

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2012

ONE DAY

One day a woman's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't "anymore". No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute".

Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away, never to return before we can say goodbye, say "I love you".

So while we have it, it is best we love it, care for it, fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick.

This is true for marriage...and old cars, and children with bad report cards, and cats with bad hips, family and aging parents and grandparents.

We keep them because they are worth it...because we are worth it.

Some things we keep - - like a best friend who moved away or a sister-in-law, brother-in-law, cousins, aunt and uncles. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what.

Life is important. We only have one.

We only have one mom, one dad, one unique brother or sister or friend.

Suppose one morning you never wake up. Do all your friends know you love them?

I was thinking...I could die today, tomorrow or next week, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that needed rekindling or three words needing to be said.

Let every one of your friends and family know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back, you would be amazed at what those three little words and a smile can do.



October Thoughts

Halloween can be a divisive subject within the church. Some say it is just fun and games and has no impact on faith issues. They have no problem with it. Others, well, say that Halloween is of the devil. Then there is the wide area in between that a lot of people fall into.

Histories of Halloween vary, with some major disagreements occurring between opposing 'supposed' experts. It seems to harken back to an ancient Druid (pagan) holiday that was observed from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. It marked the onset of winter with celebrations focused on the final harvest and death. The people thought for these three days the veil between the living and the dead was lifted to allow the spirits of the dead to roam the earth.

Some who feared this wore disguises (costumes) so the spirits wouldn't recognize them and left out food or wealth (treats) to usher the spirits into the afterlife. They would also carve scary faces into produce (like gourds or pumpkins) in order to frighten away the spirits.

Others tried using occult practices to contact the spirits, talk with long lost loved ones or cast spells or divine the future.

Any way you look at it, Halloween certainly has roots in darkness, superstition and paganism with emphasis on the demonic.

I appreciate the way Pastor John McArthur suggests Christians respond to Halloween.

1) We should not respond like superstitious pagans. We are not to be superstitious because we are enlightened by God's word. Evil spirits are no more active on Halloween than any other day of the year.

2) We should respond with caution and wisdom. Actual documented incidents involving Satanists or witches are quite rare. While one should not ignore that possibility, the greater risk is the social danger involved. Drunk drivers, poisoned candy, out of control hormones at teen or young adult parties, pranks and vandalism are far more likely to occur. Parents would do well to not let their children attend secular parties or do anything unsupervised.

3) Christians need to respond with gospel compassion. Ghosts and goblins are not terrifying; God's wrath is. A lost world is celebrating death that they don't understand will separate them from God forever.

Some Christians just don't participate. That is what our family did. Others will participate while trying to avoid all of the darkness surrounding the day by choosing popular, 'non-scary' costumes and focusing their decorations on fall instead of ghastly images. Some will jump in with both feet and say it is all in fun.

I think it is best that we allow God's word to shape and mold our decisions. I will close with several scriptures. I will also publish a more complete list of scriptures and set them out in the foyer for anyone who is interested.

- 1Thes 5:21-22 **Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.**
- James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**
- 3 Jn 1:11 Dear friend, **do not imitate what is evil but what is good.** Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.
- Rom 12:9 Love must be sincere. **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**
- Eph 5:11-12 **Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness**, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.
- 1 Tim 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and **follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.**
- 1 Cor 10:21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too**; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- **if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.**
- 1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I **follow the example of Christ.**
- 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

God bless you as you search the scriptures for the heart of God and the Mind of Christ.

Mike

Recipe Swap

DELICIOUS HAM AND POTATO SOUP

3 ½ c. peeled and diced potatoes
1/3 c. diced celery
1/3 c. finely chopped onion
¾ c. diced cooked ham
3 ¼ c. water
2 T. chicken bouillon granules
½ tsp. salt, or to taste
1 tsp. pepper
5 T. butter
5 T. flour
2 c. milk

Combine the potatoes, celery, onion, ham and water in a stockpot. Bring to a boil, then cook over medium heat until potatoes are tender, about 10-15 minutes. Stir in the chicken bouillon, salt and pepper. In a separate saucepan, melt butter over medium low heat. Whisk in flour and cook, stirring constantly until thick about 1 minute. Slowly stir in milk as not to allow lumps to form until all of the milk has been added. Continue stirring over medium low heat until thick, 4-5 minutes. Stir the milk mixture into the stockpot, and cook soup until heated through. Serve immediately.

