

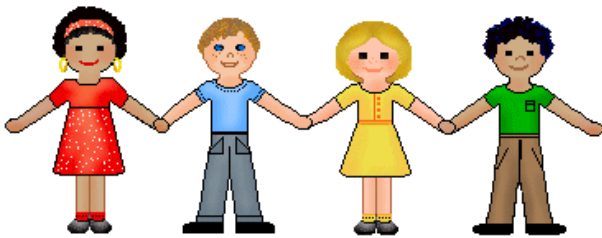
The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

November 2015

QUINCY CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT



The Quincy School Christmas Project is well under way. The committee members have been busy choosing gifts to give the 300 students. The number of gifts the students get will depend on the amount of monetary donations received.

Monetary donations can be placed in the container in the foyer.

Or if you would like to cover a specific item please let Ronda Turner know by Nov. 1st.

Items will be ordered in bulk the first week of November.

The committee would like to provide the following items to the students:

Shampoo \$72; Underwater World Coloring Book/Stickers \$180; Flashlights \$138; Jump Ropes \$42; Flip Flop Key Chain \$20; Sports Balls \$44; Die Cast Cars \$65; Plush Animals \$43; Baseball Cards \$66

Several donors have designated their monetary donations to cover these items: Backpacks, soap, toothbrushes, combs, lip balm, Rubber jelly bracelets, and mega punch balls.

The Methodist Clothes Closet has donated gloves for all the students.

Additional free items will be provided by Christians Across America (Don Young) and Westar Energy. Donations may be received from additional companies.

A date will be announced later for help in putting the bags together.

The Word of the Month: Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I recently read about the story of a husband and wife who were unable to conceive any children. This was frustrating and heart breaking as they questioned why God would allow this void in a believing couple who so desired children.

On some days of dreaming, they'd deliberate over what they might name a child if they were ever to have one. They had always been able to settle on a boy's name, but they both had a different favorite for a girl. The wife liked the name Autumn; the husband preferred Amanda.

But still, no child came. Boy or girl. So, after ten years of trying, they went to Plan B and decided to adopt siblings.

So they prayed. They asked God to work His perfect will, to match them with just the right children from just the right situation. One day the adoption agency called with the news that two sisters--ages three and five--had been relinquished by their mother. Though she wasn't a believer herself, the woman had requested that her daughters be placed with a Christian family. That had moved this couple's name to the top of the list.

When they asked the social worker to tell them more about the girls, here's what she said: "They're both green-eyed blondes. The five-year-old is named Autumn. The three-year-old is named Amanda."

Wow! These kinds of situations make it very easy to see that God is involved – which make it easy to give thanks to God for the blessing.

Are there times when something amazing happens in your life and you are sure it is from God? Do you remember to tell God thank you when He is so obviously involved?

I hope all of us have made a habit out of thanking God in those situations. But if we forget to thank God when He is clearly

blessing us, how will we ever remember to thank him in ALL circumstances, as 1 Thessalonians 5:18 commands?

We should all work at developing an attitude of gratitude. It is never too late!

I think of training our children. They never have a problem saying, "I want," but we always have to teach them please and thank you. Hopefully, as our children grow, saying thank you becomes a habit.

As children of God, we need to develop that same habit – not just when the big things happen, or the great things happen, but all the time. That means when we don't see anything particularly wonderful to thank God for, we need to open our eyes to the everyday blessings that come from God. It also means we need to give thanks when there seems to be nothing to be thankful for in our current situation.

Though it sometimes seems cliché or trite – especially coming from someone who doesn't seem to have any problems at the moment – there is always something to give thanks for.

I've seen many memes on the internet about thankfulness. They go something like: If there is a sink full of dirty dishes, be thankful you had food to eat. If there are piles of dirty laundry, be thankful you have clothes to wear. And so on, and so on...

But what about cancer? What about death? How can we be thankful in those situations? We can. We can be thankful for the years we had with the loved one we lost. We can be thankful for our memories. We can be thankful for doctors and researchers that bring us medicine and treatments. The verse doesn't say we have to be thankful FOR the situation, but when we are in the situation, find things about which you can thank God.

Remember, the bread and wine Jesus ate at the Last Supper were symbols of his death, yet he gave thanks for them.

(continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

PUMPKIN BARS

Preheat oven to 350*. Grease a 9x13 pan.

