

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*denotes Anniversary MMM denotes Monday Morning Ministry C&C denotes College & Career SS denotes Sunday School			1 Business Meeting	2 *Tim & Cheryl McGee Cheryl McGee Joannie Tucker	3 *Dewey & Barbara Pace Cory Kuykendall	4 Canoe Trip (Waynesboro, TN)
5 *T. C. & Norma Hallmark Carlos Alonso Shirley Aycock	6 *Patrick & Holly Minor Lanny & Sue Jeffreys Jason Hill MMM Visiting	7 *Ray & Linda Counts Lisa Tverberg Clothing Ministry Hodges Ministry Trip	8 *Rusty & Rendy Harper	9 Mike O'Brien Rodney Stevenson	10 *Eddie & Joan Fleming	11 Gordon Isbell
12 VBS Kickoff	13 Clothing Ministry MMM Bible Study	14 Olivia Gasque Hunter Harper	15 Linda Shelton Newsletter Article Due	16 *Brian & Molly King Carol Aday Debby Downey Susan Rackley	17 Katlyn Berrynman	18
19 *Wayne & Charlotte Jeffreys Charlotte Jeffreys Wade Nix FATHER'S DAY Baptist Men's Day	20 *Paul & Shirley Jones Donnie Byrd Tiffany Hill Rita Underwood WMU	21 *Jason & Crystal Lansdell *Alvin & Pansy Looney Clothing Ministry Long Range Team Meeting	22 *Greg & Reba Newell Patricia Gomez C&C Meal & Bible Study	23 Dewey Pace	24 Josh Newell	25 Men's Ministry Breakfast
26 Spiritual Growth University Kickoff	27 Larry Creasy Rhonda Keenum Allison Lolley Clothing Ministry MMM Bible Study	28 Katie Clark Hillard South Cathy Stayton	29 Justin Gasque Bo Keenum Dale Moore	30 *Dwight & May Isbell Amber Shell		

NURSERY CARE
Wednesday, June 1
 Lura Agee, Susan Young
Sunday, June 5
 am - Sue Jeffreys, Patricia Gomez, April Simon,
 Breanna Newell, Amber Shell
 pm - Tiffany Hill, Phyllis Myhan
Wednesday, June 8
 Wanda Berry, Shelia Creasy
Sunday, June 12
 am - Joyce Dennis, Charlotte Jeffreys, Meagan
 Rumble, Rodney & Cassie Sparks, Nita
 O'Brien
 pm - Penny Townsend, Tonya Reid
Wednesday, June 15
 Mary Jane McDonald, Susan Rackley
Sunday, June 19
 am - Tina Tverberg, Mary Dreaden, Katie
 Looney, Freddie & Carol Morris
 pm - Carol Kuykendall, Norma Hallmark
Wednesday, June 22
 Brenda Nixon, Carol Aday
Sunday, June 26
 am - Connie Posey, Carol Underwood, Logan
 Nix, Dana Massey, Amanda Gomez, Doug
 McDonald
 pm - Lura Agee, Joy South, Shelia McCrary
Wednesday, June 29
 Lura Agee, Susan Young

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TEAM
 5 - T. C. Hallmark, Doug Myhan
 12 - Bo Keenum, Dan Roberts
 19 - Gary James, Charles Lamar
 26 - Rhonda Keenum, Patricia Gomez

SECURITY TEAM
 5 - Don Bradford 12 - Justin Gasque
 19 - Zach Tverberg 26 - Larry Allen

VAN DRIVER SCHEDULE
Wednesday, June 1
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Hillard South
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Joy South
Sunday, June 5
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Betty Bradford
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Don Bradford
Wednesday, June 8
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Mary Jane McDonald
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Justin Gasque
Sunday, June 12
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Susan Young
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Greg Newell
Wednesday, June 15
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, John Permenter
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Sharon Permenter
Sunday, June 19
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Jim Sanderson
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Barry Minor
Wednesday, June 22
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Larry Creasy
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Shelia Creasy
Sunday, June 26
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Ashley Carpenter
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, Randy Tate
Wednesday, June 29
 Van 1 - Reba Newell, Norma Hallmark
 Van 2 - Nancy Hall, T. C. Hallmark
 **Riders for Sundays can split duties on Van 1
 unless Van 2 runs. Check with drivers & riding
 partner on Saturday.

