

# The Vine

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

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

January 2017

## **BITS & PIECES**

Whatever your cross, whatever your pain  
There will always be sunshine, after the rain.

Perhaps you may stumble...perhaps even  
fall, but God's always there to help you  
through it all.

The brightest future will always be based on  
a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life  
until you let go of your past failures and  
heartaches.

May you have enough happiness to make  
you sweet, enough trials to make you  
strong, enough sorrow to keep you human  
and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily  
have the best of everything; they just make  
the most of everything that comes along  
their way.

You must be the change you wish to see in  
the world.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your  
room here on earth.

Do not always try to fix and advise. Just be  
present and listen.

The purpose of life is to discover your gift.  
The meaning of life is giving your gift away.

You can't help someone get up a hill without  
getting closer to the top yourself.

If you don't like the way you're feeling,  
change the way you're thinking.

May you never forget what is worth  
remembering or remember what is best  
forgotten.

The quickest way to end an argument is to  
say, I'm sorry you feel that way. You may be  
right.

When I stand before God at the end of my  
life, I would hope that I would not have a  
single bit of talent left but could say, I used  
everything you gave me.

The greatest discovery of any generation is  
that a human being can alter his life by  
altering his attitude.

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile  
things, but just look what they can do when  
they stick together.

It's not the absence or the presence of  
problems that determines our peace of mind;  
it's the absence or the presence of God.

**LIVE SIMPLY, LOVE GENEROUSLY,**

**CARE DEEPLY, SPEAK KINDLY,**

**LEAVE THE REST TO GOD.**

## Gracious Invasion

**Genesis 1:2** *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

**Numbers 27:18** *So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.*

**Judges 15:14** *When he [Samson] came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.*

**1 Samuel 10:6** *Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you [Saul], and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.*

**Psalms 51:11** *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

**Joel 2:28** *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.*

**Zechariah 4:6** *Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*

**Matthew 1:18** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*

**Matthew 3:16** *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove...*

**Matthew 4:1** *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

**Matthew 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

**John 4:24** *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

**Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**Acts 2:38** *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Revelation 22:17** *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

Holy Spirit. Holy Ghost. Spirit of God. Spirit of Christ. Comforter. Counselor. Helper. Spirit of Truth. There are many names and many ways to describe the Holy Spirit. Yet, the Holy Spirit remains a mystery to so many people. It is one of the most misunderstood and confusing doctrines in the Bible.

We find the Spirit in the second verse of the Bible. The Spirit courses through the entirety of scripture and is in the fifth to the last verse of the Bible. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit throughout the history of the Jews and into the church age?

We see fruit and gifts and power and comfort all come from the Spirit. We also see the Spirit dwells within every believer in Jesus Christ.

We see that a believer that isn't filled with the Spirit can never live up to his/her complete potential in Christ; the church that is not Spirit led will never be as effective as Christ wants her to be.

*(continued on back page)*

## Recipe Swap

### SLOW COOKER CHICKEN ENCHILADA SOUP

2 large chicken breasts, raw  
1 10 oz. can red enchilada sauce  
1 14 oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed  
1 14 oz. can corn, drained  
1 4-7 oz. can diced green chilies  
1 14 oz. can diced tomatoes, with juice  
1 14 oz. can chicken stock  
1 Tbs. minced garlic  
1 tsp. salt

Optional toppings:

Chopped cilantro  
Tortilla strips  
Sour cream  
Shredded cheese  
Avocado

Add all of the soup ingredients to the slow cooker and stir to combine. Cook on high for 3-4 hours, or on low for 6-7 hours (or until chicken is cooked through). Use 2 forks to shred chicken. Serve hot with toppings if desired.

### 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

**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 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.

**SOS:** The Sisters of Service had their Christmas get together at Nancy Gatzemeyer's home, which included a fun sock exchange and wonderful snacks. The next meeting will be January 14<sup>th</sup> at the church annex at 10:00 am. All women are invited to attend. To be discussed and organized at this meeting will be a chili cook-off to be held sometime late February or early March. This will be a fundraiser for the School Supply Drive.

**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.

**GUEST PREACHER:** Matt Myer from Campus Christians will be here to speak during Sunday School and to preach on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Emilee Mitchell  
6 Reid Handke  
7 Chelsea Meyer  
8 Corbin Haybarker  
10 Matthew Branam  
12 Leah Brown  
13 Jackson Reich  
19 Jarret Mitchell  
24 Lindsay Starkey  
27 Ashley GrandPre  
29 Leah Martin  
30 Wayne Arnold  
31 Linda Durand  
Peyton Taliaferro  
Nik Branam  
Sheena Eaton

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

## Serving in January

### Congregational Prayer:

Wayne Arnold

### Scripture Readers:

1-Erin Thomas-Luke 4:16-21  
8-Joan Phillips-  
15-Nancy Gatzemeyer-Psalm 8:1-8  
22-Helen Grove-John 14:15-17  
29-Shelly Gatzemeyer- John 16:12-15

