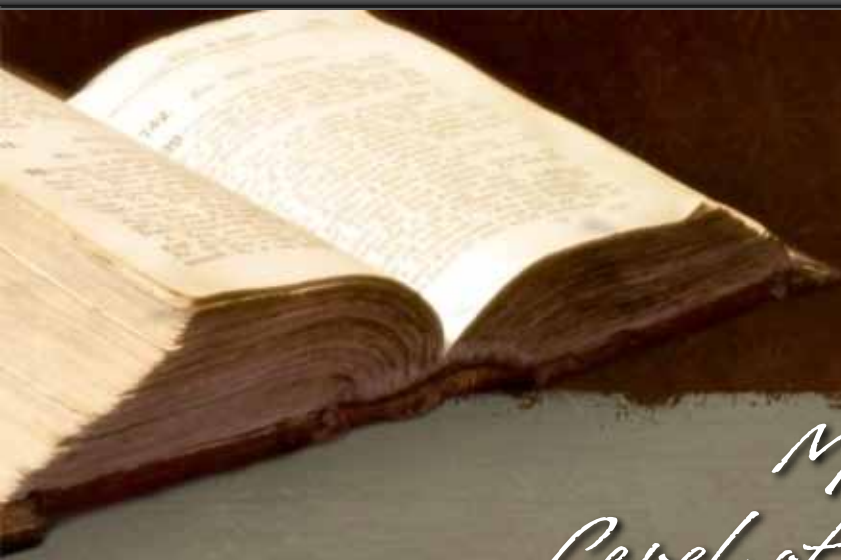


AUGUST 2012

The BELL TOWER

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH



Moving to the Next Level of Kingdom Impact

When we decided to host The Global Leadership Summit, we did so for a number of reasons. One of these was our belief that we all need to grow in our ability to effectively influence our world for Christ. But merely attending a conference, no matter how good it is, will only serve as one step in the process of becoming what God intends. We must build on this foundation.

In order to do this I have been preparing to teach on the subject of spiritual leadership. As I read through key passages of Scripture such as 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus, I began to realize how much this topic overlapped with another of our important initiatives, spiritual formation. The reason for this overlap is obvious. The single most important aspect of leadership is character. While Paul encourages Timothy and Titus to develop certain skills and knowledge, he reserves most of his emphasis for how they are developing into Christ-likeness.

This summer, on Sunday mornings, we have been examining together some of the soul shaping disciplines that help us grow in our relationship with Christ. Now we are immersing ourselves in the teaching on leadership we are getting with the GLS. At the end of August we

will pull these two streams together to study how being formed into the image of Christ prepares us to be the kind of leaders that can most effectively serve His Kingdom for God's glory and the good of others. To prepare for this I want to encourage you to read through the three New Testament books mentioned above and begin to study for yourself these challenging messages.

But there's more. In an effort to prepare us further to face the challenges of life in the Kingdom we are hosting the Significant Marriage Weekend in September. You can get more details on page 4. One of the greatest leadership training labs is our homes. This weekend and the follow-up opportunities that will flow out of it are designed to help you grow in this critical area of your life.

All of this presents us with a golden opportunity to move to the next level of Kingdom impact. It is still an amazing truth that God invites us to participate in His redemptive mission to rescue and restore this broken world. Let's embrace this calling and work together to grow into the image of Christ and live out His mission in our world.

Danny Danny Hall
SENIOR PASTOR

Green, Green, Green! *Online Church Directory*

We are so blessed that God gave to all mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve, dominion over all of the earth. This gift which he bestowed is another wonderful example of his love and grace towards us. Valley Community Church continues to consider ways to be good stewards of this amazing planet that God gifted into our hands.

Beginning on August 1, we are going to begin moving our church directory to a secure, online directory. To be a part of the directory AND to have access to it, each household member over the age of thirteen will have to OPT in. When you opt in, the directory will display your name, address, and home telephone number and the first names of everyone in your household. You will also have the added option of displaying your email address, your cell number and posting a picture of yourself and/or family members. On September 30 we will discontinue producing a paper copy of the directory and the only way you will be able to access the information of other members of our congregation will be to opt in to the directory yourself.

One of the great advantages for you will be the ability to access the directory from any browser. Another advantage you will have is the ability to keep all of your information up-to-date especially email addresses and cell numbers.

