

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2013

A DOG'S NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

1. I will not chew my human's toothbrush and not tell them.
2. I will not chew crayons and pens, specially not the red ones, or my people will think I'm hemorrhaging.
3. When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it's raining outside.
4. I will not bark each time I hear a door bell on TV.
5. The sofa is not a face towel. Neither are Mom & Dad's laps.
6. My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
7. I will not bite the officer's hand when he reaches in for Mom's driver's license and car registration.
8. I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
9. I will not roll my toys behind the fridge.
10. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
11. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.
12. I will not bark at people walking past the house.
13. I will not bark at leaves blowing in the street.
14. I will not bark when the branches blow in the wind.
15. I will not bark when the shed doors rattle.
16. I will not bark when squirrels run across the roof.
17. I will no longer be beholden to the sound of the can opener.
18. I will call animal rights and tell them what that surgical mask wearing freak does to us when no one is around.
19. I will grow opposable thumb; break into pantry; decide for MYSELF how much food is *too* much.
20. I will NOT chase the stick unless I see it leave his hand.
21. I will no longer pull my human down the street, exceptions may apply. (exceptions include other dogs, cats, squirrels, rabbits, lizards and other prey who may go by at a moments notice that I just HAVE TO CHASE).
22. I will not smile at my human with innocent looking eyes, indicating that I may have done something wrong but am covering it up by looking adorable and irresistibly cute.
23. I will not grab cats by the tail and drag them around the living room just to hear them make really cool noises.

Introducing the Todd Becker Foundation

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." **Matthew 9:37-38**

Todd Becker was an all-American kid who had it all. Todd Becker's story is the story of almost every young person today – a story of choices. With potential overflowing and a promising future ahead, Todd's potential and future were cut short when he was killed in an alcohol-related car accident as just a senior in high school.

A starter on the football team, a state finalist in the pole vault competition and dreams of playing baseball in college, Todd had everything to live for and everything to look forward to. But unfortunately, choice by choice and step by step, Todd's potential came to an end when his final choice cost him his life.

Still today, Todd's story is one that virtually every high school student can identify with – a story of choices. It's a sad story – but it's a moving story. And it's a story that has moved nearly 50,000 high school students across the Midwest to consider "where their life is headed."

In February, VFCC will be partnering with the Todd Becker Foundation, along with some other area churches, to bring the life changing message of Jesus Christ to Jefferson County. We will need some people from our church willing to counsel teens, so here is some information about the Todd Becker Foundation.

The Todd Becker Foundation was created following the death of 18-year old Todd Becker who was killed in an alcohol related car crash as a senior in high school. Todd's brother, Keith, founded the ministry in 2005. Since then, the foundation has shared Todd's story with thousands of students across the Midwest.

The Foundation travels throughout the Midwest and puts on assembly presentations and evening outreaches to public high schools, grades 9-12. The assembly unfolds the tragic and life-changing choices that ultimately led to

the death of Todd Becker, and includes live music, videos and many other media elements.

Their desire is to impact students for eternity, not just a few Friday nights. Thus, their primary purpose is to draw young people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Their mission statement: *The Foundation's purpose is to motivate high school students to discover their potentials and ultimately discover themselves by placing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*

The Foundation is a Christian organization, but they fully understand that they are presenting in a public school setting and are very mindful of the boundaries that must be kept. Here's how it works:

When the Todd Becker Foundation visits a high school, they typically put on two separate events/assemblies. The first is an afternoon assembly for grades 9-12, which is held during the school hours. This assembly tells the tragic Todd Becker story and challenges the students to take the narrow road, according to the scripture Matthew 7:13. The major focus of this message is choices and their consequences.

That same evening, students, parents and the community are invited back to a second event where the band puts on a concert and an entirely different story and message is presented. This evening event focuses primarily on the story of how Todd's brother, Keith, came to faith in Christ following his brother's death. Having said that, the evening event is where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented and the major focus is the salvation message.

How are we involved? The assembly will be held at the Oskaloosa High School on February 6. Buses will take the high school students from Valley Falls, McLouth and JCN to join Oskaloosa at the afternoon event. Those students are invited back for the evening event along with anyone else (parents, friends, younger/older siblings, etc.) from the area. At the evening event, they will need solid Christians to counsel anyone who makes a decision for Christ and also will need churches to follow up on those decisions.

(Continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

CHEESY SPINACH & BACON DIP

1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen, chopped spinach, thawed, drained
1 lb. (16 oz.) velveeta, cut into ½ in. cubes
4 oz. cream cheese, cubed
10 oz. rotel, undrained
8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled

Microwave ingredients in microwaveable bowl on High 5 min. or until velveeta is completely melted and mixture is well blended, stirring after 3 minutes.

