



# Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
*(Disciples of Christ) Birmingham, Alabama*



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Website: [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)**  
**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Summer Worship Schedule

**Sunday, August 15**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, August 22**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, August 29**

10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Sept 5**

10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- August 20th and 21st— Congregational Transformation Event at First Christian Birmingham.
- August 25th—AAA Trip to Bankhead House in Jasper
- August 29th— Senior Adult Sunday
- Sept 6th—Labor Day—Office Closed
- Sept 15th— Lunch and Appalachian Trail Lecture by Edd Spencer—Fellowship Hall

*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

In an earlier column some months ago, I shared with all of you how many of the parks, preserves, and other outdoor spaces in and around Birmingham that Carrie, Sadie, and I had been blessed to enjoy since arriving here. In our first year here, from August to August, we made it to thirty different parks and outdoor spaces for hiking, play, and recreation. The natural beauty of Birmingham continues to humble us, and I am grateful that these spaces have been set aside for people to enjoy for generations to come.

We set aside space for one another in so many other ways in our lives, too—especially in setting aside space on our calendars to give the gifts of our time, presence, and attention to each other. To that end, and on the recommendation of our Regional Minister, Rev. John Mobley, and our Associate Regional Minister, Rev. Dale Braxton, I warmly invite you to participate in one session of what we are calling Circles of Five.

Each Circle of Five will be four Valley laypeople plus myself, gathered together—perhaps over coffee or soft drinks—to answer together the following questions: What do I want my minister to know about my family of origin and my family today? What do I want my minister to know about my faith in God as revealed through God's Son, Jesus Christ? What do I want my minister to know about the key events in my life that have shaped me and my values or priorities? And, what do I want my minister to know about my gifts and accomplishments that I take pride in?

I will be answering those questions as well for each of you. It is my hope and prayer that these conversations can facilitate the deeper understanding of one another that the circumstances brought about by COVID-19 have largely stymied.

I am committing to hosting one such Circle of Five session every Monday afternoon at either 1:30 or 3:00 in the church parlor between now and the end of September. You can sign up for an individual Monday with either myself or Marilyn Ireland in the church office. You are welcome to attend via Zoom, and I recommend budgeting 75 – 90 minutes for your session. If Monday afternoons are not a possibility for you, please email me so that we can set up another time.

Beyond those sessions, I keep office hours almost every morning Monday through Thursday, and I keep my cell phone, whose number is listed in our yearbook, with me at all times. I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully seeing you at a Circle of Five session sometime soon.

Christ's and yours,  
Pastor Eric

**August 10 2021**

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# Life in the Valley

## Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for Joel Kramme, husband of Lola Kiser's niece Mary Kay Kramme, as he is having medical tests in Missouri this week.
- Please pray for the stepdaughter of Jean Thrasher, Brenna Simpson, who is in Gadsden Regional Hospital.
- Ginny Guindon has had a joy that she finally got to visit with her father, stepmother, brother and sister and their families in Tennessee. She hasn't seen them since November 2020. Jessica, her daughter, went with her too, and she had not seen them for even longer.
- Eric and Carrie Atcheson are so grateful for their wonderful new home and also that the move is behind them. They now have a place to call their own.
- Carol Speed's neighbor, Beth, is in the UAB hospital with heart trouble after surgery and needs your prayers.
- Judy Seller's daughter's cousin's niece, Angie Williams, was taken from a school bus in Georgia. Please pray for all those involved and that the Lord will return her unharmed to her family.
- Valley would like to thank the Evangelism Committee and everyone who worked on the Blessing of the Pets Event, such as Carolyn, Beth, Ed, Peggi and Lola. It was a very touching and meaningful service for people with pets.
- Sarah Draper continues to recover from her shoulder pain and continues therapy.
- Carol Speed continues to recover well, but is still experiencing fluid buildup around her lungs that is contributing to her fatigue
- Katelyn Clark's significant other Jon Richardson continues to recover well from brain surgery to remove a tumor.
- Mary Dodson, one of our homebound persons, is being moved to the Fair Haven facility after she suffered a fracture.
- Hal Clark is still recovering from his fall. Hal has improved physically, but always walks with a cane or walker now.
- Please pray for Effie King's two sons, Dan and Larry— Dan has early Alzheimers and Larry is recovering from a pair of strokes.

## Re-Church

Re-Connect, Re-Imagine, Re-Charge  
First Christian Church, Birmingham  
Saturday, August 21, 2021

This Congregational Transformation Event is for all pastors, congregational leaders and members. The cost is \$25 per person including lunch. Registration is 8:00am—9:00am with workshops beginning at 9:00am.

On Friday night, August 20, 2021 at 7:30pm, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, our General Minister and President, will lead us in a worship service. There is no cost to attend this service.

## School Opens Soon!!

Sunday School that is. Registration for our new autumn Sunday School classes begins on Sunday, August

15 and continues on Sunday, August 22 and Sunday August 29. Each month, September-December, there is a different course, and you can register for as many as you wish. You can also register for a class just before it starts.

The first meeting of the September class is Sunday, September 5th, 9:30-10:15am, which is Labor Day weekend. If you cannot attend that first class, you can still participate in the course. Classes and dates are as follows:

September—A Study of Micah 6:8

October—Mountains and Valleys

November—Forgiveness

December—Preparing for Christmas

## AAA Events

**August:** The AAA event for August is a trip to Jasper, Alabama on Wednesday, August 25th for our 11:00am tour and talk at the Bankhead Heritage House. Please call Marilyn in the church office for reservations by Friday, August 20th. We will travel by car to Jasper, leaving the church at 9:30am. If you can drive please let Marilyn know.

The Bankhead House was built in 1910 for John H. Bankhead, who served in the Alabama Legislature and the United States Senate. Tallulah Bankhead, an award winning actress, was his granddaughter and was raised in this house. We will eat lunch together about 1:00pm in Jasper.

**September:** A treat awaits AAA on Wednesday, September 15th when Reverend Edd Spencer will present a program in the fellowship hall about "The Appalachian Trail", which he has walked in its entirety.

Lunch (\$4.00 per person) will be at 11:30 am and will feature a trail favorite. Reservations should be given to Marilyn in the church office by Friday, September 10th.

Have you ever wondered about the Trail? Edd will answer our questions in an event of fun and fellowship together! Come and enjoy!

## Blessing of the Pets

What an uplifting experience for our beloved family pets that we had this past Saturday with the Evangelism Department's Blessing of the Pets. Each pet living with us now received loving personal attention from Pastor Eric as did those who have passed over the rainbow bridge. So many people helped to make this a successful event. Thanks to Ed Guindon for all his hard work to set everything up and everyone else that had a helping hand in making this very enjoyable event.

Thanks to Carolyn and Beth Nunnely for building the bridge and making the scarves with the St. Francis medallions for each pet. Carol Speed was instrumental in getting Vicki Shay, dog obedience trainer, to come and give some important tips on training and Vicki's dog Fred was very entertaining as well with all his cute tricks. We were glad to welcome a visitor who brought her dog Dean for a wonderful and touching blessing by Pastor Eric. Peggi Zinser