The link to the directory is on our website, vcclive.org. To opt into the directory, log into **your VCC account** using your email and VCC password. (If you have never set up an account, you will be prompted to do this.) Click on "Privacy Settings" and opt in by clicking on the check box "include me in the church directory" at the bottom of the page. Then click the button to "save privacy settings." NOTE: on this page you can also set your levels of privacy (what you would like others to see).

Online Giving—Setting Us Free Update

In order to improve your overall online giving experience and to allow debit cards to be used for giving, in January of this year we converted to a new online provider, SecureGive. One-time or recurring gifts can be set up by visiting the [online giving page](#) on the VCC website, vcclive.org or can be set up on mobile devices by downloading the SecureGive app (available for Apple and Android devices).

As you continue to give towards the Setting Us Free campaign, an automated online gift makes it easy. We are happy to report that, to date, \$928,227 has been given. The parking lot debt has been paid down \$835,179.

Please note: we are no longer using envelope numbers for tracking contributions. If you wish to give cash and have it recorded on your annual contributions statement, please put your name on an envelope with the cash inside. Purple envelopes are available in the church office for Setting Us Free contributions.



Exploring God's Story in Our Lives

God is writing His story in our lives. With everything that happens, another chapter is written. Maybe He wrote another chapter in your story this summer; a new job, a deep loss, the birth of a child, satisfying family moments or perhaps unexpected surprises.

The Women's Ministry Team went away for a weekend in May and as we prayed over the coming year and worked on our calendar we felt God leading us to explore His story in us, as women, this year.

Friday, August 24, we will kick off the year with REFRESH. We'll enjoy supper together, lots of time for fellowship, to get reacquainted and/or meet someone new. It is an opportunity to hear some stories of how God is working in lives and how you can better connect at VCC. Join us in the Hall at 6:00PM and bring someone with you.

Bible study starts in mid-September with more opportunities to see God's story being written. We will be studying the book of James. Beth Moore has written a wonderful study that will provide options for everyone's desired level of study. If you are new to Bible study you can watch the weekly videos and do the workbook or, for those that want a more in depth study, you can choose to do additional questions and even memorize the book of James. With several study times to choose from, Tuesday morning with childcare, Wednesday afternoon or Wednesday evening, there is hopefully a time that suits everyone's schedule. Look for more information and plan to learn from God's Word this Fall.

Our Fall retreat will be October 19-21 and we hope you plan on being there. Debbie Alsdorf will speak to us about being a *Woman Who Trusts God*. Debbie is a well-known author, retreat speaker and ministry leader. She has an amazing story and we will be blessed that weekend.

Come to REFRESH and hear more about what's in store this year in Women's Ministries including Girl's Night Out, Mocha Moments as well as mentoring opportunities. Come and tell us your story. We want to hear how God is working in your life, what He's teaching you, how your story is being written. When we share our stories of fear and joys, failure and growth, we are encouraged in our walk with Jesus and we glorify the One who is writing the story! So ladies, we hope you will join us this Fall as we grow, learn, connect, branch out and live life together. God has remarkable things in store for us!

Upcoming Events:

Refresh 2012

Friday, August 24

Bible Study

Begins Tuesday and Wednesday,
September 11 & 12

Fall Retreat

October 19-21

Watch the bulletin for information on
Girl's Night Out, Mocha Moments and
mentoring opportunities.





Creating a marriage that changes lives

Significant Marriage Weekend led by Dave & Mary Goth

Discover how God wants to use your and your spouse's gifts together. In the Significant Marriage Weekend you will learn to protect your marriage and be intentional in creating a plan together to become all God has created you to be as an individual and as a couple.

Cost per couple includes all sessions, lunch and snacks, and a follow-up course.

September 14-16, R.S.V.P. by September 1

Friday, September 14: 6:30 – 9:30PM

Saturday, September 15: 9:00AM – 5:00PM

Sunday, September 16: 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Cost is \$169 per couple (includes books & foods)

The sessions will be held in the Seminar Room. [Register online](#) at vcclive.org beginning August 1.

Heal the World—Cook Dinner Tonight *Quoted with permission from Bill of Penzeys Spices*



“Cook, cook, cook, rest a while, then cook some more. The world needs it.”

“The researchers know that cooking works, that people who cook and share food together go on to so many more positive outcomes and far fewer negative outcomes. Yet to the researchers how cooking works, how it makes such a clear and dramatic impact on our lives, is still a mystery. But it occurs to me, maybe it's not so mysterious, maybe it's just kind of obvious. What if cooking works simply because being nice to people works?”

