

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2015

CHURCH ACTIVITY FOLDERS

These folders each contain information on the particular activity that the church participates in each year. They can be added to or subtracted from as far as what activities we do. Some we've done in the past include live nativity, float in 4 H parade, coat and hat drive, etc. Some of these could be done again if someone would like to be in charge. Sometimes our goals change and we find certain activities are not necessary.

The folders are in the foyer on the table. We need someone to chair each activity but then we also need several people available to help. Please take a look at them and see if there is a perfect activity for you to either chair or at least help with. See a board member for any questions you may have. Activities include: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduate Banquet, Thanksgiving Dinner (taken), Christmas Church Celebration, Vacation Bible School, Food Boxes (taken), and a few others. A new one this year is the 150th Anniversary Celebration. Yes, it is this church's 150th—we were started in 1865. (There was a nice write up in the Jan. 15th Valley Falls Vindicator.) The board is hoping to have a big 150th celebration combined with a grand opening of the new building if these can be coordinated. Many people are needed to help in getting this accomplished. Please be in prayer for God's direction for you. We need someone who is really interested in being active in the activity they choose. Folders that don't get picked up, may get put away with the others mentioned above. If you think the activity is a good outreach for our church, please consider leading it. Some activity folders, like VBS or the 150th celebration, will require more time than others and now is the time to get going on both of these. Please help. These activities can not be accomplished without you.

FUNDRAISING FOR ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

From Feb. 1st to March 1, 2015 several youth groups across Jefferson County will collect canned goods for Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, KS. It was established in 1972 to care for children in need and to teach them the love of Christ. For more information about the Home you can read the paper on the board. Here's a wish list: canned corn, green beans, peas, chili and other beans. Campbell soups, also UPC labels from Campbells, General Mills, and Best Choice. Here's more of a list of wants: Canned foods, dry foods like boxed meals, sugar, flour, cleaning supplies, trash bags, laundry detergents (especially free and clear due to some skin allergies), toilet paper, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, breakfast cereal, packed lunch items like single serve mac and cheese, soups, snack crackers, pudding cups, applesauce etc., bouillon cubes, spaghetti sauce, alfredo sauce, "cream of" soups, canned vegetables, juice, hand soap, dish soap (both kinds), mouth wash, dryer sheets, toilet bowl cleaner, bathroom cleaner, Velveeta, easy mac packs, ramen noodles, pancake mix, stuffing mix, can chicken gravy, nacho cheese dip, OTB salsa, taco kits, salt, pepper, onion powder, parmesan cheese, Splenda, coffee, disposable cups and plates, Clorox wipes, water softener salt. On Saturday March 7th the youth groups will meet at Alpha to present the gifts.

The Word of the Month: Love

Well of course. It is February. This is the obligatory February newsletter message about love. It is the month that men have a nervous breakdown because they either 1) spend two months over-thinking the perfect gift/event for their sweetheart or 2) they are digging through the leftovers trying to find a serviceable gift in the store they stopped at on their way home from work on February 14. It is also the month where so many women get disappointed because their men do not meet their Valentine's Day expectations.

Perhaps there wouldn't be so many hurt feelings and broken hearts over a botched Valentine's Day if everyone had a good, biblical understanding of love.

Remember, love is not really an emotion. At least not in the biblical sense. It is not something you fall into or out of. Love is something you do. It is an act of the will. It is a choice.

First, let's look at the love God has for us. That is the template we need to use to love others. *All Bible verses used in this article will be from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.*

1 John 4:8 tells us "God is love." Love is part of God's very nature. He can't do anything but love because that is who he is. Since God is eternal, God's love is eternal. **Jeremiah 31:3** *The LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.*

God's love for us is a strong love. **Romans 8:38-39** *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's love for us is a sacrificial love.*

Romans 5:8 *But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

What do we do with this love? We love God back. **Deuteronomy 6:5** *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.* This command is confirmed by Christ in the New Testament (Mark 12:30 among other verses).

The next question that should obviously follow is, "How do we show our love to God?" We obey his commands! **John 14:15, 21** *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be*

loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

The commands we are to obey govern our relationship to him. Since he created us as objects to receive his love, we need to obey the moral law he has given us in order to keep our minds and bodies pure. Christians are not allowed to do whatever we want with our bodies. We are not our own, we are bought at a price. Therefore, we obey God's word in the language we use, the way we conduct ourselves with the opposite sex and the way we act toward others (that is: no gossiping, anger, bitterness, grudges, greed, etc.).

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* So one way we love God is when we love others. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. But God tells us to go beyond this love. **Matthew 5:44** *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

How in the world do we love our enemies? I would like to say it is too difficult. That God is just asking, no commanding too much. Yet the scriptures also tell us that obeying God should not be that difficult. **1 John 5:3** *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

How do we do something so hard, that seems impossible to us? How do we love God, our neighbor, and even our enemy? We do it with the power that God gives us. **Romans 5:5** *And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Ah, so we must choose to love. We choose to love God even when things don't feel like they are going right. We choose to love our spouse and children when they aren't loving us and are getting on our nerves. We choose to love our enemies even when they stand for the very things that we find abhorrent.

