

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

April 2016

THE OLD FISHERMAN

Our house was directly across the street from the clinic entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. We lived downstairs and rented the upstairs rooms to out patients at the clinic. One summer evening as I was fixing supper, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to see a truly awful looking man. "Why, he's hardly taller than my eight-year-old," I thought as I stared at the stooped shriveled body. But the appalling thing was his face—lopsided from swelling, red and raw. Yet his voice was pleasant as he said, "Good evening. I've come to see if you've a room for just one night. I came for a treatment this morning from the eastern shore, and there's no bus till morning." He told me he'd been hunting for a room since noon but with no success, no one seemed to have a room. "I guess it's my face...I know it looks terrible, but my doctor says with a few more treatments..." For a moment I hesitated, but his words convinced me: "I could sleep in this rocking chair on the porch. My bus leaves early in the morning." I told him we would find him a bed, but to rest on the porch. We went inside and finished getting supper. When we were ready, I asked the old man if he would join us. "No thank you. I have plenty." And he held up a brown paper bag. When I had finished the dishes, I went out on the porch to talk with him a few minutes. It didn't take a long time to see that this old man had an oversized heart crowded into that tiny body. He told me he fished for a living to support his daughter, her five children, and her husband who was hopelessly crippled from a back injury. He didn't tell it by way of complaint; in fact, every other sentence was prefaced with a thanks to God for a blessing. He was grateful that no pain accompanied his disease, which was apparently a form of skin cancer. He thanked God for giving him the strength to keep going. At bedtime, we put a camp cot in the children's room for him. When I got up in the morning, the bed linens were neatly folded and the little man was out on the porch. He refused breakfast, but just before he left for his bus, haltingly, as if asking a great favor, he said, "Could I please come back and stay the next time I have a treatment? I won't put you out a bit. I can sleep fine in a chair." He paused a moment and then added, "Your children made me feel at home. Grownups are bothered by my face, but children don't seem to mind." I told him he was welcome to come again. And on his next trip he arrived a little after seven in the morning. As a gift, he brought a big fish and a quart of the largest oysters I had ever seen. He said he shucked them that morning before he left so that they'd be nice and fresh. I knew his bus left at 4:00 AM and I wondered what time he had to get up in order to do this for us. In the years he came to stay overnight with us there was never a time that he did not bring us fish or oysters or vegetables from his garden. Other times we received packages in the mail, always by special delivery; fish and oysters packed in a box of fresh young spinach or kale, every leaf carefully washed. Knowing that he must walk 3 miles to mail these, and knowing how little money he had made the gifts doubly precious. When I received these little remembrances, I often thought of a comment our next-door neighbor made after he left that first morning. "Did you keep that awful looking man last night? I turned him away! You can lose roomers by putting up such people!" Maybe we did lose roomers once or twice. But oh! If only they could have known him, perhaps their illness would have been easier to bear. I know our family always will be grateful to have known him; from him we learned what it was to accept the bad without complaint and the good with gratitude to God. Recently I was visiting a friend who has a greenhouse. As she showed me her flowers, we came to the most beautiful one of all, a golden chrysanthemum, bursting with blooms. But to my great surprise, it was growing in an old dented, rusty bucket. I thought to myself, "If this were my plant, I'd put it in the loveliest container I had!" My friend changed my mind. "I ran short of pots," she explained, "and knowing how beautiful this one would be, I thought it wouldn't mind starting out in this old pail. It's just for a little while, till I can put it out in the garden." She must have wondered why I laughed so delightedly, but I was just imagining just such a scene in heaven. "Here's an especially beautiful one," God might have said when he came to the soul of the sweet old fisherman. "He won't mind starting in this small body." All this happened long ago—and now, in God's garden, how tall this lovely soul must stand.

THE LORD DOES NOT LOOK AT THE THINGS MAN LOOKS AT. MAN LOOKS AT THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART. (1 SAMUEL 16:7b)

Worth the Wait

And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49 (ESV)

What now? Jesus is risen from the grave. Hallelujah! But what comes next? Jesus says wait. Ugh! Do you hate waiting as much as I do?

Jesus was put in a tomb on Friday and his followers had to wait until Sunday to see him risen. They didn't even know what they were waiting for!

Jesus appeared to the disciples, but Thomas wasn't there. When Thomas arrived, they told him they had seen Jesus. Thomas replied, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Thomas had to wait eight days to see Jesus. Eight days! Eight days in which the other ten as well as the women talked about how amazing it was to see Jesus.

Before Jesus ascended, he said, “*And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).* More waiting.

We are a very impatient lot. Waiting has become passé. We have instant rice and instant oatmeal – which still takes five minutes! If five minutes is too long, get the microwave oatmeal!

When the light turns green and the cars don't start moving immediately, the horns start blaring.

We push our carts back and forth along the checkout counters at Wal-mart looking for the shortest line or the line that moves the quickest.

So we hate to wait. We have lost the art of stopping, resting, and waiting. There is a reason God said, “*Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalm 46:10.*

Almost always, a home cooked meal tastes better than a microwave meal. A sit down restaurant serves better food than a

fast food chain drive-thru. The old saying often proves true: Good things come to those who wait. I would add to that: Especially when we wait on God.

God told Moses, “Come up on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you tablets of stone with the commandments on them.”

