/

19-Laura Reich/Jarret Mitchell

26-Jo Tichenor/Curtis Mitchell

Greeters/Ushers:

5-Turners

12-Welborns

19-Carsons

26-Farrs

Lord's Supper Preparation:

5-Turners

12-Carsons

19-Welborns

26-Farrs

Communion Table:

5-Stan, Jay

Steve Carson, Lance Turner

12- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Austin Kirby

19- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Andy Arnold

26- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Cylus Tichenor

Musicians

Worship Leader: David Grove

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Vocals: Stan Farr, Jay Welborn

Church Offerings

June 24-\$1579.65

July 1-\$1065.45

July 8-\$2542.00

July 15-\$1358.00

July 22-\$1553.41

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will not be held until fall.

REVIVAL: The church will be holding a revival on Sept. 9th -12th. Please mark your calendars. Nathan Smith will be here with dogs, horses and maybe cows for a great ministry. We are planning on serving a meal each night to the community and it will be at the fairgrounds.

CARRY IN DINNER: The church will be having the quarterly carry in dinner here at the church on August 26th immediately following church. Please mark your calendars and plan on staying.

VBS NEWS: A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped make Sonsurf Beach Bash VBS a success. Once again our church family has come together to touch young lives for the Glory of God and I feel so blessed to have witnessed and been a part of it. Please keep these kids in your prayers that they may feel a tug to come back and join us on Sundays! Our numbers ranged from approximately 25 to close to 40 during the week and I think it's safe to say we "sank" the USS Moses in our effort to collect food for the Valley Falls Food Pantry. By all accounts everyone had a great time and is still singing the songs from the week! Thanks again to all! Becky Arnold

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: The newsletter went to press before the school supply drive so be looking for news on how everything goes in next months newsletter.

WEDDING INVITATION: The church has received an invitation to June Dedeke's wedding. It will be on Sunday August 12th at 6:00 pm at Circle S Ranch in Lawrence. The invitation is on the board. Please RSVP if you plan to go.

	1 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Elders	2	3	4		
5 5:00 PM Youth Group	6	7 6:15 PM Worship Practice	8	9	10	11
12 5:00 PM Youth Group	13	14 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Elders	15	16	17	18
19  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	20	21 6:15 PM Worship Practice	22	23	24	25
26  Quarterly Carry In Dinner after church 5:00 PM Youth Group	27	28 6:15 PM Worship Practice	29	30	31 	4

Valley Falls
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Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**Revival: Nathan Smith
coming to Valley Falls again!**

Nathan Smith is the founder of Narrow Road Ranch Ministries. Narrow Road Ranch Ministries is a faith based, Christ centered not-for-profit organization that is fully dedicated to using the ranch lifestyle and activities to teach about the kingdom of God.

Nathan says the goal of this ministry is to bring people to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and to equip believers to live abundant lives to the glory of God the Father.”

Nathan will bring his horse and dog and include them as part of the revival. He believes that, “Animals have a wonderful way of teaching us about ourselves, helping us build relationships with other people and illustrating spiritual principles in powerful and exciting ways.”

Expect to see Nathan’s dog Whitey, and maybe a couple of others along with his horse. Nathan got a great reception when he was here in 2009. We look forward to a new set of messages to highlight God’s truth.