**"Without a vision, the people will perish."
 Proverbs 29:18**

Visit us on the web & make your contribution online at: www.valleygrove.com
 Like us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/142416005804026/>
 The Clothing Ministry Page @ <https://www.facebook.com/vgclothingministry?ref=bookmarks>

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2016

Every Week

Sunday School.....	Sundays 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....	Sundays 10:30 am
Celebration Choir.....	Sundays 4:00 pm
Spiritual Growth University.....	Sundays 5:00 pm
Evening Worship.....	Sundays 6:00 pm
Boy's Basketball Ministry.....	Tuesdays 6:00 pm
Children/Youth Meal Time.....	Wednesdays 5:00 pm
Children/Youth Activities.....	Wednesdays 5:35 pm
College & Career.....	Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Bible Study & Prayer.....	Wednesdays 6:15 pm

1st..... Kids First Aid Training 7:00 pm
 6th..... Monday Morning Ministry Visiting 10:00 am
 7th..... Clothing Ministry 8:30-11:30 am
 7th..... Hodges Ministry Trip 8:30 am
 8th..... Business Meeting
 12th..... Vacation Bible School Kickoff - after evening service
 13th..... Clothing Ministry 8:30-11:30 am
 13th..... Monday Morning Ministry Bible Study 10:00 am
 13th-17th..... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6:00-9:00 pm
 19th..... HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
 19th..... Baptist Men's Day
 21st..... Clothing Ministry 8:30-11:30 am
 21st..... Long Range Planning Meeting 6:00 pm
 22nd..... College & Career Meal & Bible Study 6:00 pm
 25th..... Men's Ministry Breakfast
 26th..... Spiritual Growth University Kickoff
 27th..... Clothing Ministry 8:30-11:30 am
 27th..... Monday Morning Ministry Bible Study 10:00 am

THE VISION

VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
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 Phone: 256.381.1662 Fax: 256.381.1662
 Web: www.valleygrove.com

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
 Vol. 41/No. 5, May 2016

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

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Lynn Robbins, Music Director
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Ted Vaseas, Education/Young Couples Director
tedvaseas@gmail.com
Donna Perry, Secretary/Financial Secretary
secretary@valleygrove.com
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FROM YOUR PASTOR

In our Sunday school class we are going through “The End of Me” by Kyle Idleman. It talks about where real life in the upside down ways of Jesus begins. There are so many chapters I would like to share with you, but I’m not able to do that. I would, however, suggest that you read his book. I came across a section that I do want to share with you from his book.

Kyle Idleman says, “Great news! The odds say you aren’t going to die in an avalanche. Avalanches kill only about thirty people per year in the United States, which means you’re looking really good for avoiding a demise of this nature.”

Still, I’d be remiss if I didn’t let you know you could still *be* in an avalanche. If it did actually happen to you, I wouldn’t want your lack of preparation to be on my conscience.

In case it does happen, here’s an important avalanche survival tip. *Spit first. Dig second.*

That’s it. Pretty simple, right?

Turns out one of the biggest mistakes people make when caught in an avalanche is that, once they’re covered over with tons of snow, they dig blindly trying to get out. The *dig* part is a good idea. *Blindly*, not so much. It’s too easy to dig in the wrong direction, burrowing deeper into the snow.

Popular Science magazine wrote about one such victim. When rescue teams found his body, they discovered that in his furious attempts to dig out, he’d accidentally dug some thirty feet *deeper*. The victim expended every ounce of strength he had, only to get himself farther from his intended goal. If only he had spit first!

Okay, if you’re covered with snow, then there’s almost no way to tell which direction is which, but gravity still applies. So push some snow away from your face ... and spit. If the spit falls directly away from you, then you’re facing down and you need to turn around. If the spit falls left or right, you’re sideways. This is maybe the only time you ever want to spit in your own face. Because if you do, you’re facing up, and in that situation, up is good.

When a man spits, he knows up from down. I’m sure somebody, somewhere, has said that at somebody, somewhere, has said that at some point.

When Jesus came on the scene as a rabbi, there was a lot of directional confusion. Up seemed like down. People were trying to find the light, but they only dug themselves deeper. It was a time of confusion, much like today. And it was what the Bible calls “the fullness of time,” when Jesus came to set the compass once and for all.

