



# 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**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

Our God does some of His work at night. In a few days we will once again celebrate the wonderful miracle of God's work in bringing the light of Christ into the world at night.

The story of Jesus' birth happens in the night. The night begins with the people of Bethlehem putting out their lamps and going off to bed. While they are asleep, a star appears pointing its light at a stable where the Child is laying in a manger.

Shepherds are out in the fields, trying to get some rest for the night. Suddenly the sky lights up with a heavenly glow and an angel appears sharing that a child has been born, and that child is the Savior of the world. And the shepherds rush off to see for themselves this special child.

They find the stable behind the inn and they go inside. There in the stable the darkness has been invaded by light. In the manger lies the reason for all the light. A sleeping baby, but not just another baby. But the Baby, the Child of God. In the manger is "the light of the world".

And because God has brought His light into the world, He calls each one of us to shine in that light. In fact in Matthew 5:14 Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world". He says that we are what He is. Just as He shines as the light of the world, so we also shine as lights. People will look at us and they will not see darkness. They will see light.

We join God in His construction work at night. We join God in His work by letting our lights shine. He says to each one of us, you are a lantern to guide people down the path of life. You are a lighthouse to warn others of danger. You are a friendly candle in the window to point the way home. You are the light of the world.

What a compliment from God to share with Him the joy of bringing light into the world. To help Him carry the light.  
Merry Christmas, Edd

## Our Giving

As I write this article for the Voice, I am completely humbled by the way God chooses to bless His people here at our church. And I am ever encouraged by the ways in which God's people choose to respond to God's call.

We began our financial campaign with the phrase "Blessed - In Order to Bless". To date we have received 18 pledges totaling \$91,189. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, these financial gifts and sacrifices raised through this campaign will go to bless, transform, and redeem the lives of people in need, both in Birmingham and across the world.

If you have not yet made a pledge to the Lord and His church, I encourage you to do so. Thank you for being a blessing.  
Merry Christmas, Edd

## Fall Worship Schedule

### Christmas Eve

Dec 24 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday Service

Dec 25 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Jan 1 2:00 p.m.

### Sunday Service

Jan 8 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Jan 15

## Dates of Interest:

- Dec 23 - Christmas Eve Observed, Office Closed
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day
- Dec 26 - Christmas Day Observed, Office Closed
- Dec 31 - New Years Eve
- Jan 1 - New Years Day
- Jan 2 - New Years Day Observed, Office Closed
- Jan 16 - Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed

# Life in the Valley

## *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our joy is with Brad and Rebecca McWhirter and Scotty, in the birth of their daughter, Reese Virginia McWhirter. The proud grandparents are Ed and Ginny Guindon.
- Edd and Mary Pat will be celebrating Christmas with family in Nashville, Tennessee after Christmas.
- Our prayers are with Hal Clark who is in Fairhaven Nursing Home.
- Happy Birthday to a special lady in our church - Peggy Hiller. She has been on this good earth for 103 years. God bless you Peggy.
- Our Advent programs were wonderful and well attended. We celebrate our Women's Christmas Coffee, the Wednesday lunch and worship of the animals and birds around the manger, the walk to Bethlehem inside the dry building, and the Children's Birthday Party for Jesus.
- There are 33 poinsettias in the sanctuary and parlor. Their beauty represents the 33 years that Jesus lived on the earth. You may pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service.
- The congregation approved the Nominating Committee report and church budget at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2022. Copies of the report are available in the church office.
- Please be in a spirit of prayer on the ways you can serve the Lord and Valley Christian Church in 2023.

## 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.

## 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 service will be contemporary including the following blessings:

- Singing a wonderful Christmas song, "Come on Ring Those Bells". We will ring bells as we sing.
- The story and sharing of the Candy Cane.
- Creative communion with the blessing of our Christmas gifts.
- A message of "The Christmas Guest".
- And warm Christian fellowship of being together on Christmas Day.

## Christmas Greetings From Your Staff

The gift of the Christ child is what Christmas is all

about. The gift of the Christ child is God's greatest gift to the world. The gift of the Christ child is God's most amazing gift to each of us. May God bless each one of you as you celebrate the wonderful gift of the Christ child.

Merry Christmas from all of us!  
Edd, Margaret, Marilyn, Beth

## New Years Day Worship

Our New Years Day Worship will be at 3:00pm in the Parlor. This will give you time to rest in the morning after staying up late to watch "The Ball Come Down".

The service will include a moment when we let go of our failures and sins of 2022 and make some promises of new ways to serve the Lord in 2023. The sermon will focus on a special chair. Come and begin the New Year in worship.

## A Prayer for the New Year

O God of time and eternity, thank you for the gift of the year that has passed. We praise you for the things that caused us joy. We are grateful for your many blessings.

As a new year begins, we start it with hopes and dreams for what this year will bring. We begin each year hoping to find something better or more fulfilling. We want to see changes and to be part of change.

God, help us to see what is really important in our lives. Show us the resolutions that are worth working for and those that need to be let go. Guide our thoughts and our ways at the start of this year, helping us to see that no matter what we have, our hearts will be restless until they find their rest in you.

We long to be faithful. We are ready to be your servants. We pray that you would come alongside of us. Help us to see how this year can be a time of blessing. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## End of the Year Gifts

If you can make an end of the year gift through a sale of stock or a special love gift from the blessings you have received, please contact one of our trustees. Your gift will go toward our general fund budget. Thank you for your love, prayers and support of the church.

## Sermon Series for January

January is Laity Month as we celebrate the ministry of the laity of Valley Christian Church. The members and friends of Valley are indeed committed to following the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. To celebrate the laity, Ed Guindon will bring the message on Sunday, January 22. During January, Edd will share sermons on a special laity group of Disciples in the bible. He will focus on the three Disciples that were very close to Jesus. The sermons will be on the small group of Peter, James and John. May the lives of these special men help us to move a step closer to our Lord. The sermon schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, January 8 - "James - A Son of Thunder"
- Sunday, January 15 - "John - The Beloved Disciple"
- Sunday, January 22 - "Laity Sunday - Ed Guindon preaches"
- Sunday, January 29 - "Peter - The Disciple Who Became a Rock"