BACON CHEESEBURGER ROLL-UP

1 lb. ground beef
4 slices bacon, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
½ lb. velveeta, cut into ½ inch cubes
1 pkg. (13.8 oz.) refrigerated pizza crust

Heat oven to 400*. Brown ground beef, bacon and onions in large skillet on medium high heat; drain. Return meat to skillet. Add velveeta; cook 5 minutes or until melted, stirring frequently. Cool 10 minutes. Unroll dough onto baking sheet sprayed with cooking spray. Press into 15x8 inch rectangle; top with meat mixture. Roll up starting at one long side. Rearrange if necessary so roll is seam side down. Bake 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Jacob Mitchell, Curtis 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, Brandon Hammons

The town of Newtown, Connecticut Becky Arnold will be having surgery on her right eye on Jan. 10th.

Bob Brown-Erin's dad has an abdominal aortic aneurysm and will have to have surgery.

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 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 not be having our regular meeting in Jan.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2-Don Carder
5-Henry Cummings
7-Chelsea Meyer
10-Matthew Branam
12-Leah Brown
13-Jackson Reich
17-Trinity Gomez
19-Jarret Mitchell
24-Lindsay Starkey
29-Leah Martin
30-Wayne Arnold
31-Linda Durand
Peyton Taliaferro
Nik Branam

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in January

Congregational Prayer:

Clint Thomas

Scripture Readers:

6-Grove- 1 Cor. 12:12-20

13-Mitchell- 1 Cor. 14:1-5

20-Turner- John 1:1-5; 9-14

27-Welborn- 1 Cor.14:26-33a

Nursery:

6- Debbie Gerstner

13- Linda Durand

20- Sarah Hollis

27- Glee Hosler/Jarret Mitchell

Greeters/Ushers:

6-Grove

13-Mitchell

20-Turner

27-Welborn

Lord's Supper Preparation:

6-Grove

13-Mitchell

20-Turner

27-Welborn

Communion Table:

6-Stan, Jay

Steve Carson, Jarret Mitchell

13- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Andy Arnold

20- Stan, Jay

Dennis Turner, Cylus Tichenor

27- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Jarret Mitchell

Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby,

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Vocals: David Grove, Rachel Arnold

Church Offerings

Nov. 25-\$1711.00

Dec. 2-\$1588.00

Dec. 9-\$2773.00

Dec. 16-\$

Dec. 23-\$2214.16

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 Jan. 12th at 8:00 AM.

THANK YOU: The church received thank you cards from the following people for the food boxes and caroling. Edna Jackson, Don Carder, Wendel Sales, Jeanette Smith, Virginia Koons, Mary Huffman, Mary Courter,

THANK YOU: The church received a thank you card from the family of Amy Gilleece Cummings for the funeral dinner.

THANK YOU: The church received thank you cards from Stan & Donetta and from Elizabeth Farr for the funeral dinner for Red Farr.



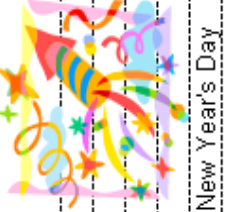



THANK YOU: The church received a thank you card from the God's Storehouse Christmas Gift Program Committee for helping in the 'adopt a family' program.

WINTER RETREATS: Mid- Winter retreat for grades 7-12 will be Jan. 19-21. Cost is \$60.00. Men's retreat will be Feb. 1-2. Cost is \$30.00. Women's retreat will be Feb. 15-16. Cost is \$30.00.

SYMPATHY: We offer our sympathy to the families of Amy Gilleece Cummings, Melvin Breitsprecher and Red Farr.

COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE: Our church is furnishing the soup and fixings this year. It will be Jan. 20th dinner will be at 6:00 PM and service at 7:00 PM.

CHURCH SERVICE AT LINNWOOD: A group from VFCC will be going to Linnwood to do a church service for them. We will be doing this the 1st Sunday of every month at 2:00 PM. If you would like to help it's not too late to get in on the rotation. What a great way to serve our senior saints!

2013		JANUARY					2013	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY	
		 New Year's Day	1 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	2	3	4	5	
6 2:00 PM Service at Linnwood 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		
13 5:00 PM Youth Group	14	15	16 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	17	18	19  Mid-Winter Retreat thru Monday		
20 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress Community Soup Supper 6:00 PM	 Martin Luther King Day	22	23 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	24	25	26		
27 5:00 PM Youth Group	28	29	30 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	31				

Valley Falls
Christian Church
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On the web: 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

*(Todd Becker Foundation continued from
page 2)*

They need financial support. Our leadership has committed to helping them come to Jefferson County. Also, everyone can offer prayer support. We need to be praying for Keith Becker, all the workers from the Foundation, all the counselors/helpers who are involved. We need to pray that God's Spirit moves in a mighty way to bring revival to our younger generation in Jefferson County.

If you are interested in learning more or helping out at the evening event, please contact Mike. Their website is www.toddbecker.org

Mike