And here is what that love looks like: **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

(continued on back page)

RECIPE SWAP

TACO PIZZA

- 1- ¼ c. cornmeal
- 1- ¼ c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1- ½ tsp. salt
- 2/3 c. milk
- 1/3 c. butter, melted
- ½ lb. hamburger
- ½ lb. sausage
- 6 oz. tomato paste
- 14 ½ oz. diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 envelope taco mix
- ¾ c. water
- 6 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 c. chopped lettuce
- 1 c. diced fresh tomato
- ½ c. sliced ripe olives
- ½ c. sliced green onions

Mix together the cornmeal, flour, baking powder and salt. Add milk and butter mix well. Press onto the bottom and sides of a 12-14 in. pizza pan. Bake at 400* for 10 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool. In a large skillet brown the hamburger and sausage; drain. Stir in the tomato paste, canned tomatoes, taco mix and water, bring to a boil. Simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Spread over crust. Combine cheeses; sprinkle 2 c. over the meat layer. Bake at 400* for 15 minutes or until cheese melts. Top with lettuce, fresh tomato, olives, onions, and remaining cheese

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, Aaron Cook

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 JODI WATKINS
- 6 Dennis Tichenor
- 7 Natalie Barrett
- 8 Aisha (Dively) Mitchell
- 11 June Dedeke
- 12 Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)
- 13 Nathan Hawk
David Grove
- 15 Kari (Haybarker) Mitchell
Clinton Thomas
- 18 Sarah Hollis
- 19 Steve & Georganna Carson (1965)
- 20 Nancy Gatzemeyer
- 26 Evie Gatzemeyer
- 28 Beverly Cress

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in FEBRUARY

Congregational Prayer:

Dennis Turner

Scripture Readers:

1- Helen Grove- Philippians 1:1-8

8- Mitchell- Philippians 1:9-11

15- Turner- Phillipians 1:12-18

22- Welborn- Phillipians 1:19-26

Nursery:

1-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn

8-Jo Tichenor/Nik

15-Laura Reich/Jackson

22-Sarah Hollis/Libby

Greeters/Ushers:

1-Grove

8-Mitchell

15-Turner

22-Welborn

Lord's Supper Preparation:

1-Grove

8-Mitchell

15-Turner

22-Welborn

Communion Table:

1-Stan, Jay

Clint Thomas, Jarret Mitchell

8- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Ben Trotter

15- Stan, Jay

David Grove, Kevin Gatzemeyer

22- Jay, Stan

Steve Carson, Curt Gatzemeyer

Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Dec. 28-\$718.00

Jan. 4-\$1853.00

Jan. 11-\$2566.00

Jan. 18-\$730.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Feb. 14th at 8:00 AM. Jay Welborn is cooking.

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 Feb. 14th at 9:00.








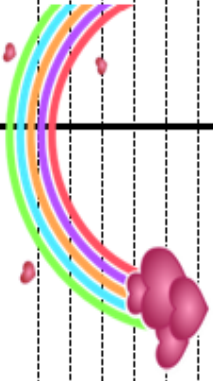

QUARTERLY CARRY IN DINNER: We will be having our quarterly church carry in dinner on Sunday Feb. 22nd. Bring a dish or two and enjoy the fellowship.

BIG FOOTBALL BASH: On Sunday Feb. 1st there will be a get together at Welborns to watch a certain big game. We're not supposed to name it because they have a patent so I've been told. Anyway the party starts at 4:00. Bring a snack and a game if you don't want to watch the game. The whole church is invited.

BIBLE STUDIES: The Bible studies have started back up. The general study is going to be studying the sermon on the mount. The ladies are continuing their study on Revelation.

SANCTITY OF LIFE: We will be taking donations of baby items through the month of January.



2015		FEBRUARY					2015	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
1  2:00 PM Service at Midland Big Game Party at Welborns 4:00 PM	2	3 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	4	5	6	7		
8 5:00 PM Youth Group	9	10	11 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	12	13	14  SOS 9:00 AM 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast		
15 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	16	17	18 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	19	20	21		
22  Quarterly Carry In Dinner 5:00 PM Youth Group	23	24	25 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	26	27	28	     	



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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

The church needs a committed volunteer in the area of technology. It includes running the sound system, projection and other possible duties if available. Please see Pastor Mike if you are gifted in this area and might like to serve in this capacity. He will choose from the candidates who are interested.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(continued from page 2)

Love looks like Jesus. **Ephesians 5:25**
Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. It looks like a blood soaked body on a cross. It looks like arms stretched out; hands nailed to a wooden beam. It looks like a crown of thorns pressed down so blood and sweat flow over Jesus' face and burn his eyes. It looks like, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing."

For the month of February, choose to love. Actively pursue loving others every day. After 28 days, see if it becomes a habit. If it does, you will be better off for it and it will bring you closer to God.

Love never fails. Faith, hope and love, these three remain, but the greatest of these is love.

Mike