8 servings

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Jacob 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, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza

June Dedeke needs prayers.
Lainey Schmelzle-broken ankle
Dee Bayless
Steve Manker-blood clots
Cindy Woidt-cancer
Teresa Senn Clarkson-cancer & diabetes
Wayne Arnold- starting radiation Oct. 4th.

PRAISE: Bryan Cochran (Jess Self's husband)- had a heart transplant and is doing well- continued prayer for healing.

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 be having our regular meeting on Oct. 13th at 9:00.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3 Marge Prebble
13 Georganna Carson
Kyle & Laura Reich (2001)
15 Helen Grove
16 Bud Bryant
Emma Branam
19 Karie Turner
20 Jay Welborn
Marvin & Marge Prebble (1979)
22 Jessica (Farr) Mitchell
Clay Hawk
23 Serena Toll
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in OCTOBER

Congregational Prayer:

Stan Farr

Scripture Readers:

7-Mitchells-

14-Groves-1 Cor. 6:12-20

21-Anna Kirby-1 Cor. 7:10-16

28-Turners-1 Cor. 8:1-8

Nursery:

7-Debbie Gerstner/Curtis Mitchell

14-Laura Reich/Glee Hosler

21-Jo Tichenor/Sarah Hollis

28-Carol Welborn/Jarret Mitchell

Greeters/Ushers:

7-Mitchells

14-Groves

21-Kirbys

28-Turners

Lord's Supper Preparation:

7-Mitchells

14-Groves

21- Kirbys

28-Turners

Communion Table:

7-Stan, Jay

Dennis Tichenor, Jarret Mitchell

14- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Clint Thomas

21- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Curtis Mitchell

28- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Andy Arnold

Musicians

Worship Team: Mike Kirby, David Grove, Rachel Arnold

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby,

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Aug. 26-\$757.26

Sept. 2-\$1838.50

Sept. 9-\$2153.03

Sept. 16-\$1916.00

Sept. 23-\$1403.55

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Oct. 6th at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr will be hosting.

FALL FELLOWSHIP: the fall fellowship will be at Turner's this year on Sunday, Oct. 14th. Plan to come-bring hot dogs, buns, chips and other goodies. It starts at 4:00 PM. Hope to see you there.



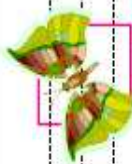



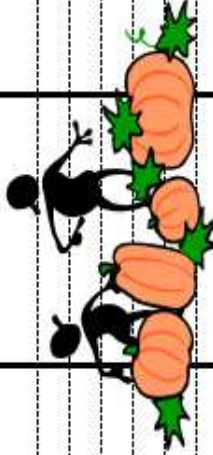
LIFE CHAIN: All churches in Jefferson County are invited to participate in the Oct. 7th Life Chain. It is scheduled from 2-3 PM at Oskaloosa and at the Crossroads Cowboy Church in Williamstown. There will be sign in sheets. Bring lawn chairs (if desired) and anything you might need for 1 hour outside. Adults and children may attend. This will be a peaceful and prayerful event. (see bulletin board for flyer)

TIM HAWKINS CONCERT: Nov. 16th in Kansas City, KS. Tickets are \$19 with a group. Keep in mind you can always check on tickets yourself if you didn't get yours reserved early.

ATTENTION: On Oct. 14th, there will be a children's church for **ALL** kids 6th grade and under due to the sensitive nature of the sermon topic. Instead of a children's sermon, they will be dismissed to the classroom area in the back.

EYEGASSES: You may now bring your old eyeglasses to church and put them in the box in the foyer. These will be passed on, taken care of and used again. Thank you for your generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS: Joy & Sheldon McGuire had a baby boy, Thursday, Sept. 13th. Peyton John. He was 8lbs. 10oz., 22 in. long. Mother and baby are doing fine. Congratulations Grandpa Stan and Grandma Donetta and Great Grandpa Don.

2012		OCTOBER					2012	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders			8:00 AM Men's Breakfast		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
 Jefferson County Life Chain 2-3 PM			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study			SOS 9:00 AM		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
 Fall Fellowship at Turners 4:00 PM.			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study					
28	29	30	31					
5:00 PM Youth Group			6:15 PM 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!

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