

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

May 2016



June 6-10  
7-9 pm

4 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

They won't want to miss a minute at  
**OCEAN COMMOTION**

We are going to learn all about how Noah stood for God during the time of the Great Flood as they enjoy songs, crafts, games, goodies, and dramas. We will learn lots of bible verses and lots about several featured creatures! Oh my! Just think about all of the ocean creatures. And there will be contests and contests and lots of drama!

Plan to come! We need YOU!

Vacation Bible School meeting, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> right after church

Decorating for VBS week will be Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00

Can always use more help, so please let Carol or Donetta know if you can help.

## A Tale of Two Pastors

Pastor Jordan Brown is the pastor of the LGBTQ affirming Church of the Open Doors in Austin, Texas. He ordered a cake from Austin based Whole Foods Market with the message "Love Wins" in order to convey that love wins no matter what your sexual orientation is.

Pastor Brown claimed that a Whole Foods employee added a gay slur to the end of the message and is now suing the grocery chain.

But wait! It appears that Whole Foods is fighting back. Whole Foods claim that their employees did NOT alter the cake. In fact, the bakery employee is part of the LGBTQ community. They claim that Pastor Brown is perpetrating a hoax and changed the message on the cake himself and are countersuing.

Why would Brown make up this story? Perhaps since the media in today's culture is so eager to bend over backwards for anything that affirms the gay lifestyle, he thought this would be an easy case to win in the court of public opinion and Whole Foods would be willing to pay a lot of money just to make it go away. Perhaps he was looking for celebrity status for himself or his church.

Meanwhile, a Georgia bi-vocational pastor, Dr. Eric Walsh, has been fired from his secular job because of his sermons. Dr. Walsh worked for the Georgia Department of Public Health and is a Seventh Day Adventist lay minister. Dr. Walsh is represented by First Liberty in his lawsuit against the state of Georgia. They contend that the Georgia Department of Public Health assigned workers to investigate sermons Dr. Walsh delivered on health, marriage, sexuality, world religions, science and creationism.

I share this because this is a microcosm of what is going on in our culture today. This is the world we send our graduates into. A world in which people allegedly create a fake discrimination in order to gain...sympathy? Followers? To promote an agenda? 15 minutes of fame?

A world in which our government can take something said from a church pulpit and use it against a public sector employee. A world in which college students are apparently so distraught over another's free speech that they need a safe space where the only things that can be said are things they agree with. A world in which a 4 year old child is asked to choose their gender and pre-teen children are given hormone treatments to correspond to the gender they want to be. A world in which bakers, florists,

resort owners, etc. are not allowed to do business in keeping with their deeply held religious beliefs if it offends a small minority of the population. A world in which...need I go on?

The pressure upon the 18 and 19 year old young men and women to throw away their faith based values is tremendous. Parents, the pressure begins in elementary school. It is in the media your children consume. It comes from their friends. It is buried in the curriculum in most schools.

By the time our students enter college, many will be forced to receive training classes in diversity, tolerance and acceptance. Many other universities are considering such classes. They will teach incoming students about acceptance of everything except a worldview based on the God's word.

I am not confident that this trend will reverse itself. In fact, there are some scriptures that speak directly to the direction our culture is heading.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV)** ...in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared...

**2 Timothy 3:1-7 (ESV)** ...in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

What can we do? It goes without saying that we must watch and pray. Pray for revival in this land. Pray for a return to biblical values. Watch what your children are consuming on TV, the internet, in school and from friends.

But also remember, God did not promise Christians a friendly, easy culture in which to live. In fact, history tells us that it is usually the opposite. The first 200 years of faith friendly life in America are not the norm throughout time. It has been a blessing that God could easily remove as the nation gets farther and farther from Him.

*(Continued on back page)*

## RECIPE SWAP

### Bubble Ring

1 pkg. Rhodes frozen dough rolls

1 lg pkg. butterscotch pudding, the cooked kind

½ c. brown sugar

½ c. butter

Place roll dough in a well greased bundt pan. Spoon pudding mix over rolls. Melt butter and brown sugar and drizzle over rolls. Let rise overnight or for 8 hours. Bake at 350\* for 30 minutes.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the men going to the Kiamichi Clinic down in Oklahoma.

Pray for all of our graduates

Pray for all of those affected by the earthquakes.

