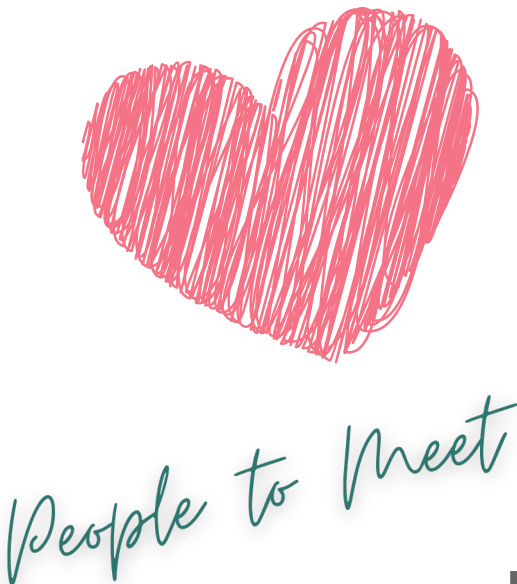


# SALT AND LIGHT

Preserving, Illuminating, and Bringing Warmth and Flavor  
to Our Community and the World

Matthew 5:13-16

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Above Right: Haley, Hannah, Roy,  
Wendy Clark  
Below: Roy and Wendy Clark



## FOR A PURPOSE

How the Clark family chose to make the Wood River Valley their home

We moved to the Wood River Valley from the San Francisco Bay Area in 2014, for the specific purpose of getting involved in a smaller community and being able to spend more time with friends and neighbors.

In California, we were all moving in our separate circles and commuting in different directions. Roy was a salesman for a safety corporation in Emeryville. Wendy was teaching writing classes at Napa Valley College. Roy and Wendy were serving at a church with Hannah in Vallejo, and Haley and our middle daughter, Heather, were serving at a different church in Vallejo. We all knew different people in many different places and contexts in the Bay Area.

We came to agreement as a family that because life is short and not all things are equally important, we wanted to join our circles and together as a family, spend time investing in the same people, to have deeper and more meaningful connections to the people in our lives.

We realized that it would be difficult to be engaged in a community in the way we were envisioning if we stayed in a large, metropolitan area.

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# TASTE AND SEE

Psalm 34:8

*Reflections on Scripture*

by Wendy Anne Clark

A lot of people live as if God has tiny T-Rex arms that can't possibly reach them where they are, but the truth is that there is no way for you to move so far from God that He can't reach you.



*Passages to Ponder*

The Prophet Isaiah writes:

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear" ( Isaiah 59:1).

And God issues this invitation to His people:

"Call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me" (Psalm 50:15).

In Psalm 139, David ponders the nearness of God and the intimate knowledge He has of us personally. Here is one small portion of what David is thinking about:

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

Psalm 139: 1-6, NIV

"We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere incognito."

C.S. Lewis, "Letters to Malcolm"  
(1964)

## Church in a Coffee House?

## Church on a Saturday Night?

## FREE Dinner?

Yes.

The House Church meets on Saturday nights at 5:30 at the Coffee House, 620 N. Main Street, Hailey, ID

We call it our "casual church" because it is a casual and warm family atmosphere. You really can come however you were dressed for the day. You don't need to do anything special to get ready.

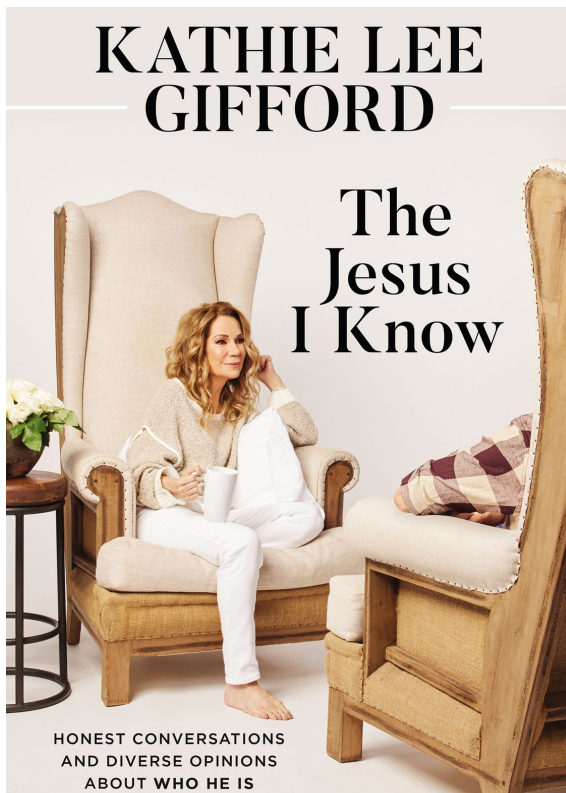
Dinner is at 5:30, and it's a home-cooked meal. It is perfectly fine to come just to dinner. Spend some time with us. Check us out. See if we are people that you might enjoy getting to know.

