

Youth Meetings are the second Sat. of each month. Come join us for games, a meal and a lesson!



Greetings From The Grove

Kallam Grove Christian Church
An Evangelical Covenant Church

May, 2018

Visit the Prayer wall!
kallamgrovechurch.org then
Connecting In
Community

A HARD SEASON

Every week John sends me a proof for the bulletin and asks, are there any updates on the joys and concerns? Lately it has felt strange, because there haven't really been any changes. We have a long list of people in our church, not to mention all those people we lift up who are not members, that have been facing serious medical concerns and week after week nothing seems to change. It is no secret that this has been a hard season for the people at Kallam Grove. Lord knows what it is like for the people actually suffering the problems, but it is even hard for everyone else, because you are concerned for one another and feel the anxiety when answers don't come quickly. In the end I think this is to your credit. You genuinely care for one another and when one person isn't alright then the whole body isn't right.

What are we to do? Well, please don't stop praying for one another. I don't know what it looks like to you when the back of the bulletin doesn't seem to change very much, but I can assure you it isn't typos. Those are all still up to date concerns! It is easy to encounter a need and pray for it and feel a sense of satisfaction that we've done "all we could do." It is much more difficult to keep seeing the same things over and over and wonder, "what's going on that nothing seems to change?" This is a chance for us to learn to be more faithful in our prayers.

This is not to say that you haven't been. To the contrary, I want to encourage you all. I can't say how many side conversations I've had with people who are just seriously concerned about their brothers and sisters trying to figure out, "what's really going on." I admire this about Kallam Grove. But I will take this opportunity to remind you of some of the aids Kallam Grove has at your disposal.

First is Mary's prayer group that meets every other Wednesday night. She leads the group through prayers for the world in general, our nation in general, and our community in particular. Each meeting they pray through our entire prayer list. It doesn't take more than a half an hour and you don't even have to talk if you don't want to, but it is an easy way to be intentional about praying through these hard times. Second are two tools that have come from John Horne. We have redone the prayer wall on the website. I know this won't apply to all of you, but if you don't mind getting on a computer it's an easy way to submit a prayer request to the church. And the prayer wall isn't just a way to submit a request, it's also a tool to see requests. If you view the wall it shows you requests and you can click a button to show you have prayed for that request. That way people who need prayer can see they are getting it and people who want to pray can keep track of it all. Some of you reading this may be thinking, "that's nice, but I never plan on going to the website." Well, John's got you covered too. To try and accommodate more people, John has started printing a paper copy of all our prayer lists, both from the website and from our bulletin and leaving it back with the bulletins in the entry way. It will be updated periodically as needed. So, even if you don't want to mess with the internet, you can still pray your way through our needs.

To sum up, then, I am always encouraged to see just how much you do care for one another. There are several of your sisters and brothers who really need your prayers right now. Answers have not come quickly for them. I know it is strange to see the same entries week after week and wonder, "haven't I already prayed for that?" But don't stop praying, especially in these long hard times. Pray however you can, but if you find it hard to stay disciplined, please take advantage of the resources available to you at Kallam Grove so we can pray together for each other. Come to the prayer group, every other Wednesday night at 6:30, check out the prayer wall on the website, or pick up one of our prayer lists in the back.

LOOKING AHEAD

April was a fun month. We began with Easter and I have to say, I really enjoyed our Easter this year. Anyone who's ever asked me about services knows I can be critical of myself, but I enjoyed this year without reservations. Thank you again to the guys who did breakfast and thank you to Keith and Brenda and Jennifer and Taylor. The choir sounded so very good this year. It put an exclamation point on what is already one of my favorite Sundays of the year. We also celebrated Leon's honor, becoming only the third graduate of Bethany School to be inducted into the Order of the Longleaf Pine. I hope everyone has congratulated him. To think that out of only three from this area to have received the award, two of them are still living and sitting in the pews with you at Kallam Grove! Leon and Clay both stress that there are more who deserve it and I believe them - Bethany is a special place. We also had fun at the annual youth auction. On the surface it may have seemed like any other year, but that would be misleading, because this year it was under totally different leadership. I would like to thank the entire youth committee, but especially Steve and Chrystal for doing much of the prep work - mailing out letters, ordering food, etc. Again, Kallam Grove proves itself to be a special place when we see how the church comes out to support its youth. Thank you all, organizers and supporters for another year encouraging our youth.

May is not quite as busy, but we still have some important things coming up. First, May 3rd is National Day of Prayer. Again, please check out the website and find the sign up for National Day of Prayer. You can choose an hour time slot you want to use for focusing on praying and, after you've signed up, you will receive a reminder on the 3rd. This is very helpful for absent minded people like me. Then, the next week on Monday, May 7th, Phillip Johnston will lead us in a Bible study. The curriculum is not pre-prepared because it will not work like a traditional study on a Bible book or topic. Instead Phillip asks that each attendee brings in verses that are important or confusing to them. Then together the class can explore the meaning *and application* of the verse for our walks of faith - something often overlooked. Phillip has spent many years studying and teaching the Bible and I am looking forward to sitting in his class. Please join us. Finally, we are looking at doing some marketing for the church this year. To that end I want to alert all you Chairs that I would like to spend some time with you at the next church council. I still feel like we need a unifying direction, especially if we are trying to tell outsiders who we are. I want to know what priorities you have for the church. Also, in order to get our website more current and to do any printing of brochures, we need to have your permission to use your pictures. Please see me or Megan if you need the waiver. Please also remember you are free to say no. I'm sure there will be more to come up, so keep your ears to the ground. Thank you for a great spring so far!

Pastor Nathanael Putnam

**Mary's
Prayer
Group**

**Every other
Wed. at 6:15!**

**Grover's
May 22 at 6:30 at
Mayflower in
Madison! Hosted
by Elaine & Roger.**

**Philip Johnston's Bible Study
will begin on May 7th at 6:30!
Hope you can join us for good
discussion and great insight
into Bible verses that you find
confusing or those that are
important to you!**

**The 2018 Festival
of Tables date is
September 22nd.
The theme is
"Where in the
World". Mrs. Kim
Knight will return
as our guest
speaker. For
ladies wishing to
hostess a table,
the sign up sheet
is now in the
vestibule. Those
wishing to attend
may sign up as
well. Hostess
information
packets will be
handed out
following worship
service May 27th.**

**Youth
Auction
was a
great
success
with over
\$6,000.
raised!
Thanks to
all!**