

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

August 2017

JAMs

School will be starting soon, which means its time for JAMs to gear up too! Jesus and Me, or JAMs for short, is our after school children's ministry program. It's open to kids in Kindergarten – 6th grade, and is held every Wednesday. Last year was the first year of JAMs after several years without an after school program. After feeling the need through the Holy Spirit to start this ministry back up, and a great deal of prayer, JAMs came to life in an amazing way! Our first session started with over 30 kids, and quickly showed us that this ministry truly was needed, that we shouldn't have doubted that God would bring lots of kids (we thought we would have maybe 12-15 at most), and that we needed more volunteers to help! We ended up with a total of 47 children enrolled, and had an amazing weekly staff of 6 adults and 4 youth group helpers. Each session is similar to VBS with prayer, songs, snack, games/crafts, and a lesson.

Why is children's ministry such a big deal? An estimated 50% of Christians decided to follow Christ before they were 12 years old...that's our K-6th graders!

In Mark 10:14, Jesus says "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Children are precious to Jesus, and our JAMs kids are at a prime age to learn that they are loved, that they need a Savior, and to trust in Him for the rest of their lives!

We are very excited to kick off JAMs this year, starting September 6, from 3:30-5:00 PM. We need helpers! Areas you can serve in are picking up/walking with the kids from school, walking leaders (we need 2), snack servers, music, or games/crafts. Be prayerful, and if you would like to help out, let Erin Thomas or Tiffany Spencer know!



(from the final JAMs session of 2016-17 school year)

Community

I was struck by a recent devotion from Our Daily Bread. Hopefully, many of you have already read it, but I believe it warrants another look. It simply speaks of the need we have to be in a Christ-centered community that we call the church. Here is the devotion, reprinted with permission, in its entirety.

Mike

Building Community By: Philip Yancey

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. [Ephesians 3:6](#)

"Community" is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives, says Henri Nouwen.

Often we surround ourselves with the people we most want to live with, which forms a club or a clique, not a community. Anyone can form a club; it takes grace, shared vision, and hard work to form a community.

The Christian church was the first institution in history to bring together on equal footing Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and free. The apostle Paul waxed eloquent on this "mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God." By forming a community out of diverse members, Paul said, we have the opportunity to capture the attention of the world and even the supernatural world beyond (Eph. 3:9–10).

In some ways the church has sadly failed in this assignment. Still, church is the one place I visit that brings together generations: infants still held in their mothers' arms, children who squirm and giggle at all the wrong times, responsible adults who know how to act appropriately at all times,

and those who may drift asleep if the preacher drones on too long.

If we want the community experience God is offering to us, we have reason to seek a congregation of people "not like us."

Lord, remind us that the church is Your work, and You have brought us together for Your good purposes. Help us extend grace to others.

The man who lives in a small community lives in a much larger world. G. K. Chesterton

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The devotion included this scripture passage to read:

Ephesians 2:19 – 3:11 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(continued on page4)

Recipe Swap

Cheese Ball Dip

1 Package real bacon pieces
4 cups grated cheese
1 cup mayo
Pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients. Add more cheese and mayo until you reach desired texture.

Buffalo Chicken Dip

2 cups shredded cheddar
2 cups ranch or blue cheese dressing
2 cups cooked, shredded chicken or 2 lg. cans of chicken
1-1 ½ cups hot wing sauce
2 packages cream cheese

Blend until smooth. Bake until melted together on 350 degrees or put everything in a crock pot until warm.

Community Christian Council

The church needs someone to sit on the Community Christian Council (CCC). If you are interested in representing VFCC on the Community Christian Council, please see Mike and he can tell you what is involved.

Ice Cream Social

You are encouraged to attend the annual Ice Cream Social to welcome teachers back for the new school year. It is August 20th, at 6 p.m. at the Delaware Township Hall and sponsored by the CCC. VFCC is asked to provide:

2 freezers of homemade ice cream
2 dozen cookies or brownies
2 homemade pies

If you can provide any of these, please tell Mike ASAP.

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.valleyfallscc.org.