Church starts at about 6, or a little bit later if the dinner conversation is lively.

Church goes like this: simple worship, a short video message (about 30 minutes), open discussion of what was taught, communion, and praying for each other.

New people are always welcome.

*An Invitation to Consider*



## SIMPLE TRUFFLES

*A Recipe to Try*

### Ingredients

1 1/2 cups Semi-Sweet or Milk-Chocolate Chips  
 1/2 cup Sweetened condensed milk  
 1/4 tsp Vanilla extract  
 Desired coatings like coconut, chopped nuts, sprinkles, cocoa powder, powdered sugar

### Directions

\*Melt Chocolate and Milk in Microwave or on stove.  
 \*Stir in Vanilla.  
 \*Chill in refrigerator until mixture can be rolled into balls (about 30 minutes)  
 \*Roll into balls and then roll in desired coating.

## A TASTE FOR BOOKS

*My Reviews and Recommendations for a Good Read*

**Grab a cup of Coffee and Enjoy a Good Book!**

*A Book to Read*

My most recent read was the non-fiction book *The Jesus I Know--Honest Conversations and Diverse Opinions about Who He Is* by Kathy Lee Gifford.

This is an interesting book of conversations that Kathy Lee Gifford has with people she knows. Many are people whose names I recognized like Kristin Chenoweth, Megyn Kelly, and Kris Jenner. Many others I did not recognize but on looking them up, I found that I was familiar with them. A few were unknown to me.

Gifford asks each person in the book to describe his or her experience and relationship to Jesus, and she asks them questions like these: When did you first encounter Jesus? How did He meet you where you were? How has that experience impacted your life or affected the way you live?

The conversations present people at all different places of discovery and understanding, making it clear that we are all imperfect people, learning as we grow and move through life. Many of the answers were surprising and challenged the assumptions that I have made about celebrities and the choices they make. There are stories of pain and loss, failure and redemption.

Because each chapter is a different conversation, this is a book that you can easily read a little at a time, fitting it into empty spaces around the edges of your life. There's a lot here to ponder and much that makes for good conversations.

The overall taste of this book is hopefulness with tones of encouragement, swimming in a rich sauce of love and grace. It is both tenderly sweet and warmly savory.

I highly recommend.



# FOR A PURPOSE

*continued from Page 1*

Instead, we would look for a smaller, more contained community where we might encounter the same people at the store, at the park, playing on sports teams, at musical events, and more.

We had long had a dream of establishing a coffee house as a place of connection within a community, a place to enjoy excellent coffee and good food with family and with friends who feel like family.

We had family members who lived in Bellevue and in Jerome, but we had never considered Idaho as a place for us. We were fully committed "California people."

During a visit to see family, we began to wonder if maybe Hailey, Idaho was the place where what we were envisioning could come to life, but that seemed just a little crazy to us. We began praying about what we should do.

Wendy was speaking at a women's conference in Monterey, California in January of 2013, where she was approached at two different times by two different women that she did not know and who did not know each other.

The first woman said, "When you walked in the room, I leaned over to the woman sitting next to me and said that I didn't know how I knew, but that I knew that you and your family were going to move to Idaho and open a coffee house." She was embarrassed and hesitant to tell Wendy because, as she said, "I'm a Baptist, and we don't do this sort of thing."

The second woman said, "I keep looking up to see you (in a room of 500 women), and every time I see you, I have this thought



pop into my head, that God is going to take back the Wood River Valley." She had no idea of where that was or what that might mean, and she had never been to Idaho.

Since we are firmly convinced that when we pray, we ought to pay attention to how God responds to our prayers, as a family we agreed that Hailey, Idaho must be the place, and we began to prepare to move.

We put our house up for sale (not a profitable time to do it), gave notice at our jobs, and began packing up and getting ready to move.

We came to the valley in August of 2014 and opened The Coffee House--A Gathering Place on Christmas Eve.

Why did we change our entire lives, move to a new place, and start all over? Because we have come to understand that people matter and that a lot of people need hope, but the only lasting hope we have is as followers of Jesus.

So we spend time with people and hear their stories and invite them to come to consider Jesus and to draw near to Him in order to know Him, not as a religious activity but as a friend.

If you are even a tiny bit curious about what we mean by that, we invite you to come and see.

**Saturday Nights at the Coffee House**  
**620 N. Main Street, Hailey, ID**  
**5:30 dinner, 6:00 Casual Church**