When Jesus sets things in order, why does it sound as if he’s holding the map upside down? Need more evidence? Consider the third beatitude. Jesus says the way down is up and the way up is down.

“*God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.*” (Matthew 5:5)

Again, we hear this through twenty-first-century cars and it comes across as some kind of irony. The humble are inheriting the earth? Really?

Yet Jesus insists on this idea, even here in Luke: “*For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*” (18:14) It’s a radical reversal, and it sounds great. The overlooked ones, the quiet ones, and the ones you tend to forget are in the room have their day, while the loud ones, the demanding ones, and the entitlement crowd are thrown under the bus. We’d love to put Humble Guy Day on the calendar. But when does this actually happen, Jesus? And how? Jesus says the way up is down. Greatness is humility.

In Luke 18, Jesus tells a parable to help us compare the two directional systems – his and the world’s. It’s a story of two men. One is a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a group of people reacting against the increasing religious compromise of the Jewish people. Quite understandably, they wanted to bring back the old-time religion, which was being lost in the cultural upheaval of the time.

People looked up to Pharisees because these guys were sold out, committed to the Hebrew law, and tended to be upstanding, educated, and influential. We’d place them at the top of the social scale.

Down on the bottom we’d find the other guy in this story. He was a tax collector.

Remember the prostitute in chapter 1? Even she looked down on the tax man. To think of him as a first-century IRS agent doesn’t really get the idea across. He was more like an IRS agent who belonged to terror cells. Not only did he collect taxes for the Romans, but he also was allowed to dip into people’s wallets a second time to line his own pockets. He was basically a traitor and a legalized thief.

So two guys walk into the temple. One is the kind you point out to your son and say, “See this man? That’s what you should be when you grow up.” And the other is the kind you point out to your son and say, “Help me collect some rocks.”

Who is Jesus’s audience? Luke clues us in. They were people “who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else” (v.9). Wouldn’t you agree that’s a loaded description? The word *smug* comes to mind. So does *condescending*. This is a one-two jab to the upturned nose. Things would have gotten a little bit uncomfortable because everyone would know whom Jesus is talking about.

For example, if I were preaching a sermon somewhere, and referred to a group of rednecks who think they are better than everyone else, people would know whom I was talking about.

When we read something like that, it’s easy to think of others who fit that description. We almost immediately assume this description is about someone other than ourselves. But as soon as we assign these descriptors to other people, we ourselves become the very people Jesus is addressing.

Jesus is talking to a crowd of people who think he’s talking to a whole other crowd of people. Which is so often the case.

So, as I was saying, two guys walk into the temple. Both of them have come to pray, which is pretty natural. The Pharisee, respected religious leader and all-around good guy, lifts up a prayer about himself:

“*God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.*” (vv. 11-12)

Apparently he’s pecking during the middle part of the prayer. He spots a tax collector and uses him as a prop to stand on for extra righteousness – before adding on words of praise for his own giving and piety: “I fast twice a week, Lord, and I tithe every penny before taxes.”

Here’s something else you need to know about the Pharisees. Because they lived in a time in which people were losing touch with their religious heritage, the Pharisees became obsessive about religious rules, since so many of those rules were being ignored. This made them a kind of roving “gotcha” patrol.

That’s how the Pharisees, who began with all kinds of good intentions, pushed the faith of Israel into an unbearable, nearly infinite collection of dos and don’ts – mostly don’ts.

God had given those rules for the sake of the people, but in a Pharisee’s mind, people lived for the sake of rules.

Did you notice? The Pharisee’s prayer started with a “thank you,” just as many praise psalms do. Seems like a god start, right? You’re thanking God for his blessings and goodness. This guy, however, identifies *himself* as the blessing. “Thank you, God, for the miracle of me.” To heighten he effect, he rounds up the usual suspects from the local hall of villainy, comparing his righteousness to their wrongness. Of course, we ourselves would *never* pray anything like that, right? Again I feel compelled to point out that once we’ve said that or thought that, we’ve just convicted ourselves. This thing is kind of a trap, isn’t it?