“What if life is as simple as figuring out what people like and then making it happen? What if cooking works because making people happy works? Maybe we could all have better lives, with many more positives and far fewer negatives, by simply weaving the spirit of cooking throughout the way we live?”

Here at VCC we have several ways you can spread the magic of cooking:

- Cooking several times a year for Friday Friends (our adult special needs group)
- Providing meals for those who are ill or recovering from surgery or a loss
- Cookie bakers for Bereavement or Sunday morning hospitality
- Bring a dessert to our annual fall Celebration

We know we have a lot of great cooks among us, so let's share the love and “Heal the World”. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, sign the Communications Slip in the Sunday bulletin, call the church office at 925-846-6622 or email Susan Harford at sharford@vcclive.org.



Another Year of Shining!

Shining Light Preschool will begin another school year on Tuesday, September 4. We still have a few afternoon openings from 1:15 to 3:45PM on MWF for Pre-K (4-year-olds) and on TTH for Preschool (3-year-olds). We know that both parents and their children will find that Shining Light fits their needs. Here are testimonials from a few of our parents:

"I chose Shining Light Preschool because it is a loving community where I know my child is going to grow both spiritually and academically. The "zoophonics" they use is a great way to learn the alphabet. Plus, Co-op'ing in the class is always fun." Keely Schuh

"What I like best about Shining Light Preschool is that I didn't have to choose between starting a strong academic foundation or a biblical one. The preschool has amazing, qualified teachers who are not only preparing my kids for elementary school, but teaching them how to learn and love God's word." Nicole Franklin

"It was hard to come up with one sentence as I could go on and on about how great Shining Light was for Josh, but here is my condensed version...Shining Light Preschool blessed us with an excellent place for our preschooler to learn and grow with kind, loving, Christ-centered teachers who understood our child's needs and who went far and above to meet our family's expectations." Lorri Young

"We love SLP because our kids receive a quality, Christian education that completely prepares them for elementary school. The teachers and staff are caring, dedicated and truly meet the needs of each individual child." Melissa & Nathan Bennett



Spread the word to your friends...
and feel free to quote our SLP moms!
Call Kelly at 846-2588 with any questions!



Business First...Then We Celebrate

As the church's fiscal year-end approaches, we are planning two church-wide gatherings that you'll want to take note of:

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, August 26, 5:00PM

Celebration & Appreciation

Sunday, September 23, 6:00PM

The meeting on August 26 will be for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the proposed budget as well as Elder and Deacon candidates. The budget and bios on candidates will be available on Sunday morning, August 19.

Absentee ballots will be available and can be turned in from August 26 until September 23 and questions or concerns can be addressed to Elders or Staff at any time during that period.

On Sunday, September 23 we will gather at 6:00PM to collect remaining ballots and enjoy a time of celebration in the sanctuary when we will focus on where God is leading us in the year ahead. We will also show our appreciation to the Elders and Deacons who have served in the prior year. The evening will conclude with a potluck dessert.

Mark your calendars for these important dates and plan to be with us.



Mark Your Calendars: August and September Dates

Global Leadership Summit: August 9-10

iN EXCESS Sale: Saturday, August 18, 7:00am-7:00pm

Refresh 2012, Women's Fall Kickoff: Friday, August 24, 6:00PM

Promotion Sunday: August 26

Congregational Informational Meeting: Sunday, August 26, 5:00PM

Women's Bible study begins: Tuesday & Wednesday, September 11 & 12

Marriage Weekend: September 14-16

Annual Celebration & Appreciation: Sunday, September 23, 6:00PM



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 IS
PROMOTION SUNDAY.**

**ALL CHILDREN AGES
3 THROUGH HIGH
SCHOOL WILL MOVE UP
TO THEIR NEXT LEVEL.**

iN EXCESS SALE
SAT. AUG. 18th 7am-7pm
"GOOD THINGS SOLD TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE"

WHERE?
PARKING LOT OF VCC
4455 Del Valle Pkwy
Pleasanton, CA 94566

COLLECTION DATES
SUN. JULY 29
SUN. AUG 05
SUN. AUG 12
TIMES: 8:30-11am & 5-6pm
WHERE: By the Bell Tower
(In front of the church)

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: WWW.INVERSIONonline.ORG

The poster includes a map showing the location at the intersection of Santa Rita and Main St, near Del Valle. A compass rose indicates North, South, East, and West.