



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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NO. 19

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

AAA

The announcement of the stewardship campaign was scheduled for last Sunday. Since the worship service was cancelled due to severe weather, our Stewardship Campaign will begin next Sunday, October 15th. There will be messages about stewardship the next two weeks; October 29th will be Commitment Sunday. The theme for this year's campaign will be *One for All: Giving as Jesus Gave!*; the Biblical passage upon which it is based is John 3:16. The scripture teaches us that God gave His one and only Son for all the world. Once the campaign is complete a budget for next year will be presented to the Board on November 12th. After input from the Board, the budget will be presented to the congregation on December 3rd. Our Stewardship Committee invites your prayers for the success of the campaign for Valley's ministry in 2018.

John Neville



Our next AAA event will be a trip to Little River Canyon on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 leaving the church by van at 8:00 a.m. Our first activity will be a stop at the Visitor Center for a short movie and a look at some of the scenic areas of the canyon. Lunch will be at the Wildflower Cafe in Mentone followed by a visit to Orbix Hot Glass gift shop and a look at glass blowers at work.

Everyone is welcome to go. Please sign the reservation list on the desk near the elevator if you would like to join us.



Dear Valley Christian Church, thank you so much for that beautiful and tasty "going away" reception. I also want to express my thanks for the gorgeous picture of Valley Christian's front and for the two cookbooks (Mom says thanks for the one she received).

Most of all, thank you for six glorious years of music and your loving friendship. There will always be a part of Valley in me. Tim Beiro (p.s. I'll keep in touch!)

BVM PICNIC



Our annual Valley – Macedonia picnic, sponsored by Building Valley Macedonia, will be held at Macedonia on Saturday, October 14th, beginning at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be at 1:00 p.m. and will feature "Fish by Thomasine" and "Hot Dogs by Robert". The high point of the afternoon will be the traditional game of horseshoes. Come and cheer for Gary and our other Valley participants. They will probably need it!

Everyone is invited. Please bring a dish to share with others. Directions to Macedonia are available from Gary or Lola.

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ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET



Thanks to everyone who is writing a devotional for our Advent Devotional Booklet. We will appreciate receiving them by November 1st so we can have the booklet ready for distribution on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017. The devotionals may be e-mailed to the office or given to Lola Kiser. Each devotional should be a maximum of approximately 250 words.

CONGRATULATIONS



Robyn Mitchell is a proud new grandmother. Daniel and Sarah had a baby boy, Gabriel, on October 2, 2017. He weighed 10 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. Looking forward to meeting you, Gabriel.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

**NEWSLETTER FROM ELENA HUEGEL
(Global Mission Partner – Mexico)**



(Elena's newsletter in its entirety is posted on the church bulletin board. She gave an update on the earthquake in her area of Mexico.)

I wrapped a prayer shawl around the shoulders of Pastora Noemí, a mother, a pastor, and the coordinator of the Church of the Nazarene seminary in Juchitán, Oaxaca. This prayer shawl was given to me last year by the women at First Christian Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and has been on many travels with me. I felt Pastora Noemí needed the comfort and encouragement of all those prayers. She wept with tears of pain as well as gratitude as she began to tell me her story. Her husband was not at home the night of the earthquake. She managed to get her four year old daughter from the second floor down to the first floor as the house fell down around them. Then, she brought her 85 year old mother-in-law to little piece of the house still standing. It is a miracle none of them cut their feet on the broken glass. Noemi went back upstairs to look for shoes, feeling around in the dark, Then the three huddled together in the deep stillness of the night, unable to find a way out of the house. It was at that moment that they saw the first blip of light. Then another and another. Fireflies! Never before had Noemi seen fireflies anywhere near her city home. They hugged each other, granddaughter, mother and grandmother, and exclaimed with delight at each new flash. When the neighbors finally called and then helped them out of the rubble, they discovered the fireflies were all over the neighborhood, bringing joy and hope sparkling into the darkest of nights.

I am looking for the fireflies in the midst of all the bad news. One firefly flash for me is the prayer by Archbishop Ken Untener that I quote below. I don't have to do everything, but I will do my best to shine faithfully in the tiny fraction of time and space where I am called to be a part of God's mission. Thanks to all of you for your emails, prayers and concerns over the past month. Please continue to pray for the Roots in the Ruins: Hope in Trauma program as we accompany those affected by these disasters and train new facilitators to bring healing in the midst of so much need. May each of you shine like sparks of firefly light wherever God has placed you today. Elena Huegel, September, 2017



Fireflies

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.*

Fireflies (continued)

*This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

Bishop Ken Untener

(This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener. The words of the prayer are attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.)
http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/archbishop_romero_prayer.cfm, Sept. 23, 2017



Saturday, October 14th, Work Day, 9:00 – 12:00 noon
*Sunday, October 15th, Cabinet Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Thursday, October 19th, BVM Eat-Out @ Niki's West, 6:00 p.m. All welcome!
*Sunday, October 22nd, Elders' Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Monday, October 23rd, Voice Deadline

(* Note Date Changes)



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Kyle Byrd, William Byrd's brother

Matt Cutcliffe, Akira, Cerys & Tia and Hayley Edridge, son, and grandchildren of Marilyn Cutcliffe

Noah Edge, Ashville, NC, Gary Edge's son

Lorene Edge, home, Gary Edge's mother

Roy Evans, Jean Thrasher's brother

Russell Fountain

Thomasine Glenn

Bill Gwaltney, Johnson City, TN, Ginny Guindon's dad

Michael Hodges, Dana Stuckenschneider's brother

Ellen Phillips, Episcopal Place #1, 1112 26th Street South, Apt. 406, Birmingham 35205

Flora Richardson, Fairhaven, L2, Room 7215, 1424 Montclair Road, Birmingham 35210

Sherry Sims, Gary Edge's cousin

Dana Stuckenschneider, home

Robert & Ruby Wilkes