That’s a big issue with pride verses humility. Fake humility expresses itself in a pride that is obvious to everyone but the speaker. The Bible says, “The mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Matt. 12:34). Ultimately or words betray us, not matter how much we guard them.

What are the verbal symptoms of a prideful heart? Can you tell if and internal Pharisee is about to flow out of your mouth?

Think about these sayings:

“I’m not going to be the one to apologize.”

“It’s not fair.”

“Did you hear about ...”

“I don’t need anybody’s help.”

“It’s not me; it’s you.”

You may be a Pharisee if ...

- You catch yourself celebrating someone else’s failure.
- You obsess over the opinions of others.

- You’re utterly convinced that your own opinion is the only right one.

Pride is the ultimate issue of the human condition – not just one of the “deadly sins” but the mother of them all. The Pharisee keeps getting in, no matter how often you shoo him out. The problem is that we feed him, we let him grow, we let him give the public prayer, and pretty soon he’s running the show. It takes constant vigilance, and if you do a good job of *that*, you might now have another topic for pride.

Why is our inner Pharisee so powerful?

Bro. Greg

FROM YOUR CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

- June 1 - Jesus Has Power Over Evil/First-Aid for Children

* 7:00 - First-Aid for Children

- June 5 - Sharing My Faith

- June 8 - Jesus Has Power Over Death

- June 12 - Love

- * PM - VBS Kick-Off - **Please bring ice cream!**

- June 13-17 Vacation Bible School 6:00-9:00 pm

- June 19 - Joy

- June 22 - Parable of the Vineyard Worker/Children's Choir Practice

- June 26 - Peace

- June 29 - Parable of the Wedding Feast/Children's Choir Practice

Honor Your Father and Mother According to Exodus 20:12a -

“*Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*” God gives Moses this Commandment on Mount Sinai. It is the first commandment that includes a promise for long life. God knows this relationship is vital to our wellbeing.

Honor is a word that means more than respect. It’s a call to action. The Greek word hon-

or means to prize or value. Throughout the Bible, honor has played an important role. In Ephesians 6:1-5, Paul reminds us to honor our father and mother because this honors Christ

and our Father in Heaven. Jesus submitted to his earthly parents (Luke 2:51) and His Heavenly Father (Matthew 26:39). We trust our parents like we do our Heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:9). Obedience is the reward and helps us to heed and respect authority as adults.

God has a plan to make our lives long and joyful. He loves us and provides exactly what we need. Here are some ways to encourage honor in our parental relationship:

1. Pray for them.
2. Help them.
3. Model Jesus to them.
4. Exercise restraint in front of them.
5. Cry for them.
6. Forgive them.

Mary

FROM YOUR YOUTH/CLOTHING MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Disciples, who are they according to Jesus?

In the word of God, Jesus spoke these words:

“*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;’*” John 8:31

This passage gives us a clear teaching that “continuing in My word” is key to discipleship. Growing in the word means growing into the likeness of Christ.

Several different studies are offered on Sunday evenings in Spiritual Growth University, join one this Sunday!

And grow in His likeness.

Frankie

FROM YOUR OFFICE/EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Following the Father’s Example

Ephesians 6:1-4

Do you have a strong relationship with your children? The way we initially think about God has much to do with how we were parented—especially by our father. What image of the Lord are *you* portraying?

Many men struggle in their role as dads because their own fathers were either absent—physically or emotionally—or poor examples. But regardless of what a person experienced in the past, the best thing any parent can do is imitate God the Father. Yet how do we know who He really is?

We get our best glimpse of what the heavenly Father is like by looking at His Son. Speaking with the disciples, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me . . . He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:6, 14:9). Not only is Christ our path to relationship with God; He is also the way we come to know the Father’s true character.

When we look at Jesus’ life, what do we see? He was merciful, patient, gentle, compassionate, kind, and full of goodness toward all people (Matthew 9:10-13). The Savior healed the sick, provided for needs, and offered forgiveness—regardless of the offense (Matthew 14:14-21; Luke 23:34). But in love, He didn’t hesitate to discipline others when correction was required.

