

---

---

# ❖ Vital Connections ❖

---

Volume 17 Issue 2

February 2012

---

## **SUPER BOWL 2012 PARTY FEBRUARY 5, 5:25PM**

**Jim and Donna Ray  
Home**

3726 Norman Court  
Fargo, ND 58014



We had so much fun hosting our Super Bowl open house last year that we're going to do it again! The game is slated to begin at 5:25 pm CST on Sunday evening, February 5<sup>th</sup>, so come, hunker down and watch the whole game ... or just drop by to visit for as long as you like. Bring some good football-watching food to share and we'll all have a good time together. And, if you're not into football, that's OK, too! We'll have chairs set up throughout the first floor (just like we did last year) where you can get away from the noise of the game and just visit with like-minded brothers and sisters. Fair enough? We look forward to seeing you there.

## **VALENTINE'S PARTY!!**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10TH, 7PM  
Adults, singles and couples, at  
Santa Lucia's**

Choice of foods are:

Classic Lasagna

Norwegian Salmon

Vegetarian Sampler

Chicken Marcella

Cheese Pizza

You pre-order your food with your reservation so that the food will be ready soon after arrival. Desserts and Drinks will be offered at the restaurant. A sign up sheet for reservations and food choice is available on the bulletin board outside the church office. You need to make your reservation and food choice by **February 5th!**

## **VALENTINE'S PARTY FOR NURSERY THROUGH GRADE 5**

**6:30 - 9:00PM**

While you are away and enjoying your time, there will be games, crafts, stories and food for the children at the church building. What an opportunity for everyone to have a great time!



### **Fall in Love**

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good." Ps. 34:8*

### **Follow the Lord**

*"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1*

### **Find Your Life**

*"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."*

*Matt. 16:25*

## FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS

In my January 1<sup>st</sup> “State of the Church” message (and last month’s newsletter article) I shared with you the results of many months of study conducted by the elders and myself into what a disciple is and how Jesus made disciples. Then, I had the privilege of introducing to you the framework of our plan for making disciples Jesus’ way!

The broad outline of this plan is expressed in the simple three-part statement you have heard ... and will be hearing - again and again - as time goes on: **Fall in Love. Follow the Lord. Find Your Life.** This statement not only expresses the mission and vision of Valley Christian Church, it also expresses the approach we will take to pursuing that mission and vision.

Over the next few months, I’d like to use this space to explain in greater detail exactly what the statement means. So let’s begin with: **“FALL IN LOVE”**

It seems entirely appropriate, with Valentine’s Day just over the horizon, to talk about falling in love! In the VCC Ministry Statement, of course, **“Fall in Love”** refers to falling in love with Jesus!

In the first phase of Jesus’ training of the disciples, He invited potential followers to investigate who He was and how He lived (John 1:39). He did not burden them with any responsibilities, only welcomed them to look and listen. Many of those who accepted this invitation fell in love with Jesus.

Our desire is that every guest at Valley also be invited to investigate Jesus – to check Him out. We want them to find out who He really is, how much He loves them, and all that He has done for them. Following Jesus’ example, we don’t want to burden them with any responsibilities – only welcome them to look & listen – and discover the One who would rather die than live without them! We believe that people who see Jesus as He is, will fall in love with Him! And we believe that this love for the Lord is the starting point for the life of love that characterizes Real Followers of Jesus!

Naturally, the most difficult part of any plan is working out the details. And I would be less than honest if I didn’t tell you that we’re still trying to do just that. However, at this point, it seems likely that the primary environment that will be designated for helping people **Fall in Love with Jesus** will be our Sunday morning worship service. After all, this is the setting in which:

His sacrifice is remembered in the Lord’s Supper.

His teachings are proclaimed in the message.

And those who have already fallen in love with Him, declare that love in their songs of praise!

### FINAL LEG OF THE JOURNEY

If you worship at Valley regularly you already know that, since September, we have been exploring Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount ... discovering what Jesus says about how His disciples are to live. In the course of this exploration we have seen that Real Followers of Jesus are:

A Focused People

A Peculiar People

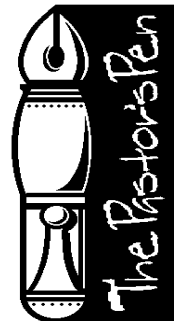
A Generous People

And ... a Praying People.

The **Final Leg** of this journey will begin on February 12<sup>th</sup> when we launch a new series of messages, drawn from Matthew 7, in which we will see that Real Followers of Jesus are also **“A Discerning People.”** Don’t miss it!

I love being your pastor!

-Jim



**REAL - SIMPLE - BIBLICAL**

**Real Followers a Praying People**

**Feb 5 "Practicing Fasting"**

**Real Followers A Discerning People**

**Feb 12 "Discerning of People"**

**Feb 19 "Discerning of Paths"**

**Feb 26 "Discerning of Preachers"**

**Mar 4 "Discerning of Practices"**

**Ministry Schedule**

**February**

Servers Joel C, Kris C,  
Dennis M, Travis J  
Communion Preparation Tammy Strandlien

**Nursery Schedule February**

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Feb 5	Marie Thress Carl Thress	Marie Thress Kris Caton Roza Yunusova
Feb 12	Mary Safranski Nancy Dorsett	Mary Safranski Jena Dorsett Lorna Caton
Feb 19	Tammy Strandlien Dennis Mischel	Tammy Strandlien Carl Thress
Feb 26	Corrie Jones Hilary Woods	Julie Waa Cindy Wickie Alan Jones

