



Voice

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



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A Word from Your Pastor

We have just completed our surveys in what we imagine for a new pastor. I would like to lift up thoughts of what we can imagine for Valley Christian Church.

First, I imagine a church where diversity is celebrated. I imagine a church where different is beautiful. Our church can welcome diversity, it can embrace people who differ theologically. It can allow different spiritual experiences. It can make room for a variety of programs that will touch different needs. All of these seem to be true because we serve a God who blessed diversity when He created all the life on earth. And if God is comfortable with diversity, surely, we can be.

Second, I imagine a church where affirmation is the major theme, I imagine a church where its members lay down the negative and express their gratitude and appreciation to one another regularly. Maybe even using our clappers to affirm each other. It seems that too often in the church there exists an atmosphere where it is much easier to criticize than it is to affirm. How can it be that we the Easter people, who have been filled with the joy of new life in Christ, are often known for our negatives and complaints? It just does not make any sense.

Can you imagine what might happen in the church, if church members would start affirming one another's lives? Can you imagine that giving such affirmation would bring inspiration to the church and how that giving of affirmation might affect our Cherokee Neighborhood and all the neighborhoods around us where people are dying for a place that offers a little recognition and affirmation.

I imagine a church where people are sharing with one another the depths of their pain and joy. I imagine a church where church members lay down their pride so that they can be more transparent with one another. Yes, "What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear". But what a friend we could also have in members of the church if we would only allow ourselves to be open with one another.

Someone has said that the church is not a home for saints, but a hospital for sinners. Hospitals are institutions that help people to get well that they might return to a more productive life in the world. Maybe the church can be like a hospital where we admit to our spiritual illnesses and minister to one another's needs? I can imagine a church that learns to share needs, creating a place that could be very appealing to those in Birmingham who are needy, who are like sheep looking for a shepherd.

Finally, I can imagine a church where there is a commitment to outreach. At Valley we work hard to do the work of our church in our neighborhood, Birmingham and the world. But I want us to continue and imagine a church where everyone considers himself and herself as an ambassador of Christ's love. I imagine a church where the members realize that the ultimate purpose of the church is to be a servant in the world. I imagine a church where the members understand that the service of love is not up to the pastor who feeds the sheep, nor is it up to the officers who lead the sheep, but is up to the sheep to move out of the sheep fold and to go to Jesus' other sheep who will listen to His voice and will respond to His love.

These are some thoughts that I imagine for the church. For we must remember there are other sheep out there who do not belong to the church or the fold, who can be brought in to celebrate the love of Jesus.

God Bless You, Edd

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Sept 18 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Sept 25 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 2 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 9 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

October 16 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Sept 17 - Regional Board Meeting (First Christian Birmingham)
- Sept 18 - Called Board Meeting
- Sept 23 - AAA trip to Bama Bucks in Boaz.
- Sept 23-25 - Women's Retreat at Rolling Hills
- Sept 25 - Reconciliation Sunday
- Sept 26 - Voice Deadline
- Oct 2 - Reconciliation Sunday

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please continue to pray for our beloved members, Dana and Ted Stuckenschneider. Dana is recovering at home after an intensive care hospital stay as well as a complication. Ted has an ongoing struggle with being diagnosed with two permanent lung disorders that are very progressive. They are so grateful and wanted to thank Edd Spencer and Valley members for all the prayers, visits, food, love and support.
- John Gregory also wanted to keep all the people who have had too much rain such as Jackson, Mississippi and others. And also those who haven't had enough rain such as California.
- A heartfelt "thank you" to John Gregory for preparing and giving the lecture on Valley's stained glass windows for our new tenants, New Horizons UAB Group, when they had their first meeting. Everyone expressed to us how much they enjoyed it.
- Ed Guindon and Valley want to express their thanks for all those who helped on Work Day this month and in preparing the building and grounds for our two new tenants. You are deeply appreciated!
- We also want to express our good fortune and appreciation to have many lovely community groups and their leaders using our facilities. They are:
 1. Embellishments Bell Choir Group - Phyllis Kirk
 2. New Horizons UAB Group - Don Long
 3. Manna Market - Robyn Mitchell
 4. Birmingham Quilt Guild - Mary Gibson
 5. Evening Star Quilt Guild - Larry Cartwright
- Please note that we are using the printed monthly calendars on the office wall instead of the dry-erase over-size calendar. There is a pen available there for anyone who wants to make a change, add or delete an event. When I see changes, I will then reprint that month's calendar and post it again with the changes. We hope this will be much easier to read and make changes.
- The Food Pantry items for Food Pantry Sunday and the month of September are coffee, tea and/or hot chocolate and juice for the kids.

A Visit Together

Beginning in September, I would again like to visit in the homes of members and friends of Valley as I did with the church in January, February and March of 2020. An Elder of the church will be coming with me. If it is not convenient for us to visit in your home, then we could get together for a meal at a restaurant. My reason for these visits is to get to know each other better. To share our thoughts about the church, our faith, family and life. I will call and make an appointment because I know your time is valuable. Looking forward to our moments together. God Bless You, Edd

Reconciliation Offering

Our Reconciliation Offering is Sunday, September 25 and Sunday, October 2. Our gifts help support Pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs through education, camp and conference, and relationship building in each expression of our church. Thank you in advance for your support.

"Valley Mail Service"

All of us know that if we want a letter delivered by the U.S. Postal Service by a certain date that we must mail it several days ahead of time. The same is also true of the "Valley Mail Service" and our Advent Devotional Booklets. In order to have them ready for pickup by the first day of Advent, Sunday, November 27, 2022, we must have your letters to the Christ Child given to Marilyn in the office by Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board to write a letter to the Christ Child for our Advent Devotional Booklet. We need these letters early so we can prepare the booklet for distribution by the first day of Advent. Thank you very much for your help! - Lola F. Kiser, "Valley Mail Service"



September AAA Event

Remember to make your reservation for our AAA trip to Bama Bucks Restaurant in Boaz, Alabama on Friday, September 23, 2022. Bama Bucks is a steakhouse and wild game restaurant in Etowah County on top of Sand Mountain. The restaurant is surrounded by a large variety of animals such as black bears, bison, antelopes, elk, deer, etc.. The menu is 70% domestic and 30% wild game. We can also enjoy an antique barn filled with unusual products, a general store and a walk-through wild life sanctuary. The van will leave the church at 10:00am for an 11:30am lunch followed by the other available activities. For van riders, there will be a \$6.00 fee for gas. This trip is scheduled for Friday because the restaurant is not open on Wednesday. Please give your reservation to Marilyn in the office by Monday, September 19, 2022. Everyone is welcome!

Congregational Meeting

Thanks to everyone who attended the congregational meeting after worship service on Sunday, September 11th. The search committee appreciates and has taken note of the feedback, suggestions and questions shared concerning the congregational profile. The committee will complete the profile this week and present it to the church board for approval at its meeting on Sunday, September 18th. Once approved, the profile will be submitted to Interim Regional Minister Dale Braxton who will utilize the information to provide the committee with resumes of potential ministerial candidates. We will continue to keep the congregation informed of our progress. - Ginny Guindon Chairperson, Search Committee

