

The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

February 2017

CHURCH ACTIVITY FOLDERS

These folders each contain information on the particular activity that the church participates in each year. They can be added to or subtracted from as far as what activities we do. Some we've done in the past include live nativity, float in 4 H parade, coat and hat drive, etc. Some of these could be done again if someone would like to be in charge. Sometimes our goals change and we find certain activities are not necessary.

The folders are in the foyer on the table. We need someone to chair each activity but then we also need several people available to help. Please take a look at them and see if there is a perfect activity for you to either chair or at least help with. See a board member for any questions you may have. Activities include: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduate Banquet, Thanksgiving Dinner (taken), Christmas Church Celebration, Vacation Bible School, Food Boxes (taken), and a few others. Please be in prayer for God's direction for you. We need someone who is really interested in being active in the activity they choose. Folders that don't get picked up, may get put away with the others mentioned above. If you think the activity is a good outreach for our church, please consider leading it. Some activity folders, like VBS or the Christmas Program, will require more time than others and now is the time to get going on both of these. Please help. These activities can not be accomplished without you.

FUNDRAISING FOR ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

From Feb. 1st to March 18, 2016 several churches across Jefferson County will collect canned goods for Alpha Christian Children's Home in Perry, KS. It was established in 1972 to care for children in need and to teach them the love of Christ. For more information about the Home you can read the paper on the board. UPC labels from Campbells, General Mills, and Best Choice can be used as well. Here's more of a list of wants:

Canned vegetables, canned fruits, Campbell soups, Velveeta, breakfast cereals, easy mac packs, ramen noodles, snack crackers, pudding cups, fruit juices, pancake mix, stuffing mix, canned chicken gravy, nacho cheese dip, cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, salsa, taco kits, spaghetti sauce, salt and pepper, onion powder, parmesan cheese, Splenda, coffee, disposable cups and plates, HE free and clear laundry detergent (no Tide due to allergy to it) HE Gain laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Clorox wipes, water softener salt, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels.



Where Do We Get Our Theology?

Over 20 years ago, the first Left Behind novel by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins came out. They were fast moving and exciting to read which made them extremely popular, especially for Christian fiction. There were 16 books in the series, plus CDs, graphic novels, a series for kids, movies and video games.

The series was a fictional account of how the return of Christ would be like from a pre-millennial rapture point of view. Though it was fiction, it was based on Tim LaHaye's interpretation of biblical end times. Since this series sold over 65 million copies, a lot of people were exposed to his theological beliefs.

While it may have been an exciting read, the problem came when people began to believe what he wrote about the end times just because they read his books, as opposed to The Book! Tim LaHaye's interpretation of end times is fairly mainstream among evangelicals, so it is not bad that people were exposed to his view, but it is not the only one. Good people, good Bible believing scholars disagree on end times, so it is best for us to go to the Bible itself.

When we need to understand doctrine, theology, and God, we need to go to God's word. Without putting IN our preconceived notions, we should take OUT what God has put there for us. Now we will often use pastors, Bible scholars, commentaries, study notes and many other resources to help us understand what the Bible says, but we must always check their words with the Bible itself. The Bible is the final authority.

Ten years ago, The Shack was published and quickly became a best seller. It, too, is a work of fiction. It, too, gives the author's theological perspective. Thousands of Christians raved about the book, but should they have?

Full disclosure - I have not read the book, but I have read reviews by Christian scholars I trust. I feel a need to comment on this for two reasons. One, the immense popularity it has among Christians, and

two, next month, the movie The Shack based on the book will be released in theaters in the United States.

I want to point out just a few of the troubling aspects of The Shack to support my recommendation to avoid the movie. I also simply want to give this warning: If you go see it, please, please, please don't get your theology about God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation or any other doctrine from this movie (or the book)!!!

From a review by Albert Mohler: *"Papa" [represents God the Father- portrayed as an African-American woman] tells Mack of the time when the three persons of the Trinity "spoke ourself into human existence as the Son of God." Nowhere in the Bible is the Father or the Spirit described as taking on human existence. The Christology of the book is likewise confused. "Papa" tells Mack that, though Jesus is fully God, "he has never drawn upon his nature as God to do anything... Jesus, as a human being, had no power within himself to heal anyone."*

Jesus specifically felt power leave himself when a woman touched his garment and was healed (Mark 5:30).

Jesus tells Mack that he is "the best way any human can relate to Papa or Sarayu [represents the Holy Spirit- depicted as Asian woman]." Not the only way, but merely the best way.

John 14:6 clearly states, "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

The shack gives a feeling of universalism [everyone is saved] and karma which are not biblical.

Tim Challies has a very in depth (and long) review as well. He concluded this: *Focusing on just three of the subjects William Young discusses in The Shack, we've seen that errors abound. He presents a false view of God and one that may well be described as heretical. He downplays the importance and uniqueness of the Bible, subjugating it* (continued on back page)

RECIPE SWAP

HOT PIZZA DIP

1-1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 c. mozzarella cheese, divided
1/2 c. fresh parmesan cheese, grated and divided
1/2 bell pepper, diced
1/2 onion, diced
1-2 cloves garlic, minced
1 T. coconut oil
Pizza sauce
4 oz. pepperoni, diced

Combine Italian seasoning and cream cheese and spread in the bottom of a microwave safe serving dish. Top with 1/2 c. mozzarella cheese and 1/4 c. parmesan cheese.

