

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

October 2016

When Jesus took His disciples up the mountain and gathered them around Him, He began to teach them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Then Simon Peter said, "Do we have to write this down?"

Andrew said, "Are we supposed to know this?"

James said, "What if we don't know it?"

Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"

John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this!"

Matthew said, "When do we get out of here?"

Judas said, "What does this have to do with real life?"

Then one of the Pharisees present asked to see Jesus' lesson plans and inquired of Jesus his terminal objectives in the cognitive domain...

And Jesus Wept.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

There is some interest in having another Financial Peace class probably beginning the first of the year. This is a Dave Ramsey class, held over several weeks with videos and a discussion time monitored by a member of the church. People that have taken the class before rave on the knowledge and the help with finances you are taught. See Stan Farr or Clinton Thomas if you are interested.

## What's the Point?

As I write this, I have just mowed my yard for the umpteenth time this summer. I ran over mole runs. Choked the mower on crabgrass. Covered my legs with grass clippings from weed eating.

I did the same thing about 5 days ago. And seven days before that. And probably 6 days prior to that. If it doesn't rain and stays cool, I might be able to go 7 or 8 days before the next mowing.

As I mow, I think, "Wow, pretty soon, I won't have to mow anymore." Yes! Except I will have a yard full of leaves. Leaves from my trees. Leaves from the neighbors trees. If the wind is favorable, some of my leaves will go into the neighbor's yard. If the wind shifts, I will get their leaves.

As soon as I get all the leaves picked up, we'll probably see the first snow. Then...shoveling, shoveling, and more shoveling.

Spring thaw, and the grass grows and I get to get the mower out, tune it up and sharpen the blades. So I can mow all summer long.

If it isn't the yard, it's the house. Or vehicles. Or bills. Or the job. Or the whatever it is that is just so tedious and repetitive.

Monotonous. Depressing? Do you ever wonder, "What's the point?"

That is question Solomon was trying to answer in one of the strangest books of the Bible.

*What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9*

*I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:14 (NIV)*

Have you ever tried to catch the wind? Can you put it in a box or hold it in your hand? Solomon is telling us that life is just as meaningless and fruitless as trying to chase wind. Does that sound like something God would encourage us with?

Of course not. But it does sound like feelings that each and every human being experiences at some point in their life. This book is so real that it hurts. It rips off the facade that so many people pull over themselves and shows us that at times we are all desperate, depressed, lost, lonely and

searching for something to bring meaning to this mundane existence.

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. When he was young, God gave him the opportunity to ask for anything. He didn't ask for power or riches. He asked for wisdom to rule God's people well. God gave him that wisdom.

As Solomon aged, he married women who worshiped false gods and drew him away from God. The farther Solomon was from God, the more meaningless life seemed. So without God, even the wisest man was compelled to write, *I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 2:17 (NIV)*

How sad when the people made for God's fellowship and glory are so far away from Him that they become disheartened and either don't believe in or don't acknowledge their Creator.

What's the point? Without God, there is no point. Without God, people think they are merely an accident of billions of years and biology. Nothing more than chemical reactions going on in our bodies. Without God, morality becomes what we make it to be. Without God, our purpose becomes centered on self – and yet deep down the cry is still, "Meaningless. A chasing after the wind."

If there is no God, there is no point. It is all fate, or accidents, or the survival of the fittest.

But God is real. He loves us and wants to be close to us. He made us with purpose and ministers to us with loving kindness. He wants every one of us to know him in a personal way through faith in His one and only Son Jesus Christ.

In the end, Solomon determined that life without God is meaningless, so to bring meaning to life, we must pursue God even as He is pursuing us. So Solomon made a couple of conclusions to help us through the monotony of a Godless life.

*Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2*

*(continued on the back page)*

## Recipe Swap

### UNFRIED CHICKEN

- 2 c. buttermilk
- 1 T. hot pepper sauce
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves, cut into bite sized pieces
- 2 ½ c. panko bread crumbs
- 6 T. parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 T. onion powder
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 tsp. paprika

Mix the buttermilk and the hot pepper sauce together, put the chicken pieces into it and refrigerate for 1 hour. Meanwhile mix the rest of the ingredients together. Remove chicken from the refrigerator and shake off the excess then dip it into the crumb mixture. Lay it on a greased baking sheet and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Preheat your oven to 400\*. Remove chicken from refrigerator and spray it with cooking spray. Bake for 15-20 minutes then flip the chicken over and bake for 15-20 more minutes until done and crispy.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**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

Donetta Farr is doing better but still needs prayers.