More than a solid education or maternal sessions, your child’s greatest need is a role model of devotion to God through prayer, Bible reading, and holy living. If you make knowing and following the heavenly Father your first priority, you won’t have to worry about what kind of parent you will be. – Author Unknown

Molly

FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

“*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is and who is coming.*” *Revelations 4:6*

“*My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you.*” *Psalms 71:23*

As a Christian one of our callings is to bring glory to the name of God. This is our goal each week as our choir, congregation and soloist take part in our service with a song in our hearts. It is exciting to see the joy and smile on each face as we get excited about what God is doing in our midst.

Lest we forget, the quality of our worship is not based on the songs we sing, the activities we have, but on our CHARACTER. It is easy to get caught up in better music, impressive buildings, lots of programs, eloquent preaching and think we will have a more worshipful experience. External things will not enhance our worship. True quality worship rests within each of us.

I believe here at Valley Grove, we have a heart for true worship. With all the destruction around us, it may seem that things are falling apart. But as in Habakkuk 3:17-18...I will rejoice in the God of my Salvation! As with Habakkuk, we cannot control these sad and terrible events, but we can choose to praise the Lord.

May each of us seek God’s guidance and ask Him to help us look past the worldly concerns to understand the REASON we have to praise HIM.

You have a personal invitation to be a part of our worship service in song! In His joy, Lynn Robbins

APPS FOR YOUR IPHONE & IPAD’S-Check out these free apps

1. Life Conversation Guide - by North American Mission Board
2. Share Jesus - by Alabama Baptist Convention - State Board of Missions

FROM YOUR EDUCATION/YOUNG

COUPLE DIRECTOR

Summer, now let me think, grass cutting, pulling weeds, birds, fishing, grilling, outdoor events and most of all learning about Our Lord who gave us all the wonderful seasons. I Love The Lord of Summer! Christ drew larger and the most enthusiastic crowds in the mild climates. However, His movement just a few miles away could bring great contrast in rain and heat. Today Israel’s largest city, Tel Aviv (ancient Jaffa) has summer temperatures usually in the high 80’s and 90’s, like Miami. However, Jerusalem is dryer and cooler, particularly at night. This is the area where Jesus lived most of his earthly life and even during the warmest summer months a cool sea breeze usually blew from the west from 10:00 A.M.. until about 10:00 P.M. There were only two seasons in Palestine, summer and winter, the dry and rainy seasons.

What about the Quad Cities. We as a church can really "grab a hold" on our temperatures. Families are easier to visit for our Lord, especially as we see the kids playing outside. Sunday School outings are more easily planned in the summer and more kids will "jump on the band wagon." With adults, more afternoon and evening fellowships can be planned. The Lord has given us Summer for our enjoyment and ministry in The Kingdom. Let’s transform our Summer to include a Social/Spiritual ministry.

Our New SS (Sunday School or Small Group or Connect Group or Small Group Bible Study) material is amazing! In the Explore The Bible Lessons we will study the book of First Samuel which is power packed with Godly and not so Godly Characters. Also, Bibles Studies For Life, drives us to apply the Bible as God speaks to us in Matthew and the Book of Proverbs. Summer, I love it but for more that getting outside but rather Our Creator "getting inside us with His "Amazing Love."

Ted V.



Vacation Bible School!

June 13-17

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Moto

Jesus Sees, Knows, and Saves

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way. Psalm 139:23-24.

HODGES MINISTRY

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Leave at 8:30 am

We will be going to help with organizing literature that has been donated.

This trip is opened to anyone that would like to go.

VALLEY GROVE RIVER RUN 2016

Uniting for His Kingdom

June 4th

4 mile canoe trip at

Crazy Horse in

Waynesboro, TN

Leave the church 7:30 am

\$40 per canoe with 2 adults

For more details see Leon Borden

If you want to you may make your

CONTRIBUTIONS

online at www.valleygrove.com

It is located at the bottom of the

“Home” page. Through the link you

can make your contributions by using

your Debit/Credit card or a check.

For more information or help with

this, contact Donna at 256.381.1662

TRANSGENDER BATHROOMS/FITTING ROOMS

“*In our stores, we demonstrate our commitment to an inclusive experience in many ways. Most relevant for the conversations currently underway, we welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity.*” A quote from their Website. Call Target at 800-440-0680 and let them know that you disagree with this.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Couples Class (65 & up)

Team Teachers - T. C. Hallmark &

Johnny Nixon

Start date to be announced