

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

September 2014

OUTREACH

12TH ANNUAL FREE SCHOOL SUPPLY WRAP-UP

Saturday, July 26th, God blessed the free school supply project with 45 volunteers from different churches, organizations and businesses to reflect His love to meet the needs of others. The fruits of the spirit were in everyone as they worked side by side to meet the needs of many thankful families. Thanks to all of you who helped in anyway through prayer, giving of your time, monetary gifts, donating supplies and clothing, hauling supplies and for the food and anything we forgot to mention!!!! Set up on Friday night was possible with 28 volunteers arriving to sort and set up supplies. Then on Saturday morning we discovered that families started arriving as early as 5:00 AM! The door was open at 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM and there were 326 students that came to pick up supplies. Families are still making request for supplies, making our total over 350 students.

Here are just a few of the items given away:

Book Bags- 336

Pink Erasers-652

Pencils-4485

School Boxes-146

Glue Sticks-846

Crayola Markers-167

3-Ring Binders-165

Wide Notebooks-563

College Notebooks-271

Pocket Folders-956

Wide Paper-336

College Paper-241

Socks-1082 pairs

Briefs-860 pairs

This is a year long project and we are starting today to get ready for July 25, 2015. We are accepting supplies now!

Again, we just thank God and we give Him all the praise and glory.

ATTENTION LADIES

AUTUMN TEA

**SUNDAY, OCT. 19TH AT 2:30 PM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BASEMENT**

The Valley Falls Recreation Commission has chosen the "FREE School Supply Project" to receive the proceeds from the "Autumn Tea Party" this year. Tables are decorated by individuals, clubs or organizations, each with its own unique setting and theme. Linda Durand, Laura Reich and Helen Grove have volunteered to decorate a table for the event. The event is open to all ages so invite your mother, grandmother, aunt, niece, or best friend to view the beautifully decorated tables and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, delicious food and great conversations. Contact members of the Valley Falls Recreation Commission for tickets and more information: Heather Allen, Jeri Clark, Noe Garza, Alisa Grollmes, Jill Penry.

Marks of a True Christian, Part 1

Some of the Bible translations we read have headings over sections of scripture. These headings aren't scripture, but are the translators' efforts to summarize the section you are about to read. I noticed in reading Romans 12 beginning with verse 9 that my translation of choice, the English Standard Version, has the heading, 'Marks of a True Christian.' Over the course of several newsletters, I will focus on some of these 'marks' to try to encourage our body to 'walk the walk,' that is, live out our faith in real and practical ways.

The Bible makes it clear that there should be evidence, or fruit, in the life of a Christian. The person who claims to be a Christian and then does nothing to live the Christian life except agree to say they believe in Jesus should reexamine themselves to see if they are truly in the faith. As James writes, "faith without works is a dead faith."

There are other scriptures that spell out what a believer should act like, but I will focus on Romans 12:9-13.

Romans 12:9-13 (ESV)⁹ *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*¹⁰ *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*¹¹ *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*¹² *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*¹³ *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

Because of some current needs, I will address verse 11 this month. *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* The NLT phrases that verse, "*Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*"

How do we serve the Lord? Does He really need anything from us? Some people have the idea that they don't need to do anything for the church. "If God wants it done, then it'll get done" seems to be their mantra. First let's be clear. The church is vital. The Bible says Christ died for the church (Eph 5:25). Jesus said "I will build my church (whose church? Jesus' church!) and the gates of hell will not prevail upon it." (Matt 16:18) The church is God's plan, God's

invention, designed by Him to bring believers together as a community to be the body of Christ on earth. Say what you want about the church: 'It's boring, it's not relevant, they don't need me, it's full of hypocrites, it doesn't meet my needs (by the way, the church is designed for YOU to meet the needs of others – that is service)' the one thing you can't get from the scriptures is that you get a free pass and don't need to be involved in the church (Heb 10:25).

The church is the community/family where we are to do life together. We encourage, pray, worship – and serve. Wherever this community comes together, that is church. Within the church, we serve. When we serve in the church, we all then become equipped to serve Christ in the world.

The church always needs workers. Greeters, servers, readers, teachers, people to visit others, prayer warriors, youth leaders, nursery workers - the list goes on and on. Some work is visible to others, some is behind the scenes. So let us not be lax in our church attendance or in our work within the church. It does not please the Lord when we are.

And when we serve, we are to serve enthusiastically. When we serve, but act like we would rather do anything else, does that please the Lord? When we seem disappointed that someone asked us to help with something, does that encourage others? Let's serve with zeal, with enthusiasm! "Yes, I'd be glad to help," sounds so much better than "Yeah, I guess so, if I have to." Oh, and we usually don't say the 'if I have to' part, but it is often obvious by our expressions.

We can take it one step further in our enthusiasm. What if people were so enthusiastic about serving within the church community that we didn't wait for someone to ask us to do something? What if we saw a need, asked the leadership if we could do something about meeting that need, then actually did it? And if the leaders of the church had specific guidelines about how to do something, we accepted that gracefully and submitted to the authority that God has put into place?

(continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

MEXICAN CASSEROLE

1 lb. hamburger
1 medium onion, chopped
1 can corn, drained
1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 pkg. taco mix
8-12 corn tortillas
¾ c. sour cream
2 cans rotel, drained
1/3 c. Mexican blend shredded cheese
Sliced jalapenos, opt.

