



# Voice

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



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**Dates of Interest:  
January—Donate Heaters  
and Blankets Month**

- Jan 1 Happy New Year - Office Closed
- Jan 3 - Valley Work Day
- Jan 4—Elders Prayer & Meeting
- Jan 11 Board Meeting
- Jan 12 VOICE DEADLINE
- Jan 14 AAA Grace Klien Tour
- Jan 15 BVM Dinner @ PawPaw Patch
- Jan 18 Installation of Officers Church Planning Meeting after worship
- Jan 19 Marting Luther King Holiday Office Closed
- Jan 21 Disciples Women Meeting
- Jan 21 Men's Luncheon

## **A Word From the Pastor**

“Behold, I make all things new,” Revelation 21:5. This is a striking statement that reminds us of the power and love of our God. In God all things are new. Each new day brings with it freshness and new beginnings.

As we begin a new year, this idea of freshness, of new beginnings fill our minds as we sense an opportunity to start again. It gives those of us who need a firm starting point the impetus to actually make changes, to begin anew, to begin fresh where we say; “this year I will (fill in the blank).”

And while many of us have good intentions, it soon begins to resemble years past as we fall into the same routines, same habits and have the same expectations. Oh, there will be some things that need to change because of age, health or situation but for the most part we are creatures of habit. Even the best laid plans for new resolutions quite often fail as we fall back into our comfortable routines and ways of doing things which is not always a bad thing. Sometimes we try to change too much, too quickly and at times for the wrong reasons.

But when it comes to our God, the starting place can be anywhere at any time. It is not just in the newness of each day that gives us hope, a fresh start, a feeling of something different, God uses every moment of every day to make things new. Just take a look at the world around us. How many of us have walked the same path day after day, but on one occasion we see a small flower peeking through the cracks in the sidewalk? Or we see the dew on a freshly spun spider’s web as it glistens in the light of the sun? How many of us have watched several sunsets, but then there is one that just blows our minds? How many of us have walked by a park hearing the children play, but on one occasion stopped to see the wonder of two friends in the making as one gently pushes the other on the swing?

There is newness all around us just begging us to take notice and ponder. But it is not just in the physical realm that we experience this, it can also happen in our hearts, minds and souls. This is where God exerts the most time and effort trying to get us to not only see the newness a relationship with him brings, but to accept it, nurture it and build upon it. Just as a new flower appears, just as a new web shimmers in the sunlight, the presence of God in our hearts brings about newness of spirit, of hope and of life, not just every once in a while, but every moment of our lives. It is this newness that leads us to see things differently, to view the world around us with less cynical eyes, to embrace the wonder and beauty that is all around us, especially in those we encounter on a daily basis as we see each as a created image of our God. There is a beautiful song, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” Maybe we can leverage that and expand upon it, “let there be love on earth and let it begin with me.” “Let there be compassion on earth and let it begin with me.” “Let there be hope in the world and let it begin with me.” You get the idea; it begins with us.

As we begin this new year, let us do so with a commitment to treat each moment, each day as a new opportunity to be positive difference makers, to be a people who begin and end with the love of God in our hearts, who exemplify the grace and mercy of our Lord, who live into the call to be disciples of Christ in everything we say and do remembering that our God is with us and is; “making all things new,” and it is beginning in you and me.

Pastor Rick Malugani  
Senior Minister  
Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## Young Adult Ministry

### “Care On the Go”

The Young Adult Ministry is excited to announce a new initiative that we believe God has put upon Jackie Ivey’s heart. It is a drive to collect items to put in Ziploc bags for our local homeless community.

As we read in Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus calls us to serve the "least of these"—those who are hungry, thirsty, and without basic necessities.

We are collecting the following items, hopefully things that you may have on hand or is just taking up room in your home, such as razors, shaving soap, travel-size hotel shampoos and soaps (that you may already have), dentist kits (those free ones you get after a cleaning) as well as mittens/gloves, beanie caps and scarves, which do not need to be new, just slightly worn and clean will be much appreciated.

We believe these small acts of kindness can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, reminding them they are seen and loved by our community and by God.

Jackie will have these in her car to hand out as she sees a need as she travels extensively, and often in poorer areas.

Contributions may be placed in bins found in the **Young Adult Classroom**.

Thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us in this ministry. Together, we can spread God's love and light throughout our community. If you have any questions, please speak with Jackie or Ellen.

Thank you and blessings,

Ellen



### Greater Birmingham Ministries Wal Mart Gift Cards

Thank you to the wonderfully generous church members at Valley Christian Church. The total Walmart Gift Cards is \$405.00. I know the parents of the children of Birmingham will appreciate all your thoughtfulness to make this a Christmas the very best.

Thank you, Outreach Committee, Peggi Zinser,



### OUTREACH BASKET DONATION FOR JANUARY

Valley Christian is donating blankets to help keep people warm in the cold months. Please look in your closet to see if you have a blanket in good condition or purchase one of the fleece rolls found in Walmart for around \$5.00.