Rhonda Mitchell is home but still needs prayers.

Lee Herring passed away.

Norma Bryant passed away.

Chad and Tiffany Spencer- miscarriage

Arlene Gier

Katie Blanchard and family- burns

**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](http://www.valleyfallsc.org).

**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

**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



- 1 Ben Trotter
- 3 Marge Prebble  
Kaylee House  
Kevin & Nancy Gatzemeyer (1970)
- 12 Gary & Peggy Meyer
- 13 Kyle & Laura Reich (2001)
- 15 Helen Grove
- 16 Emma Branam
- 19 Karie Turner  
Randee Jo Gatzemeyer
- 20 Jay Welborn  
Marvin & Marge Prebble (1979)
- 21 Lori Barrett
- 22 Jessica (Farr) Mitchell  
Jason Sears
- 30 Lynzie Haybarker

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in OCTOBER

### Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

### Scripture Readers:

2- Nancy Gatzemeyer- 2 Tim. 4:1-8  
9- Helen Grove- 2 Tim. 4:9-22  
16- Shelly Gatzemeyer- Titus 2:11-15  
23- Rhonda Mitchell- Titus 3:1-11  
30- Kari Turner- Rev. 12:7-9

### Nursery:

2-Debbie Gerstner/Aleyna  
9- Nancy Gatzemeyer  
16- Brittany Boyce/Jackson  
23-Cheyenne Cook/Caitlyn  
30- Glee Hosler/Libby

### Greeters/Ushers:

2- K & N Gatzemeyer  
9- Grove  
16- C & S Gatzemeyer  
23- Mitchell  
30- Turner

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

2- K & N Gatzemeyer  
9- Grove  
16- C & S Gatzemeyer  
23- Mitchell  
30- Turner

### Communion Table:

2-Stan, Jay

**Clint Thomas**, Brian Barrett

9- Jay, Stan

**David Grove**, Aaron Cook

16- Stan, Jay

**Wayne Arnold**, Chad Spencer

23- Jay, Stan

**Ray Mitchell**, Jake Mitchell

30- Stan, Jay

**Clint Thomas**, Curt Gatzemeyer

### Musicians

Worship Team: Mike Kirby

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

## Church Offerings

Aug. 28-\$1187.00

Sept. 4-\$1551.00

Sept. 11-\$1941.00

Sept. 18-\$1393.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

### Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

[www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org)







**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The next men's breakfast will be on Oct. 8 at 8:00 AM. Kevin Gatzemeyer will be cooking.

**EYEGASSES:** We now 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.

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP:** We will be having a fall hayride and weiner roast at the Reich's on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4:00 pm. Hotdogs and fixings and chili along with paper products will be furnished. Please bring a side dish, lawn chairs and fishing poles.



**THANK YOU:** The church received a thank you note from Donetta Farr. Dear church family, A huge thank you to everyone of you!! Your cards, the food, phone calls and mostly prayers were much appreciated. I thank those of you who took care of some of my responsibilities and Stan's too while we were gone. It's so good to be back! Love Donetta

2016		OCTOBER				2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>Fall is Here</b> 						<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> 2:00 PM Service at Midland 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	
<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  4:00 PM Family Fellowship Hayride and weiner roast	
<b>16</b>  10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b> 5:00 PM Youth Group 30	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	

*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

*(What's the Point - continued)*

*The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***

The next time I get the mower out, I will thank God for His creation. I will thank Him that I have a home and a wife and children and a yard to mow. I will thank Him for the many blessings in my life and I will ask to know Him more and serve Him better. No, life in Christ is not pointless; it is beautiful.

*Mike*

*(All scriptures are from the ESV Bible unless otherwise marked..)*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SEARCHING FOR M & M'S**

Here is something to pray about... M & M's! Not the candies, but rather moms and mentors. Are there any moms in the church who would like to seek a deeper relationship and counsel of another more experienced Christian woman? Are there any more experienced women willing to serve as a mentor? Titus 2:3-5 calls the older women of the church to teach the younger women. Our M & M's could all occasionally meet together, separately in pairs, or just be available to each other for questions and counsel... whatever need suits the pair/group! Pray about this and let Erin Thomas know if you are interested by the end of September so we can start matching up our moms and mentors!