



Voice

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



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A Word from Your Pastor

There was a man on a cold winter night who made himself comfortable in his easy chair to read a favorite book. After a while he began to hear strange sounds hitting his house. He put down his book and started to explore. He looked outside and discovered it was birds trying to come into his living room through the large picture window. There were being drawn by the light and must have thought that they could come in. He tried to tap on the window and encourage them to go away. It did not help.

Next he attempted to make a noise and flay his arms, suggesting that they fly away. It was no use. The birds obviously wanted to come into the warmth of the house and away from the cold of the night.

Then he had an idea. He would go out into the barn and open the door. Then he would turn on the light and surely they would go into the barn and stay the night? So he bundled himself up, put on his boots, and made his way out into the cold night toward the barn. He opened both doors as wide as they would go, turned on the light, and began to call the birds. He was hoping that the birds would see the light and make their way into the warm and cozy barn. But they refused to come in and continued to hit themselves up against the picture window.

In an attempt to get their attention, he started calling them. This frightened the birds and they would not come. He thought to himself, "Don't they know that I am trying help them? Don't they know that I am not going to hurt them?" He called out, "It is okay, it is safe and warm in here. I am not going to hurt you".

The birds still would not come. With a sigh he said, "If only I were a bird. I would be able to communicate with them. I would be able to share with the birds that I am trying to help them to be safe. If I became a bird, I could tell them about the warm barn and show them the way." At that moment, the church bells rang in the distance. The man paused for a second and listened to the music of the bells lifting up the joy of Jesus.

And for the very first time in his life he finally understood what God did. God came to earth as one of us, so that He could communicate with us. God came in the form of Jesus to show us the way of the light and warmth of His love. He came to help us and show us how to be safe from the cold storms of life.

We need to hear this message again and again. The message that God cares enough to come and be one of us. To enter the place where we live and bring light to the dark spots of our lives that we cannot seem to light on our own. To bring the warmth of His Spirit anywhere and everywhere we go.

Merry Christmas, Edd

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Valley pastoral search committee is at work reviewing resumes of potential candidates and learning more about these persons. Please continue to keep us and the process in your prayers. Ginny Guindon, Search Committee Chairperson

Fall Worship Schedule

- Sunday Service**
Dec 11 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Dec 18 10:30 a.m.
- Christmas Eve**
Dec 24 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday Service**
Dec 25 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Jan 1 3:00 p.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Dec 7 - Advent Brown Bag Lunch
- Dec 10 - Valley Work Day
- Dec 11 - Walk to Bethlehem Event
- Dec 14 - AAA Event, Classic on Noble Restaurant, Anniston
- Dec 17 - Children's Birthday Party for Jesus
- Dec 18 - Congregational Meeting
- Dec 19 - Voice Deadline
- Dec 23 - Christmas Eve Observed, Office Closed

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please bring some candy the pinata at the Children's Birthday Party for Jesus.
- The sanctuary is decorated for the Advent and Christmas Season. Come worship the Christchild in the beauty of the Sanctuary.
- Ed Guindon is thankful for everyone who worked on Valley Work Day, including Guy from Embellishments Bell Choir.
- Please pray for Ann Johnsey. She is having concerns with the medication she is taking.
- Ginny Guindon was thankful for a lovely Christmas Coffee this year. Mary Pat Spencer led the wonderful program of Christmas games and Carol Adair brought several door prizes. Everyone had a lot of fun and enjoyed it immensely.
- Ginny Guindon is also thankful that her father, Bill Gwaltney is doing well after a brief hospital stay. The Guindon's pregnant daughter Rebecca McWhirter is doing well right now. Praise the Lord!
- Please pray for Hal Clark who is at Fairhaven now.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational meeting will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 18, 2022. The purpose is to approve the nominating committee report and the 2023 budget. Also, any other business can be considered at the meeting.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be Saturday, December 24th at 4:00pm. The service will be our traditional service with a Christmas meditation, singing of Christmas hymns, special Christmas solos by Beth Gregory and Jan Watts, coming forward for Holy Communion, and circling the sanctuary holding a candle singing "Silent Night". Circle your calendar for this special service. Invite your family, a friend or neighbor on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm in the sanctuary.

O Christmas Tree!

O Christmas Tree!

How lovely are thy branches! Join AAA for our annual trip to Anniston to the Classic on Noble Restaurant on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Enjoy the lovely decorations, the huge Christmas tree, the delicious food and especially the fellowship with our friends from First Christian Church Anniston. The van will leave the church at 9:30am for lunch at 11:30am. We need reservations given to Marilyn by Friday, December 9, 2022. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Christmas with us!

Christmas Day Worship

Christmas Day Worship will be at 10:30am in the church parlor. The intimacy of the beautiful parlor will bring us closer together as a church family to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The worship ser-

vice will be informal with a Christmas Story, the blessing of our Christmas gifts, Communion, and creative Christmas fellowship.

Walk to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 3:00pm we are all invited to "Walk to Bethlehem" at Valley Christian Church. We will walk on the walking trail to Bethlehem and experience the Christmas Story, a word from the innkeeper, and gather around the warmth of a campfire. Our walk will take us to the Manger in the sanctuary where we will see Mary, Joseph and the Baby. Along the trail we will be blessed by George and Judy Dudley leading us in Christmas Carols with George playing guitar. In the sanctuary Beth Gregory and Judy Dudley will sing some special Christmas solos. After our walk and worship there will be Christmas refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. If it is bad weather, our walk will be inside the church. Come and invite a friend for this special Christmas worship event that will happen rain or shine.

Walk to Bethlehem Guidelines

- Park in the lower parking lots because the upper parking lot will be used for the walk and program.
- Gather at the playground at 3:00pm for the walk.
- Chairs will be available in the upper parking lot for the Christmas drama for those who can't walk the trail.
- In case of rain the walk will be inside the building.

Birthday Party for Jesus

We are having a birthday party for Jesus on Saturday, December 18, 2022 at 10:00am. Please invite children and grandchildren to the party. There will be a Christmas craft, games, a magic show, a pinata, Mrs. Claus and birthday cake.

Christmas Offering

We will be receiving the Christmas offering December 11th and 18th. All gifts to this offering are directed to the ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. It supports camps, conferences, retreats and workshops for adults, establishing new congregations, leadership training and many other ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

