



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
2600 Cherokee Place, Birmingham, AL 35216
(205) 879-0419
www.vccbhm.org; Valleycc@bellsouth.net

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THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

In the Christian church year, the celebration of the birth of Christ goes on for two Sundays after Christmas until January 6th. We call this Season Epiphany. Epiphany marks the change between the Season of Christmas and the transitional season that occurs until Lent begins in February.

What does the word "epiphany" mean? An "epiphany" is when something reveals itself, or shows itself. The word Epiphany is actually from a Greek word that means literally "coming to light," or "shining forth." Epiphany, in our faith context, is a day when we think of the light of Christ shining forth in the world – **Christ coming to light.**

For the next two months, we will be in the Epiphany season, and the Scripture readings, the hymns, the sermons – everything that you see and hear and sing and pray in our worship service will serve one purpose, and that is this – "to reveal to you, the glory of our Savior - Jesus the Christ! So, like Isaiah, you and I can sum up the festival of Epiphany with one phrase, ***"Arise, Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."***

ESQG QUILTERS



The ladies (and a few gentlemen) of the **Evening Star Quilt Guild** are sewing their way into 2018 with lots of activities! This Friday and Saturday, **January 5th and 6th**, the guild hosts all-day (9-5) workshops by visiting teacher Winnie Fleming, who specializes in complicated-looking medallion and star blocks, surrounded by multiple borders. On **January 26th**, the quarterly Friday Night Drive-In meets from 5 until 11pm for a mystery sew-along. Then on the following day, Saturday, **January 27th**, the monthly Sit 'n Sew meets from 8am until 3pm, and includes a special workshop on Singer Featherweight sewing machine maintenance.

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ESQG QUILTERS (continued)



If you haven't watched these ladies work their quilting magic with sewing machines, fabric, and more tools and gadgets than you can imagine, feel free to drop by to observe. And they would love for you to join in and sew with them - contact eveningstarquiltguild@gmail.com for class availability or to learn more.

2018

Annual Church Planning Retreat And Board Meeting For 2018 Saturday, January 13, 2018 9 Am till 11:30 Am

Our Annual Church Planning Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 13th, from 9:00 am until 11:30. The Retreat will begin with a brief Board Meeting of all our new and past Board members. Following the Board meeting we will ask all the new leaders and members of our Ministry Teams [Worship, Education (Adult and Youth), Fellowship, Membership, Property, Outreach/Stewardship] to gather around tables in the Fellowship Hall to do their planning for the new church year.

The schedule of the Retreat includes:

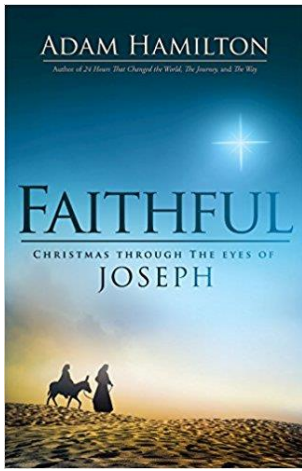
- 9:00 – 9:15 Coffee and sweets in the Fellowship Hall
- 9:15 – 9:45 Board Meeting
- 9:45 – 11:00 Planning Meeting for 2018
- 11:00 – 11:30 Calendar Coordination for 2018

This should be a very productive meeting as we prayerfully work together to let God's spirit lead us with new and creative ideas. Thus we will be fulfilling Christ's call to go out into the world and proclaim the good news of God's love for all the world!

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



Everyone is invited to our Adult Sunday School class, taught by Rev. John Gregory, as we continue the study of Christmas through the eyes of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Although Joseph's place in the Christmas story is sometimes overlooked in our emphasis on other characters, his life contains valuable lessons for all of us. We tend to focus on Mary, mother of Jesus, and on Luke's account of the Christmas story.

Our book for this study is *Faithful, Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*, written by Adam Hamilton. Hence our biblical focus is on the gospel of Matthew, which is told from Joseph's vantage point. Joseph must have been kind, faithful and courageous as he responded to the angel who visited him in a dream. Joseph found himself on a journey to Bethlehem which he probably didn't want to take, just as we today find ourselves on journeys which we do not want to take. If you have ever been in this situation, you will find our study very interesting and challenging.

We meet at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. Bring your cup of coffee and join our discussion!

THE WEATHER DID IT!!



James Spann told us about the cold coming this week, but AAA folks kept hoping. We finally postponed our trip to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge until warmer weather. We will probably get together for lunch here in Birmingham later this month. If you have a suggestion for a good place to eat, please talk with Lola or Gary.

SINGING AT BROOKDALE



Everybody is invited to "tune up" your singing voices and join us for an afternoon of singing with our friends at Claire Bridge. We will load up the church van at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 21st, or you may meet us there. This is a great way to start off the New Year by bringing Christ to others through music.

Save the Date



Sunday, January 7th, Food Pantry Sunday
Tuesday, January 9th, MannaMarket, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 14th, Elders' Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Thursday, January 18th, BVM Eat-Out Niki's West, 6 p.m.
Fri.-Sun., January 19th-21st, Senior Adult-Youth Retreat
Monday, January 22nd, VOICE Deadline

PRAYER LIST



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Sister Mary Bell, Macedonia Christian Church

Kyle Byrd, William Byrd's brother

Matt, Akira, Cerys and Tia Cutcliffe, 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, Macedonia Christian Church

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

James Hammett, Terry Nunnelly's brother-in-law

Michael Hodges, Dana Stuckenschneider's brother

Midge Hoke, % James Hoke, 1104 West Joy Lane, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

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, Macedonia Christian Church