



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**2600 Cherokee Place**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**  
**35216**  
**205-879-0419**

**Email: [office@vccbhm.org](mailto:office@vccbhm.org)**  
**Website: [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)**  
**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Winter Worship Schedule

**Sunday, Jan 30**  
10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, Feb 6**  
10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, Feb 13**  
10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, Feb 20**  
10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Jan 29 - Valley Christian Planning Retreat
- Feb 6 - Food Pantry Sunday
- Feb 13 - Elders' Meeting
- Feb 16 - AAA Event - trip to Museum of Natural History in Tuscaloosa
- Feb 20 and 27 - Week of Compassion
- Feb 21 - Voice Deadline

*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

Milestones are landmarks of both space and time—in space, they demarcate how far we have traveled, and in time, they demarcate how far we have come, how we have progressed, and what we have achieved individually and collectively. The final such milestone for all of us is our reunion with Christ after death, and our sister in Christ Hattie Belle Lester arrived at that milestone as she passed away over the weekend. We both mourn her loss in this world with her family, friends, and loved ones and rejoice in the knowledge that she is now without earthly pain. Her children have requested a memorial service at Valley, so please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Milestones are not always about finality—they can be a routine practice of commemoration and celebration. The well-received Laity Sunday we celebrated on Sunday is one such milestone, one we practice every year not only for its uplifting of the work of the people of the Body of Christ, but for Valley's own practice of recognition of records of Christian service, culminating in this Sunday's presentation of Christian Service Recognition awards to Ed and Ginny Guindon and John Neville and Carolyn Nunnely. I add my sincere thanks and congratulations to each of them for their dedication to Christ and the church.

We are beginning to look ahead to the penitential season of Lent, and you will soon receive in an upcoming worship service a ballot of sorts, upon which Lola Kiser and I will invite you to share a single word—just one word!—that you associate with Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. These words will form the basis of both our Holy Week devotional booklet and my accompanying Lenten sermon series, which will again be twinned with the devotional booklet.

And I am happy to share with you the second half of my sermon series on the Philistines that will take us through February and up to Lent. I have greatly enjoyed unpacking it with you thus far, and I look forward to continuing to explore these famous and engaging stories with you!

January 30: "The Year Civilization Collapsed," Judges 13:1-5  
February 6: "Dying with the Philistines," Judges 16:17-31  
February 13: "Why be Like Pharaoh?" 1 Samuel 6:1-12  
February 20: "Goliath from Gath," 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50  
February 27: "The Tamarisk Tree Burial," 1 Samuel 31:1-13

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

**January 25 2022**

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## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Marilyn Cutcliffe was injured in a bad fall and needs your prayers.
- Peggi Zinser's daughter Leslie was diagnosed with COVID.
- Please pray for Margaret Cox, she was absent with illness and has recovered now.
- Andrea Clark's boss, Jane Pierson had COVID recently and was stuck in a hotel room in Mobile with it. Please pray for her.
- Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister, Jim Clifford, is being treated for cancer. Please pray for them.
- Please pray for Ted Stuckenschneider. He received a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis recently plus he also had COVID last week and Dana has it this week. He appreciates your prayers.
- Please pray for Bill Caughran's cousin, Anita. She has had a blood clot and brain bleed recently.
- Please pray for Marilyn Cutcliffe's nephew Thomas Edward Cutcliffe, Jr., who has been diagnosed with cancer and Marilyn's cousin, Murray Sawyer who has an aneurism.
- Please pray for Sarah Draper's nephew, Randy Yeager. He is a diabetic and having surgery on his big toe.

## Reminder

### WOC Mayfield, Kentucky

We are continuing to receive funds for the Mayfield, Kentucky Tornado Relief fund. Please mark your check WOC, Mayfield Kentucky Relief Fund. All moneys will go to the Week of Compassion to be distributed.

## February AAA Event

The AAA trip for February will be to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Wednesday, February 16th. We will meet here at the church at 9:00am for a 10:30 tour. There is an admission charge of \$1.00 for seniors. The museum is the oldest in the State of Alabama founded in 1831. We will see exhibits from the Age of Dinosaurs, the Coal age and Ice age, with exhibits about geology, zoology, and Paleontology. They have on exhibit a skull of an American Mastodon dredged up from the Tombigbee River near Demopolis and a Meteorite that hit a woman in Sylacauga in 1954. We will have lunch at the Blue Plate Restaurant recommended by Gary Edge who will be joining us for the tour. Reservations must be in by 12:00 on Friday the 11th, please let us know if you can drive. They have asked that we wear masks.

## Lent Devotional Booklet

The Holy Week Devotional Booklet this year will be entitled "Cross Words" - words that we associate with the cross of Christ. At an upcoming worship service we will ask each person to suggest one word that you associate with the crucifixion or Resurrection of Christ. Eight of these words

will form the topics for the devotionals in our Holy Week Booklet. The remaining words will be used in other Lenten services and/or sermons. Thank you for your help. - Lola Kiser

## Tornado Preparedness

On Sunday, January 30, in conjunction with the "Week of Compassion - Kentucky Tornado Relief" we will have Mt. Brook Fire Department's Lt. Bomar here after church service to give us important safety directions. Lt. Bomar has viewed our church interiors, both upstairs and down stairs and he will give instructions on where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado in our area.



## Christian Service Recognition 2021 and 2022

Congratulations to the 2021 and 2022 recipients of Valley Christian's Christian Service Recognition presented at Sunday's Church Service. Thank you very much for all your devotion and dedication and hard work for Valley Christian Church.

2021 – Ed Guindon and Ginny Guindon

2022 – John Neville and Carolyn Nunnelly

## Valley Planning Retreat

The Planning Retreat will be Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 9:30am. If you are interested in serving on a committee please come to the retreat. The following people are the Valley department Chairpersons and also the Standing Committee Chairpersons.

Department Chairpersons:

Education – Lola Kiser (Adult) and Andrea Clark (children)

Evangelism – Peggi Zinser

Fellowship – Judy Sellers

Membership – Judy Sellers

Outreach – Sarah Draper

Property – Ed Guindon

Stewardship – Sara Simon

Worship – Andrea Clark

Standing Committee Chairpersons:

Deacons – Carolyn Nunnelly

Elders – John Gregory

Trustees – Ted Stuckenschneider

Disciple Women – Ginny Guindon

Disciple Men – Stewart Draper

Undesignated Gifts, Memorials and Bequests – Ted Stuckenschneider

Designated Gifts – Andrea Clark

Personnel – John Neville