### Nursery:

1-Debbie Gerstner/Aleyna  
8-Cheyenne H./Caitlyn T.  
15-Glee Hosler/Jackson  
22-Joan Phillips/Libby  
29-Brittany Boyce/Aleyna

### Greeters/Ushers:

1-Thomas  
8-Phillips  
15-K&N Gatzemeyer  
22-Grove  
29-C&S Gatzemeyer

### Lord's Supper Preparation:

1-Thomas  
8-Phillips  
15-K&N Gatzemeyer  
22-Grove  
29-C&S Gatzemeyer

### Communion Table:

1-Stan, Jay  
**Clint Thomas**, Andy Arnold  
8- Jay, Stan  
**Ray Mitchell**, Kyle Reich  
15- Stan, Jay  
**David Grove**, Brian Barrett  
22- Jay, Stan  
**Clint Thomas**, Aaron Cook  
29-Stan, Jay  
**Ray Mitchell**, Chad Spencer

### Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby  
Backup singer: Allison Thomas  
Organ: Leah Brown  
Piano: Donetta Farr  
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas  
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

## Church Offerings

Nov. 27-\$1412.00

Dec. 4-\$1393.00

Dec. 11-\$2659.00

Dec. 18-\$830.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The men's breakfast will be on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Jay Welborn will be cooking.

**MIDWINTER RETREAT:** Midwinter retreat for grades 7-12 will be Jan. 14-16. Registration forms are in the foyer.

**COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE:** The Unity Service and soup supper is Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at our Church. The soup supper is at 6:00 PM and the service is at 7:00 PM. The offering will go to the Community Christian Council and will mostly be used to help people with financial hardships in Valley Falls. We will be needing a volunteer to head up the dinner and also volunteers to bring food. If you would like to help let Mike know.

**THANK YOU:** To all who brought gifts for the adopted family for Christmas or gave throughout the year so the missions committee could help fill out the list, thank you. You helped give a needy family a better Christmas.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY:** Sanctity of Life Sunday is Jan. 15.

**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** The Dave Ramsay class will be starting on Wednesday Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. There are still some openings if you would like to join just let Stan know.

**BOARD MEETING:** The board meeting will be Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> after church.

## WINTER WEATHER POLICY

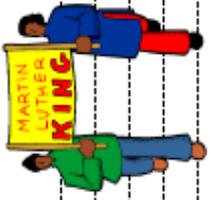
**Church:** We WILL have church as long as Mike can get there. *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20.*

Assume Mike can get to the church, in the extreme case that he can't, we will post the cancellation on the media listed below.

**Bible Study/other activities:** If the Valley Falls schools are closed that day, we will cancel activities.

Also, check postings on the church Facebook page and the church website, valleyfallsc.org, for cancellations.

We will also pass cancellations down the texting prayer chain. If all else fails and you aren't sure, call Mike at 785-817-6920

2017		JANUARY					2017	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
<b>1</b>  New Years Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>8</b> Matt Myer from Campus Christians Board meeting 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Financial Peace University	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast 10:00 AM SOS Mid Winter Retreat	<b>14</b>		
<b>15</b> Sanctity of Life Sunday Community Soup Supper at Christian Church-Dinner at 6PM Service at 7PM	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Financial Peace University 8:00 PM Elders	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Financial Peace University	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		
<b>29</b> 5:00 PM Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>						

*Valley Falls*  
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Email: office@valleyfallsc.org  
On the web: 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

*(Gracious Invasion continued)*

Wouldn't it be valuable if each Christian had a better understanding of the Holy Spirit and how He works? On January 22, we will begin a series on the Holy Spirit entitled Gracious Invasion. Here are the scheduled messages in the series:

**Promise** (John 14:15-17)  
**Forgotten but not Gone** (John 16:12-15)  
**Be Careful What You Ask For** (Acts 8:14-23)  
**Born Twice, Die Once** (John 3:1-8)  
**The Gifts of the Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)  
**The Fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-26)  
**Filled with the Spirit** (Ephesians 5:18-21)  
**Walking in the Spirit** (Romans 8:1-8)  
**A Spirit Filled Life** (Ephesians 6:1-9)

Please pray that the Spirit will clearly reveal Himself in each life and in Valley Falls Christian Church as we begin this study.

*Mike*

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Blessings from 2016**

What a great year 2016 has been. We thank God for all God has done at VFCC this year. We transitioned our School Supply Project successfully, began a JAMS program for after school youth, and the jr/sr high youth group has grown.

We also want to recognize once more those who joined our fellowship in 2016.

*Baptisms:* Lisa Aranda, Cooper Taliaferro, Abby GrandPre, Tina Moulder, Kyle Reich, Kacie Herring and Kenzie Handke.

We don't want to leave anyone out. If you began worshiping with us this year, thank you! We look forward to each person becoming more involved in Christ's church as we grow in Valley Falls and Jefferson County.

**Thank You, Thank you, Thank You**

Mike and Gina wish to thank everyone for the generous gift of love this Christmas. It is honor to call you our friends and church family.