Cook hamburger and onions till meat is done, drain. Add corn, beans, rotel and taco mix. Spray a 2 qt. 8x12 dish with cooking spray. Place half of the tortillas then half of the meat mixture. Then place all of the sour cream on next. Repeat with tortillas and meat mixture. Place in heated 350* oven for 25 minutes. Remove from heat and top with cheese and jalapenos. Cook for 5 more minutes or until cheese is melted. Let stand for 5 more minutes then serve.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Heuertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill, Jason Cherry

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: Hay rack ride will be Sunday Sept. 28 from 3:00 PM till ?? It will be at Beightels. Bring hot dogs, buns and a side dish. We'll provide paper products, hot water, cocoa, kool aid. Come for fun, food, fellowship and some relaxing by the bonfire.

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.

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 Sept. 13th at 9:00 AM. We will be coordinating our Sept. 20th trip to Hillsboro. If you would like to go, make sure an SOS member knows.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3 Jay Farr
7 Ray Mitchell
Elaine Worner
13 Dawson Branam
21 Jaxson Temm
25 Kyle Reich
27 Kevin Gatzemeyer
28 TREY WATKINS

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in SEPTEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

Scripture Readers:

7- Carol Welborn-1 Kings 12:12-15
14- Georganna Carson- Hosea 3:1-5
21- Donetta Farr- Isaiah 6:1-7
28- Carolyn Starkey- Jeremiah 1:4-8

Nursery:

7-Debbie Gerstner/Nik
14-Joan Phillips
21- Glee Hosler/Caitlyn
28-Nancy Gatzmeyer/Libby

Greeters/Ushers:

7- Welborns
14-Carsons
21-Farrs
28-Starkeys

Lord's Supper Preparation:

7-Welborns
14-Carsons
21-Farrs
28-Starkeys

Communion Table:

7-Stan, Jay
Ray Mitchell, Andy Arnold
14- Jay, Stan
Dennis Turner, Matt Branam
21- Stan, Jay
David Grove, Ben Trotter
28- Jay, Stan
Steve Carson, Kevin Gatzmeyer

Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby
Organ: Leah Brown
Piano: Donetta Farr
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

July 27-\$1057.00

Aug. 3-\$2072.00

Aug. 10-\$2463.00

Aug. 17-\$1416.00

Aug. 24-\$1488.00

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 Sept. 13th at 8:00 AM. David Grove will be cooking.

EYEGASSES: We have a box in the foyer to put spare glasses in for missions. The lions club collects them and is able to reuse them in other countries that desperately need them. If you have any questions please ask Stan or Donetta.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will start up again on Sept. 3rd at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEETING: The board meeting will be on Wed. Sept. 10th at 8:00 PM.

SEPTEMBER CAMP NEWS:

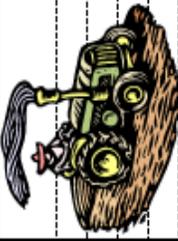
Men's retreat will be Sept. 19-20.

There will be a Mission Lake Christian Camp work day on Sept. 27 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.

OCTOBER CAMP NEWS:

Jr./Sr. High Fall retreat will be Oct. 10-11.

The Mission Lake Christian Camp Annual meeting will be Oct. 28th at 6:30 PM, at Cummings Christian Church. Dinner will be provided.

2014		SEPTEMBER					2014	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
	 Labor Day							
7 2:00 PM Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	8	9	10 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	11	12  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM SOS	13	6	
14 5:00 PM Youth Group	15	16	17 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	18	 Men's Retreat at Mission Lake Camp	19	20	
21 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	22	23	24 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	25	26	27 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Work Day at MLCC		
28 Fall Fellowship at Beightels 3:00 PM	29	30	31 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study					

Valley Falls Christian Church

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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

(Marks of a True Christian continued)

When we succeed in the art of serving in the church, we can move it beyond the boundaries of the Sunday morning walls. Serve in the community, serve in your secular job and daily chores (**Colossians 3:23** *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*). Serve by carrying out the great commission. Go. Make disciples. Baptize and teach them.

God doesn't need anything from us, but God designed us, our faith and His church in such a way that He calls us, no, commands us to serve. Let's do so regularly, excellently and enthusiastically.

Mike

Here are a couple of service opportunities outside the church:

Mission Lake Christian Camp

Mission Lake Christian Camp is a ministry supported by the missions of this church. MLCC needs board members willing to meet six times a year and also help out with work

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

days, organizational committees and planning for future growth and improvements. It is a great ministry to the young people (and adults) of northeast Kansas. If you are interested in serving on the board of Mission Lake Christian Camp, please let Mike know.

Valley Falls Community Christian Council.

Member churches include almost all the churches in Valley Falls.

They sponsor the Back to School Ice Cream Social, the Community Thanksgiving Service and the Community Unity Service. They also help local people who are struggling to pay bills.

They meet four times a year on top of the community activities mentioned above.

The current members are aging and have been on the council for many years. All the churches are looking for new people to continue this group. Without new blood, it may dissolve by attrition.

If you want to see this organization continue, please consider volunteering to be on the board. See Mike if you are interested.