

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

May 2013

## FRIENDSHIP

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet.

She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even... The total had to be exactly perfect... No chance here for mistakes.

Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster.. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother", Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick...and I want to buy a miracle." "I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist. "His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little. "Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and mommy says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money." "How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audible. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to"

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents—the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need."

That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon specializing in neuro-surgery.

The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place.

"That surgery," her mom whispered, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost." Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost...one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child.

In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

## Musings from the Mail Route

My part-time, temporary position as the Valley Falls mail carrier ended uneventfully after nine months on the job. It was a blessing to have the job, but I was ready for it to be over. Here are some observations I have made over the last nine months on the route (and four years carrying mail in Lawrence before I went into the ministry).

Kids are always happy to see the mailman. When you walk up to a house and the kids are outside or at the door, they always want to get the mail. They might even fight over who gets it. They don't care what is in it. They don't care if it is for them or not. They don't have any anticipation that it might be unwelcome news.

Adults, on the other hand, are usually not as excited to get mail. Except for those times when someone expects a check or they have ordered something and are awaiting a package, they usually grumble. "If it's bills, you can keep them" (like I never heard that one before!). "It's just a bunch of junk mail." "Somebody wants money." Adults often see mail as a nuisance at best and a necessary evil other times. This is especially true when they get mail from bill collectors, lawyers or utility companies.

We should be more like the kids when we receive the message of the gospel. Just be happy to see the one delivering it, accept it with grace and don't think about any negatives (hardships) that may come from living the Christian life. In other words, have the faith of a child.

There are a lot of houses that look junky when you drive by. Junk, trash, old beer cans are strewn all through the yard. The house is in obvious disrepair. There are a lot of people who are like that as well. You can glance and think that they are in spiritual disrepair. You see worldly 'junk' in the way they live their lives that gives them away. Maybe it is the profane language they use. Maybe it is the alcohol you always smell on their breath. Maybe it is

the clothes they wear, i.e. profane messages on t-shirts or very revealing clothes.

Then there are a lot of houses that look OK when you drive by, but...When you get up close to the houses, you notice things you may not notice when you drive by. Maybe the house looks good at a glance, but when you walk by to deliver the mail, you notice the foundation is cracked, the paint is peeling or the eaves are rotting. The siding that was put on 20 years ago doesn't look so good anymore. What looks like a nice green lawn you notice is actually chickweed or crabgrass.

I want to make two analogies here. Some people look good when you give them a quick once over. They seem to have it together. But upon closer inspection, you find out there are serious flaws they are hiding. Not the daily sin that we all struggle with, but habitual sin that rots one from the inside out spiritually. Sin they would rather ignore and aren't willing to deal with. Hidden things you might find out if you really got to know them. The problem may be pride, gossip, lying or greed. When you get close to a house (for instance when you inspect it before buying it) you find out the real character of the house. When you get close to a person, you may get to find the real character of that person even though they have been trying to hide their flaws. They need a friend who will share the gospel with them.

The second point is the flip side of the first. Sometimes what is being covered up isn't sin, it is pain. When you 'drive by' people, it is kind of like the conversation that goes, "How are you? I'm fine. OK, see you later." Upon closer inspection, if you walk with this person instead of driving by, you find out they are hurting and are trying to deal with it by themselves. They need a friend they can confide in and trust and who will give them biblical wisdom and encouragement.

*(Continued on back page)*

## Recipe Swap

### PUNCH BOWL DESSERT

- 1 angel food cake
- 2 6oz. pkgs. Instant vanilla pudding
- 1 or 2 cans cherry or strawberry pie filling
- 1 12oz. can of crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 large container cool whip
- 1 pkg. chopped pecans

Tear up angel food cake and place half into bottom of the punch bowl. Mix pudding and pour half of it on top of the angel food cake. Let set for 5-10 minutes, or until firm. Layer ½ of your pie filling on top of the pudding, followed by a layer of ½ of your pineapple and finally a layer of ½ of your cool whip. Repeat layers and top with chopped pecans. Refrigerate overnight.

This is a wonderful dessert to take to any kind of family gathering or any time you want something for a crowd.