**Nursery Wednesday Evenings**

Feb 1 Tim Shappell and Kris Caton  
Feb 8 Marie and Carl Thress  
Feb 15 Lori Arneson and Corrie Jones  
Feb 22 Alicia Kauffman and Ana Jones  
Feb 29 Mary Safranski

**Children's Worship**

Feb 2 Lorna Caton and Claire Smith  
Feb 12 Barb Mischel and Alicia Yokom  
Feb 19 Helen Shaya and Sarah Jansen  
Feb 26 Barb Mischel and Jena Dorsett

---Nancy Dorsett's mom, Dorothy, fell on the cement and has broken bones in her face and will have a long recovery

---Leo Ostendorf had vocal cord surgery this past month for a benign growth

---Eileen Trei as fluid has been building up in her lungs again

---Eileen Trei's mom as she recovers from colon cancer surgery

---Brett Wittmier as he heals from gastric bypass surgery

---Praise! -- Our missionaries work from the Fargo-Mhd area to South Africa, Mexico and Guinea

---Heather Ganong has had to have several toe surgeries over the past month and is now back in boarding school

---All families facing difficulties, whether physical, emotional, financial or any other problems



**VCC Staff**

<b>Minister</b>	Jim Ray		
<b>Admin. Asst.</b>	Judy Lord		
<b>2011 - 2012 Board</b>			
<b>Elders</b>	Joel Caton	<b>Deacons</b>	Jason Bowles Beth Jansen
	Curt Ness		Kevin Jansen Chris Kauffman
	Tim Shappell		Todd Morse Donna Ray
	David Smith		Laura Ronngren Roger Safranski
	Evan Waa		Dale Strandlien
<b>Trustees</b>	Kevin Jansen	Travis Johnson	
	Barb Mischel	David Mohn	Galen Ronngren
<b>Officers</b>	Chair David Smith	Vice-Chair Kevin Jansen	
	Treasurer Jan Ness	Financial Secretary Peggy Rieth	
	Recording Secretary Judy Lord		

**It Figures through January 22**

Sun. Sch. Attendance Jan. 58 (Jan. 2011 avg. 53)  
Worship Attendance Jan. 101 (Jan. 2011 avg. 104)  
Visitors welcomed in January 17  
Giving General Fund thru January 22 \$ 16,431.59  
Monthly base need \$ 15,420.00  
For any questions, contact Jan Ness, Treasurer.

# Small Groups

## Sunday

### Sunday School Classes for all ages

9:00am

Nursery - Adult

### Adult Sunday School Class meeting at Jansen home

This study, Building Up Your Spouse focuses on building security and trust in your marriage relationship, bringing out the best in each other through love, support and affirmation. Jansen address is 3806 4th St. S. Moorhead, MN

## Tuesday

### Early Riser's Bible Study at 7am

Meet at the Fryn' Pan on Main Ave in Fargo for breakfast and study from Proverbs.

Contact Person: Ed Dorsett 218-789-7475

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6*

# Wonderful Wednesday

**It's the middle of the week and we all need a boost. What better place to get that than with your church family!**

Begin at 6:00pm for supper and studies will begin at 6:45pm. You do not need to bring any food for supper, but a \$2 donation per person is suggested. Studies will end by 8:00pm to allow everyone to be home a bit earlier. Classes for youth will have times of lessons, service projects and game nights.

### Nursery for up through age 3

### King's Kids Preschool through grade 5

taught by Beth Jansen. Theme for winter is "Sharing God with Others". Learning how to share God at this younger age, will be a wonderful tool to use as they grow older!

### Grades 6-8 taught by Julie Waa and Michelle Smith

Continuing on with "Who is God"

### Grades 9-12 taught by Jason and Amy Bowles

Community Unity (CU)

### Adult Class taught by David Smith

Looking at the New Testament Epistles

### Adult Class taught by Jim Ray

Eats with Sinners introduces a biblical model for personal evangelism - building relationships the way Jesus did one meal (or cup of coffee) at a time. Each week's study concludes with a "Meal Plan", which contains questions designed to give group members the opportunity for personal reflection and practical application.

## It's Time for Retirement

*Thank you for all the years I've had the privilege of serving with this VCC family. It has come to that time of my life where I feel it is time to retire. I will retire as your church secretary May 31, 2012. I was baptized 34 years ago here at Valley. I have taught and been taught, grown and been tested through several seasons of my life since that time. I have served on your Board for 30 years in different capacities. It has been a true highlight in my life to have served the past 13 years as your church secretary. You are truly all my family and I cherish the friendships, love, acceptance and support I have felt over all these years. You will be in my prayers always.*

*Love and Prayers, Judy Lord*

# Planning Ahead

## MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

APRIL 13-14

GRACE CHURCH IN EDEN PRAIRIE, MN

**THEME:** *“INSIDE - OUTSIDE - ALL AROUND THE WORLD!”*

**Speaker:** Marvin Phillips from Tulsa, Oklahoma

In addition to stirring messages, there will be great fellowship, practical workshops, phenomenal worship and inspiring sessions for all ages.

Teen Convention for grades 6-12

Children’s Convention for toddler, preschool - grade 5 and a nursery

Watch for more details at [www.mnconvention.org](http://www.mnconvention.org), facebook and in your bulletins and newsletters to come.

## Vital Connections

Valley Christian Church

611 37th Avenue South

Moorhead, MN 56560

Jim Ray, Minister

Web site: [www.rrvcc.org](http://www.rrvcc.org)

Ph. 218/233-7856 email: [ValleyChristian@rrvcc.org](mailto:ValleyChristian@rrvcc.org)

Address Service Requested

---

*In this issue:*

*Fall in Love with Jesus*

*Super Bowl Party*

*Valentine’s Party*

---