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 Landon Mitchell
4 JENNA WATKINS
6 Becky Arnold
10 Brian Barrett
12 Clinton & Erin Thomas (2000)
14 Sarah & Chuck Toy (1971)
15 CYNTHIA MCAFEE
17 RALPH & CINDY SHEAD (1974)
Kenzli Turner
18 Rhonda Mitchell
20 Melody Hosler
21 Carolyn Starkey
22 Caleb Gatzemeyer
24 Trichia Gatzemeyer
25 Hunter Dean McGuire
26 SARAH SHEAD
28 PHIL MCAFEE
30 Cooper Taliaferro

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Noe Garza, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam

Becky Arnold, Grace Arnold, Chuck Toy, Kyler Petesch, Angelica Huber, Sandy Williams, George Highfill

Serving in August

Congregational Prayer:

Jay Welborn

Scripture Readers:

6- Brian Barrett

13-Nancy Gatzemeyer - Rom 8:12-17

20- Helen Grove – Rom 8:18-25

27- Shelley Gatzemeyer – Rom 8:26-30

Nursery:

6-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn

13-Glee Hosler/Jackson

20-Brittany Boyce/Aleyna

27- Laura Reich/Caitlyn

Greeters/Ushers:

6- Barretts

13-K&N Gatzemeyer

20-Groves

27-C&S Gatzemeyer

Lord's Supper Preparation:

6 – Barretts

13-K&N Gatzemeyer

20-Groves

27-C&S Gatzemeyer

Communion Table:

6-Stan, Jay

Ray Mitchell, Curt Gatzemeyer

13- Jay, Stan

Wayne Arnold, Kyle Reich

20- Stan, Jay

David Grove, Jackson Reich

27- Jay, Stan

Clinton Thomas, Chad Spencer

Church Offerings

June 18 - \$2753

June 25 - \$1673

July 2 - \$1453

July 9 - \$1089

July 16 - \$2240

July 23 - \$2471

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Men's breakfasts will resume in September after having a summer break.

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 near the copier in the office.

VBS: What a blessing to see over 80 different children during our week of VBS. It was also encouraging to see all the teen help. Thanks to Alison for directing and everyone who participated in any way. This was a great picture of the body of Christ working together for the good of our community.





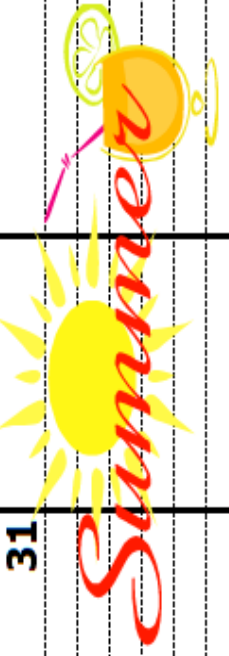
OUTREACH: Thank you everyone that helped make the school supply giveaway a success. Thanks to Chad and Tiffany for taking on this ministry. Thanks to everyone who donated, helped with a fundraiser, and helped with the actual event. This is truly a group effort and a way to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

MISSIONS: Bart Hinz will be sharing Sunday, Aug. 6th, during Sunday School about his mission, Show-Me Christian Youth Home and will be preaching during church. Show-Me was the mission during VBS. Many people from church do service work at Show-Me and the church donates monthly to Leadership U, which is part of the Show-Me family.

CARRY IN DINNER: We will be having our quarterly carry in dinner on Aug. 6. This will give people more time to visit with Bart and his family! Please plan on participating and supporting this mission.

(Community continued)

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2017		AUGUST					2017	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
5 			1 6:15 PM Worship Practice	2	3	4	5	
6 Bart Hinz preaching Quarterly Carry in Dinner 	7 Sunflower crafters 6-8 PM	8	9 6:15 PM Worship Practice	10	11	12		
13 Midland - 2 PM 5:00 PM Youth Group	14 Sunflower crafters 6-8 PM (also on the 21st)	15	16 6:15 PM Worship Practice	17	18 First day of school for Valley Falls 	19		
20 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 4-5:30 Youth Group 6 PM Ice cream social at Township Hall	21 	22	23 6:15 PM Worship Practice	24	25	26		
27 5:00 PM Youth Group	28 Sunflower crafters 6-8 PM	29	30 6:15 PM Worship Practice	31				

Valley Falls
Christian Church
511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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!

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

America's Christian Heritage:

I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that **God** governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall be become a reproach and a by word down to future age. And what is

worse, mankind may hereafter this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move -- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service.

~ Benjamin Franklin (Part of his speech to the constitutional convention, delivered Thursday, June 28, 1787, Philadelphia, PA)