Thank You, Outreach Department, Peggi Zinser, Chair



### January AAA

Valley Christian Church has been generously donating for two years to Grace Klein Community, a food rescue and distribution mission here in Birmingham. They also have a give and take closet for clothing and household items. On Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a tour and explanation by Leslie Brent, and a representative of Grace Klein of the intake facility and hub in McCalla, we will have lunch at McAllister’s and then see a food distribution center at Liberty Church on Old Rocky Ridge Road, where cars come to get boxes of food every day for needy families. This is a chance to actually see where our contributions are going and what an impact it has on people in need. Please be at the church at 10:15 am and be ready to leave at 10:30 am, arriving back at the church around 3:00 pm. The gas fee is \$6.00. Please let Peggi Zinser know if you plan on riding the van or driving your car.

Thank You, Peggi Zinser



### Road to Bethlehem

On Sunday, December 14, Valley Christian Church partnered with Brookdale Senior Living to perform a play about the events leading up to and culminating with the birth of Jesus. There were over 45 people in attendance, and all had a great time. I want to take this time to thank all those who jumped into costumes and participated in the play. You all did a fantastic job, and you were a blessing to those who watched the play. It was a joy to watch you and see how you brought the story of our Savior’s birth to life.

Many thanks to our cast director Peggi and our costume designer, Ellen for jobs well done. I also want to thank Donnette for putting together the bulletins and song sheets.

This was just one more avenue that allowed us to get out into our community to share the good news of the gospel and bring the love of Jesus into direct contact with others.

Thank you again for your hard work and willingness to participate. I know it brought joy to those watching and I hope you all felt some of that joy as well.  
Pastor Rick.

### Pastoral Relations Committee

Did you know that we have a Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) at Valley Christian Church?

The purposes of the PRC include:

- Building up the Body of Christ
- Providing consistent and compassionate support for the pastor and family
- Facilitating feedback and communication between the pastor and congregation

The committee meets with Pastor Rick on a quarterly basis and gives progress reports to the official board at its meetings. Current members of the PRC are Stewart Draper and Ginny Guindon.

While Pastor Rick’s door is always open for conversation, Valley members and friends are free to communicate with members of the PRC as well.

Ginny Guindon  
PRC chairperson



A Special Thank You to Kathy Muphy and her team for the beautiful Christmas wreath bows in the church.

### BVM

BVM (Building Valley Macedonia) participated in our annual singing of Christmas carols at North Hill Nursing Home on Friday, December 12 with several members from both churches represented. We performed in front of a large and eager crowd that joined in as we sang. We also presented the Christmas gifts we had been gathering to the staff for distribution among the residents. It was a fun and uplifting time, and it was yet one more way we were able to get out into the community and share the blessings of Christ and the Christmas story with others.

Adding to that, we also had the opportunity to sing for the children and staff at Miracle Academy on Wednesday, December 17. The auditorium was packed with children and staff as we sang carols and Rev. Kenneth Hill shared the Christmas story. Just as with North Hill, it was a blessing to be able to share in this way and to see the enthusiasm and reception of the children and staff left us humbled and thankful.

Thank you to all who participated and took time to bring the light of Jesus into the lives of others, it is truly a blessing to be part of something that is so much bigger than ourselves.  
Pastor Rick

### AAA—Reporting

On Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> AAA group traveled to Anniston, AL for lunch at the Classic on Noble restaurant. There were eight people that were riding on the van. Lola and Mary Charles went with Jean and Phillip in their car. Pastor Tom Hutchinson, his daughter; Laura Hutchinson, and Judy Englehart, the secretary of Anniston First Christian Church, Ed and Sarah’s sister; Ruth and her husband Mike met us there. We all enjoyed the fellowship and the delicious food.

The restaurant is inviting with all the beautiful Christmas decorations. The spectacular Christmas Tree with all the unique ornaments and lights will get you into the Christmas spirit. The atmosphere is relaxing, with the white linen table clothes, napkins, the china, and crystal glasses. The restaurant was busy considering the Season, people having their Christmas luncheons, get togethers, etc., it is the perfect place to celebrate any occasion. “Classic” is the perfect name for a very classy place to meet, greet, and eat.

We had a safe enjoyable trip from the Church to Anniston and back to the Church Thanks be to God and our driver.  
Betty G. Dykes



### Opened in 1999 - Closing December 21, 2025

Classic on Noble, a beloved fine-dining staple in downtown Anniston, Alabama, established by [David and Cathy Mashburn](#) in 1999 within the historic 1894 [Levy & Clark building](#) (once a Woolworth's), built its legacy on upscale Southern cuisine, event hosting (weddings, etc.), and community focus, earning national attention before the owners' retirement announcement in late 2025, leading to its planned closure after the holiday season, marking the end of nearly three decades of service.