1 cup flour
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 cup pumpkin
¾ cup raisins

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. In a mixer bowl beat oil, sugar, eggs and pumpkin. Add dry ingredients and beat until well mixed. Stir in raisins by hand. Pour into greased pan and bake for 30-40 minutes or until done. Cool. Make a glaze of ½ cup powdered sugar and 1 T. real maple syrup. You can add a little water to the glaze if needed. Drizzle it over the top of the bars.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Nic Byrd, 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, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam

Beverly Cress, Darlene House, Kyan-school work, Steve Carson, Dee Carder, Dave Eaton, Grove's grandson Caleb- torn ligaments in a football accident, Nik Branam, Quincy School Project, the building project

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 Grace (Arnold) Farwell
4 Nolan Reich
7 Curt Gatzemeyer
Avery Gatzemeyer
Matthew & Brittany Boyce
9 Cylus Tichenor
Shelly Gatzemeyer
10 Tessa Haybarker
12 Eli Farr
13 Kati Haybarker
15 Joan Hosler
16 Brittany Boyce
17 Heidi Hawk
18 Libby Phillips
20 Doris Bixler
21 Sheila Farr
Melissa Scrivner
23 Leota Bolz
24 Curt & Shelly Gatzemeyer (2013)
27 Linda Trotter
29 Laikyn Hawk

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in NOVEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Steve Carson

Scripture Readers:

1- Rhonda Mitchell- Eph. 4:1-6
8- Ronda Turner- Gal. 5:22-26
15- Carol Welborn- Heb. 13:7-8; 17-19
22- Georganna Carson- Psalm 30:1-5
29- Donetta Farr- Eph. 5:33-6:4

Nursery:

1-Debbie Gerstner/Jackson
8-Jo Tichenor/Cheyenne
15-Glee Hosler/Libby
22-Sarah Hollis/
29-Cheyenne/Caitlyn

Greeters/Ushers:

1- Mitchell
8- Turner
15- Welborn
22- Carson
29- Farr

Lord's Supper Preparation:

1- Mitchell
8- Turner
15- Welborn
22- Carson
29- Farr

Communion Table:

1-Stan, Jay
Dennis Tichenor, Clint Thomas
8- Jay, Stan
Ray Mitchell, Wayne Arnold
15- Stan, Jay
David Grove, Curt Gatzemeyer
22- Jay, Stan
Dennis Turner, Clint Thomas
29-Stan, Jay
David Grove, Wayne Arnold

Musicians

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

Church Offerings

Sept. 27-\$900.00

Oct. 4-\$2066.00

Oct. 11-\$1284.00

Oct. 18-\$2407.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

POINSETTIA SALE: The Valley Falls Recreation Commission is selling poinsettias this Holiday Season!! All proceeds will go to the Free School Supply Fund. This fund benefits many kids and families! Plants come decorated with foil and protected with plastic. We have 3 sizes: 4" pots- \$5.00, 6 ½ " pots- \$9.00, 8" pots- \$17.00. Colors available are: Red, White, Pink and Jingle Bell- 4 inch only. Burgundy, Marble, Monet, Red Winter Rose, only available in 6 ½ . Plants will be available for pickup after Thanksgiving.

CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER: The church dinner will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd after church. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay. Lists will be coming out soon to sign up to bring food.

HOLIDAY SEASON: I know it seems like Christmas is a long way away, but it will be here before you know it. It is time to be thinking about the Dec. activities. We need to get the dates on the calendar so everyone can plan ahead to participate. If you are heading up any of the activities we've had before (caroling, cookie bake, ladies Christmas party, church Christmas dinner, food boxes, Christmas program) let Donetta or Christy know the date and your plans soon. We are open to any other ideas or activities too.





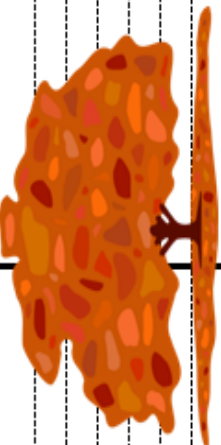

CHRISTMAS BOXES: We need to bring all shoeboxes, preferably wrapped but if not wrapped, the sooner the better. Also if anyone has extra wrapping paper that would be very much appreciated also. Please leave it in the foyer.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The community service will be Nov. 22nd at our church at 7:00 PM. We need to furnish pies and drinks and will need help. If you can furnish pies or help serve let Mike know.

TIME CHANGE: Don't forget to set your clocks back on Nov. 1st. Spring ahead Fall back!

DECORATE THE CHURCH: We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Nov.29th after church. Please plan to stay and help.

CHURCH T SHIRTS: We ordered some extra shirts the last time of all kinds. If you would like one see Donetta and you can just pay for it and take it home. No waiting to order them.

2015		NOVEMBER					2015	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
1  Time Change 2:00 PM Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	2	3	4 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	19	20	21		
22 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress Church Thanksgiving Dinner after church 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service	23	24	25 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28		
29  Decorate the Church 5:00 PM Youth Group								
30								

Valley Falls
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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

(The Word of the Month continued)

This is how important it is for us to have a thankful attitude: When we are unable to find anything to thank God for, it is a sign that we could be lost. **Romans 1:21** *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Thanksgiving is one key to answered prayer and peace. **Philippians 4:6-7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The biggest thing we can be thankful for is our salvation. **Colossians 1:12** *Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

Something as big as Amanda and Autumn – give thanks. As small and simple as a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast – give thanks. Not only at Thanksgiving, but every day – give thanks. In good times and bad times, there is always something to give thanks for.

Finally, remember who you are thanking. **James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Give thanks!

Mike

(The adoption account was taken from “Moments with You” by Dennis and Barbara Rainey. All scriptures are from the ESV Bible unless otherwise noted.)