



# 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**

## Spring Worship Schedule

**Sunday Service**  
May 15 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
May 22 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
May 29 10:30 a.m.  
**Pentacost**  
**Sunday Service**  
June 5 10:30 a.m.

### Dates of Interest:

- May 15 - Valley Board Meeting
- May 23 - Voice Deadline
- May 25 - AAA Event Blue Bell Ice Cream Tour
- May 30 - Memorial Day - Office Closed
- June 4 - Valley Educational Seminar "The Church and Senior Citizens"
- June 5 - Pentecost Sunday

**May 10 2022**

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 9

*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Hello Valley, Again!

I am back! I am excited about our second journey together.

The following is the information about me that was in the November 4, 2019 issue of the Valley Voice newsletter. I want to lift it up again to refresh your memory about who I am. So, please allow me to introduce myself again.

I was born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. I attended Auburn University and Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. I met my wife Mary Pat at Seminary. Together we have served as co-pastors in Mobile, Alabama; Little Rock, Arkansas; Sarasota, Florida and Birmingham, Alabama. We have two daughters, Holly, who is the Associate Minister at South Elkhorn Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky and Stacy, who is a pre-school teacher in Birmingham. We have four wonderful grandchildren. I have served as Interim Pastor at First Christian Church, Montgomery, Alabama, Union Christian Church in Little Texas, Alabama, Valley Christian Church in Birmingham, Alabama and First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I enjoy sharing magic for children at Children's of Alabama Hospital, jogging and backpacking. In July 2015 I completed the Appalachian Trail of 2,163 miles from Georgia to Maine.

Since we were together about 2 years ago, there is one more item I want to add to this list about my life. After my ministry with Valley Christian, I accepted the position of Interim Minister at First Christian Church in Tuscaloosa.

The church is located on Bear Bryant Drive. It is only a few blocks down the road from the football stadium. Can you believe it? An Auburn graduate serving a church on the campus of the University of Alabama. It was a very unique time for me but I loved the church and the people, and serving the Lord is more important than football.

I also love Valley Christian Church and the wonderful people of this congregation. I am blessed to be with all of you again. May God guide us as we share the love and grace of God with each other, the community and the world.

God Bless You,

Edd

# Life in the Valley

## Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Sarah Draper, one of our beloved members, is sick with pneumonia and needs our prayers. Please lift her up for healing.
- Our treasured member Peggy Hiller is recovering from a visit to the hospital.
- Please lift our beloved member, Ed Guindon, up for prayers. He has been under the weather.
- Margaret Cox's oldest daughter Abby, who was adopted, has struggled with addiction since adolescence. She is much loved by Margaret, Jeff and family and Margaret was thrilled that she agreed recently to live at Lovelady Center and recover.
- Ginny Guindon said that she talked with Sharon Hill who has visited Ruby Wilkes. She is still in the hospital recovering but out of intensive care. Please pray for her, her husband, four daughters and grandchildren.
- We want to thank our favorite friend, Jean Thrasher for purchasing and transplanting all the beautiful plants for summer at the entrance to the sanctuary. You are so appreciated Jean!
- A big thank you to John Gregory for cleaning the Pastor's office and to Ginny Guindon, Sara Simon and Peggi Zinser for cleaning the downstairs storage room this past Work Day.
- We have a joy that John Gregory is participating in riding the Coldwater Mountain Bike Trail from Aniston to Atlanta. Go John!
- Jan Watts' has a joy that three of her grandchildren have graduated from high school and are going on to higher education.
- Jim Taylor has a joy that his daughter, son-in-law and three granddaughters surprised him with a visit to Valley Christian's worship service.
- The items for the GBM Pantry for May are canned fruits – peaches, pears, and cherries.
- Sara Simon asked for prayers for her brother-in-law, Brian Church. He is in ICU in Pennsylvania with a staph infection on knee replacement surgery. Also Sara's daughter-in-law's father, Lynn Hamilton is hospitalized and needs our prayers.
- Please continue to pray for the Ukrainian people as their senseless violence and destruction has continued.
- Please continue your prayers for Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister Jim Clifford. Jim says that Janice will probably have to deal with some level of cancer for the rest of her life but she is doing well. Please keep her and Jim in your prayers.

## The Walking Trails of Jesus

We have recently dedicated our walking trail around the church. A trail to help us find out about all the interesting things that go on around us in nature. A trail to reveal to us the blessings of God's creation. Jesus walked on the trails and roads of the Holy Land where he celebrated the wonders of nature. He lifted up spiritual thoughts from nature in the mustard seed, the lilies of the field, and the waters of the Sea of Galilee. In these scenes of scripture along the roads and trails we come to understand who Jesus is and what He did. We see Him at His best. Therefore, during May my sermons will be on three roads that Jesus traveled. In these sermons, I hope that we would see Him more clearly and understand what it is that He wants us to do. The sermon schedule is as follows:  
Sunday, May 15th "The Road to the Wilderness"  
Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, May 22nd "The Road to Jericho" Luke 18:35-43 and Luke 19: 1-10

Sunday, May 29th "The Road to Emmaus" Luke 24:13-35  
May these roads bring us closer to God. - Edd

## Blankets of Hope

On May 15 and May 22, DW will receive donations for Blankets of Hope. Church World Service will distribute these blankets all over the world in times of disasters – tornados, hurricanes, fires, If you would like to purchase a blanket in honor or memory of someone who held you in a blanket or someone who you have held, someone will be in the foyer both Sundays to receive your gifts. The blankets are \$5 each.

## Education Seminar

On Saturday, June 4th at 9:00am to 12:00noon the Education Department with the help of Evangelism and others will present a seminar entitled "The Church and Senior Adults". What can the church do for seniors and what can seniors do for the church? Melvia Carter from Snow Hill Christian Church will lead the seminar. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in this challenging and important discussion. Visitors are always welcome! Invite your friends!

## Pentecost

### Happy Birthday to the Church

#### Acts 2:1

A dove release is being planned for the Celebration of Pentecost on Sunday, May 29th after our traditional service starting at 10:30am. Please wear red to celebrate Pentecost. When the service concludes at 11:30am we will be led by our Minister Edd Spencer to the circle in front of the sanctuary. Mr. Butch Glass of Love Birds of Birmingham will have dozen or more of his doves ready to release for the ceremony. Edd will say a prayer and explain about the releasing of the doves as we all sing together to celebrate the birthday of the Church. Mr. Glass will then release the doves in the name of peace, love and the fire of the spirit of hope as we watch them follow the lead bird to fly back home. Please join us as we celebrate this momentous event for Valley Christian Church.

## Pentecost Offering

On May 29 and June 5 the Pentecost Offering will be received. These gifts support our own region's new church development and the national New Church Ministry that includes programs such as Coaching, New Church Hacks and Water the Plants. Please consider giving generously.

## AAA Blue Bell Ice Cream Tour

Our AAA event for this month will be a trip to a Blue Bell Creamery in Sylacauga Alabama on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. We will leave the church by van at 9:30am for a 10:30am tour and a visit to the ice cream parlor and country store. Please call Marilyn in the church office by Friday, May 20th for a reservation. Afterward we will have lunch at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant. Blue Bell Creamery was started in 1907 in Brenham, Texas as Brenham Creamery Company. In the 1930 the company changed its name to Blue Bell Creameries after the native Texas bluebell wildflower. Butter was also produced until 1958 when Blue Bell began to focus full time on making ice cream. Everyone is invited to join us for this trip. Invite others to go - the ice cream and fellowship are both great! Come and see how your favorite flavors are churned out!