When David was being assailed by enemies, he wrote, “*I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” Psalm 27:13-14.*

We pray to God and then we must wait. This is perhaps the hardest waiting of all. We wait for deliverance – from financial hardships, from disease, from depression or discouragement, from relationship problems. It is easy to think that God has forgotten when we don't get an answer right away or see immediate results.

We must realize that in our prayers and in our waiting there must be faith. We must trust that God is good and He will do what is best for us even if we can't see it. We need faith to see that God's ways are higher than our ways and we may not understand the answer we wait for.

Paul prayed for his “thorn in the flesh” from Satan to be removed. He waited. Nothing. He prayed three times. Finally, after the third time, God said, “No.”

Even with that answer, Paul saw the value in waiting. He learned patience. He learned to depend on God more fully. God said, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” 2 Corinthians 12:9.*

Paul's response? “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Paul prayed and waited, and when the answer from God was “no” he still praised God because God's wisdom was greater than Paul's request and the power of Christ would be even more evident in his life.

(continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

CARAMEL PUFFCORN

2 bags (8 oz. total) butter flavor
puffcorn
2 sticks butter- do not substitute
1 cup brown sugar
½ c. light corn syrup
1 tsp. baking soda

Melt butter, brown sugar and corn
syrup in saucepan and boil 2
minutes. Add baking soda and stir
until mixed. Put puffcorn in roasting
pan and pour syrup mixture over. Mix
to coat. Bake at 250* for 40 minutes
stirring every 10 minutes. Spread on
wax paper to cool and break apart.

Donetta Farr

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

Pat Petesch still needs prayers
Stan Farr going in for surgery Mar.30th
Don Carder family
Dave Eaton family

**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

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Thank you to all
of you who stayed for the VBS meeting last
week or just told me you could help. We are still
needing some help so if you can help and
couldn't stay for the meeting, please let Donetta
Farr or Carol Welborn know.

FUNERAL DINNERS: We had 2 funeral dinners
less than a week apart and we want to thank all
of our church members who stepped up and
furnished food and also helped out. We couldn't
do it without all of you. The families really
appreciate it.

WEDDING: Cheyenne Huber and Aaron Cook
are getting married here at the church on April
12th at 6:00 PM with a reception following. The
church is invited. They are asking if you would
like to give them a gift they would like a gift card
to Lowes so they can buy a dishwasher. The
invitation is on the board in the foyer. Please
RSVP Cheyenne-785-409-0066 or Aaron-785-
817-6229.

Serving in APRIL

Congregational Prayer:

Stan Farr

Scripture Readers:

3-Nancy Gatzemeyer- John 21:15-19

10-Helen Grove- Mark 13:32-37

17-Rhonda Mitchell- Jonah 1:1-7

24-Carol Welborn- Jonah 2:7-10

Nursery:

3-Debbie Gerstner

10-Laura Reich/Jackson

17- Sarah Hollis/Libby

24-Joan Phillips/Caitlyn

Greeters/Ushers:

3-K&N Gatzemeyer

10-Grove

17-Mitchell

24-Welborn

Lord's Supper Preparation:

3-K&N Gatzemeyer

10-Grove

17-Mitchell

24-Welborn

Communion Table:

3-Stan, Jay

Wayne Arnold, Curt Gatzemeyer

10- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Brian Barrett

17- Stan, Jay

David Grove, Matt Branam

24- Jay, Stan

Clint Thomas, Wayne Arnold

Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Feb. 28-\$

Mar. 6-\$2455.00

Mar. 13-\$2299.00

Mar. 20-\$1301.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: There will be men's breakfast on April 9th. David Grove will be cooking.

CAMP WORK DAY: There will be a work day at Mission Lake Christian Camp on April 23rd. Anyone who can go help please do so. This is a very important part of our childrens lives so please help get the camp ready for them.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Betty Smith

6 Joan Phillips

7 Andrew Turner

9 KatyRae Branam

10 Jordan Welborn

11 Debbie Gerstner

Jody (Turner) Munson

Janet Kirk

20 Tom Harris

22 Erin Thomas

Tyler Dedeke

Gary Meyer

26 Brenda Billings

29 Stan Farr

2016		April			2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2:00 PM Service at Midland			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders			8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Cheyenne Huber & Aaron Cook wedding and reception following at 6:00 PM		6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study			
5:00 PM Youth Group						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders			Work day at Mission Lake Camp
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:00 PM Youth Group			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study			

Valley Falls
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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

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Thomas waited eight days, but when he finally saw Jesus, he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!”

The apostles waited and on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit moved through them like a wildfire and they turned the known world upside down for the cause of Christ.

I don’t know what each person is struggling with. I don’t know the cry of your heart. I do know this, we need to trust God, pray and wait.

Then believe this promise: When you wait on God, it is always worth it!

Mike

(All scripture selections are from the ESV.)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION LAKE CAMP NEWS

Here are some important dates for Mission Lake Camp and Valley Falls Christian Church.

Camp Work Day: April 23rd

Church Registration Day: May 8th

Registration Earlybird Deadline: May 13th

Spit and Polish Day: June 4th

Mowing Dates: Dates that our church is responsible for mowing at the camp.

June 11th

Kitchen Help Dates: Dates that we send help to assist the cook in serving lunch and preparing supper.

June 16th, and July 10th

Camp Dates:

June 5-10: Sr. High Camp- grades 9-12

June 12-17: Jr. High Camp-grades 6-8

June 18: Day Camp- grades 1-2

June 19-23: Junior Camp- grades 3-5

July 10-15: Deeper Life Camp- grades 7-12