In sauce pan, cook bell pepper and onion in coconut oil until tender. Spread this mixture over the cheese.

Top with pizza sauce, then remaining mozzarella. Add diced pepperoni and finish with remaining parmesan cheese. Microwave at 70% power for 5-7 minutes or until bubbly.

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

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 JODI WATKINS
Stephanie Byrd
7 Natalie Barrett
8 Aisha (Dively) Mitchell
12 Jay & Carol Welborn (1965)
Cheyenne Cook
13 David Grove
14 Charlie Brown
15 Kari (Haybarker) Mitchell
Clinton Thomas
20 Nancy Gatzemeyer
22 Dakota Boyce
26 Evie Gatzemeyer

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

as I have
loved you,
LOVE one
another
John 13:34

Serving in FEBRUARY

Congregational Prayer:

Stan Farr

Scripture Readers:

5- Mitchell- John 16:12-15

12-Kari Turner- Acts 8: 14-23

19- Cheyenne Cook-John 3:1-8

26- Carol Welborn-1 Cor. 12:4-11

Nursery:

5-Debbie Gerstner/Caitlyn

12-Laura Reich/Jackson

19-Nancy Gatzemeyer/Libby

26-Cheyenne Cook/Aleyna

Greeters/Ushers:

5-Mitchell

12-Turner

19-Cook

26-Welborn

Lord's Supper Preparation:

5-Mitchell

12-Turner

19-Cook

26-Welborn

Communion Table:

5-Stan, Jay

Wayne Arnold, Jake Mitchell

12- Jay, Stan

David Grove, Lance Turner

19- Stan, Jay

Clint Thomas, Kyle Reich

28- Jay, Stan

Ray Mitchell, Andy Arnold

Musicians

Worship Leader: Erin Thomas

Organ: Leah Brown

Piano: Donetta Farr

Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas

Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

Dec. 25-\$924.00

Jan. 1-\$992.42

Jan. 8-\$1633.00

Jan. 15- No Church- ice storm

Jan. 22-\$4069.50

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Feb. 11th at 8:00 AM. Jay Welborn is cooking.

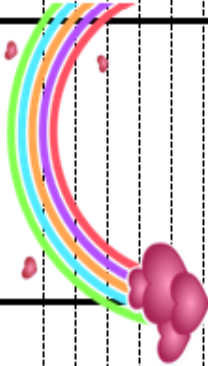


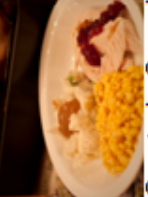

QUARTERLY CARRY IN DINNER: We will be having our quarterly church carry in dinner on Sunday Feb. 26th. Bring a dish or two and enjoy the fellowship.

BIG FOOTBALL BASH: On Sunday Feb. 5th there will be a get together at Welborn's to watch a certain big game. We're not supposed to name it because they have a patent so I've been told. Anyway the party starts at 4:00. Bring a snack and a game if you don't want to watch the game. The whole church is invited.

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.

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

JAMS- We now have a Wednesday afternoon after school youth group. It's for children Kindergarten through sixth grade from 3:30 to 5:30. Erin Thomas and Tiffany Spencer are the leaders. If you would like to volunteer please see them. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you would like to help furnish snacks.

2017		FEBRUARY				2017	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1 3:30 PM JAMS 6:15 Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	2	3	4	
5  2:00 PM Service at Midland Big Game Party at Welborns 4:00 PM	6	7	8 3:30 PM JAMS 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	9	10	11 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	
12 5:00 PM Youth Group	13	14 	15 3:30 PM JAMS 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	16	17	18	
19 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 5:00 PM Youth Group	20	21	22 3:30 PM JAMS 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	23	24	25	
26  Quarterly Carry In Dinner 5:00 PM Youth Group	27	28					

Valley Falls
Christian Church
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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

JAMS- Wednesday 3:30 PM

Midweek Bible Study:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

*(Doctrine - continued from page 2)
or making it equal to other forms of subjective
revelation. He misrepresents redemption and
salvation, opening the door to the possibility of
salvation outside of the completed work of
Jesus Christ on the cross. We are left with an
unbiblical understanding of the persons and
nature of God and of His work in this world.
But this is not all. The discerning reader will
note as well that the author muddies the
concepts of forgiveness and free will. He
introduces teaching that is entirely foreign to
the Bible, often stating with certainty what is
merely speculative. He oversteps the bounds
of Scripture while downplaying the Bible's
importance. He relies too little on Scripture
and too much on his own theological
imaginings.*

People get their theology from a lot of different places. Google, friends, TBN, music, culture - and works of fiction. Christians are called to be discerning and wise.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

God has given us tremendous imaginations, and story telling is an amazing gift from God. We must be able to sift the fiction from the truth, and hold up all sources to the one source that is truth, God's holy word. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Mike

The review excerpts were taken from the following two websites:

<http://www.albertmohler.com/2010/01/27/the-shack-the-missing-art-of-evangelical-discernment/>

<http://www.boundless.org/faith/2008/the-shack-a-review>