### 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, Ruth Churchill

June Dedeke fell and broke her hip  
Travis Toy has cancer  
Vicky Crabtree (Jay Farr's mother-in-law) has cancer  
Praying for progress and guidance on the new building

**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](http://www.valleyfallscc.org).

**POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS:** This will be a special offering every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 in May.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1- Griffin Munson
- 2- Sarah Toy
- 4- ERIN SHEAD
- 5- Gina Kirby
- 8- Lauren Thomas
- 10- Dan Strang
- 11- Morgan Ratliff
- 13- Austin Kirby
- 14- Andy Arnold
- 16- Sadie (Tichenor) Preston
- 17- Sophia Smith
- 19- Glee Hosler
- 21- Dennis & Jo Tichenor (1988)
- 22- Myles Reich
- 24- Gary Smith
- 27- Wayne & Christy Arnold (1978)

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in MAY

### Congregational Prayer:

Dennis Turner

### Scripture Readers:

5- Donetta Farr-Phil. 2:5-11  
12-Carolyn Starkey-Matt. 21: 18-22  
19- Jarret Mitchell- Matt. 20:20-28  
26- Jo Tichenor- John 15:9-17

### Nursery:

5- Debbie Gerstner  
12- Glee Hosler/Caitlyn Thomas  
19- Sarah Hollis/Jarret Mitchell  
26- Laura Reich/Nic Branam

### Greeters/Ushers:

5- Farris  
12- Carolyn Starkey  
19- Linda Durand  
26- Tichenors

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

5- Farris  
12- Carolyn Starkey  
19- Linda Durand  
26- Tichenors

### Communion Table:

5-Stan, Jay

**Ray Mitchell**, Andy Arnold

12- Jay, Stan

**David Grove**, Cylus Tichenor

19- Stan, Jay

**Steve Carson**, Jarret Mitchell

26- Jay, Stan

**Dennis Tichenor**, Clint Thomas

### Musicians

Worship Team: David Grove, Stan Farr,  
Jay Welborn

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

## Church Offerings

March 31-\$2343.00

April 7-\$1404.00

April 14-\$3652.50

April 21-\$1092.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!**

[www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The men's breakfast will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Stan Farr will be hosting.

**GRADUATES BANQUET:** The graduates carry in dinner will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> right after church. Everyone bring one or two dishes and honor our graduates. If you know of someone graduating please let Rhonda Mitchell know. Our graduates are Erin Thomas, Sadie (Tichenor) Preston, Cylus Tichenor

## CAMP NEWS

**CAMP PREREGISTRATION:** If you want to preregister for camp and save money, the date to do that is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**MOWING AT CAMP:** It will be our turn to mow at camp on May 11<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COOKING AT CAMP:** It will be our turn to help cook and take desserts on June 19<sup>th</sup>

**VBS:** Vacation Bible School will be June 3-7, from 7:00-9:00 PM this year. This is earlier than we have had it in a few years so be sure and mark your calendars and spread the word. There will be a VBS meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> after church.

**WORSHIP PRACTICE:** There will be no worship practice on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The following week it will be on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**BIBLE STUDY:** There will be no Bible Study on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting will be at 8:00 pm Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

2013		May		2013		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
<b>5</b> 11:30 am Graduates Banquet 2:00 PM Service at Midland (Linwood) 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Worship Practice	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  NO Youth Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Memorial Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	

# Valley Falls Christian Church

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Valley Falls, KS 66088

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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!***

**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

**About Mission Lake Christian Camp**

Mission Lake Christian Camp serves approximately 250 campers from 1st through 12th Grade each year through camps and held in the summer and retreats during the fall and winter.

**2013 summer schedule**

Grades 9-12 (Sr High), June 9-14  
Grades 6-8 (Jr High), June 16-21  
Grades 3-5 (Junior), June 23-27  
Grades 1-2 (Day Camp), June 29  
Grades 7-12 Girls (Princess Camp), July 6-7  
Grades 7-12 (Deeper Life), July 7-12  
Grades 9-Adult (Worship Forum) July 25-27  
Grades 7-12, (Fall Retreat), Sep 20-22

Camper fees for each camp are on the web site.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*(cont. from pg 2)*

Finally, just like you can tell a lot about people if you looked at their checkbook, you can tell a lot about people from their mail. For instance, if you go to a casino and give them your information, you will probably get mail from them for life. It is also easy to see when the mail is adult oriented. Things that perhaps family, friends and neighbors have no idea about, the mailman knows. Likewise, we can't keep secrets from God. He knows our deepest thoughts, needs and desires – good and bad.

*O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.*  
**Psalm 139:1-3 (ESV)**

*Mike*