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Nic Byrd, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Huertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill, Jason Cherry, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam

**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

### 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.

### 2016 summer schedule

Grades 9-12 (Sr High), June 5-10

Grades 6-8 (Jr High), June 12-17

Grades 1-2 (Day Camp), June 18

Grades 3-5 (Junior Camp), June 19-23

Grades 7-12 (Deeper Life), July 10-15

Camper fees for each camp are on the web site. [www.missionlakecc.com](http://www.missionlakecc.com)

**CAMP PREREGISTRATION:** If you want to preregister for camp and save money, the date to do that is May 8th. The church will pay half of the fee. Forms are in the foyer.

**MOWING AT CAMP:** It will be our turn to mow at camp on June 11th.

**COOKING AT CAMP:** It will be our turn to help cook and take desserts on June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **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
- 19 Glee Hosler
- 21 Dennis & Jo Tichenor (1988)
- 22 Myles Reich  
Aaron Cook
- 23 Eliza Branam
- 24 Gary Smith
- 27 Wayne & Christy Arnold (1978)
- 28 Malia Boyce  
(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in MAY

### Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

### Scripture Readers:

1- Farr-Jonah 3:1-6  
8-Carolyn Starkey-Genesis 2:18-24  
15-Shelley Gatzemeyer-Jonah 4:1-4  
22-Barrett- 1 Tim. 1:1-11  
29- Arnold- 1 Tim. 1:12-20

### Nursery:

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

### Greeters/Ushers:

1-Farr  
8- Starkey  
15-Durand  
22-Barrett  
29-Arnold

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

1- Farr  
8- Starkey  
15- Durand  
22- Barrett  
29- Arnold

### Communion Table:

1-Stan, Jay  
**Wayne Arnold**, Matt Branam  
8- Jay, Stan  
**Clint Thomas**, Curt Gatzemeyer  
15- Stan, Jay  
**Ray Mitchell**, Brian Barrett  
22- Jay, Stan  
**David Grove**, Clint Thomas  
29- Stan, Jay  
**Wayne Arnold**, Matt Branam

### Musicians

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

## Church Offerings

March 27-\$1481.00

April 3-\$1508.00

April 10-\$2486.00

April 17-\$1393.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The Men's Breakfast will be on May 14th. Kevin Gatzemeyer will be cooking.

### 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).

**NURSERY NEWS:** We have a full nursery during church- and what a blessing it is! Parents, it is only for preschool and younger. Volunteers, many Sundays we are needing 2 adults again. If you would take turns checking to make sure there are 2 adults back there it would be much appreciated. When I get the new schedule out next time, I will put 2 volunteers each week. Helper children need to be 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older and will be on the serving list, or asked to help that day. Thank you parents and nursery volunteers for your participation and your patience. We just want the best for the children. If you could help serve in the nursery, let Donetta know. Thank you.



2016		May					2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		
Kiamichi Clinic			6:15 pm Worship Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:00 pm Elders					
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>		
Happy Mother's Day Midland Service			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 pm Board Meeting			8:00 am Men's Breakfast		
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		
			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 pm Elders					
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		
10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress VBS meeting after church			6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study					
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	A MOTHER'S DAY					
	Memorial Day							



Phone: 785-945-6757  
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org  
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org  
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

***You are welcome to join us!***

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**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

*(cont. from pg 2)*

So in this culture, we must prepare our children to stay strong and swim against the cultural tide of sin so they don't waver and doubt and end up just going with the flow.

1. Begin now. Even if your child is a senior in high school and you think they already have their mind made up to accept everything the culture throws at them, you have to talk to them from the truth of the Bible.

2. Begin early. If you think it is too early to begin talking about these things, it probably isn't. They are already getting anti-biblical information that shapes their thinking. When anything comes up (from school, a TV show they are watching, something a friend said, etc.) that goes against God's word, use that as a teaching time to talk about what God's word says.

3. Truth cannot be divorced from love. We must love the people we disagree with, even if they consider us their enemies for not following the culture.

We have to be ready to do what Paul told Timothy – with our children and grandchildren as the audience. **2 Timothy 4:2-5 (ESV)** *Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

One pastor is riding the cultural wave – perhaps even trying to cash in on it. He's just going with whatever makes him feel affirmed. The other pastor has looked at what God's word says about our worldview and is willing to stand upon that truth, even if it ultimately costs him his job. Which pastor will you be to your family?

*Mike*