



Voice

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



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**Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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**Office Hours: 8:00am-
12:00pm Monday-Friday**

Dates of Interest:
December—GBM
Walmart Gift Cards

- Dec 3 - AAA Lunch with Anniston
- Dec 5 - Valley Work Day
- Dec 6 - Disciples Women Coffee
- Dec 7 - North Hill Gifts Due
- Dec 8 - VOICE DEADLINE
- Dec 10 - Men's Lunch
- Dec 12 - Caroling with BVM at North Hills
- Dec 13— Open House at the Maluganis'
- Dec 14-- Brookdale Play
- Dec 17 - Caroling with BVM-Miracle Academy
- Dec 21 - 4:00pm Longest Night Service
- Dec 24 - Office Closed 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
Office Closed
Dec 31—New Years Eve

A Word From the Pastor

And the angel said to them; "Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." This from Luke 2:10-12 revealing the most miraculous and totally unexpected way our God intervened in our world and in doing so began a revolution that is still ongoing today.

Yes, what began so long ago is still at work today changing lives and bringing hope to those trying to live in a world that appears more divided and filled with more darkness than ever before. As modern-day followers of Christ, we strive to live into the vision and mission of our Lord that began with his miraculous birth in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. One thing about the Christmas season is it brings out the best in us as we are more prone to sense the needs of those less fortunate and address those needs as best we can. We tend to be more giving, more understanding and dare I say it more loving all of which is good; but what happens after the decorations come down, the tree gets put away, the parties and holiday feasts subside, and we turn the page to a new year? Do we still sense the needs of those less fortunate, do we still seek ways to offer assistance, compassion and hope or do we revert back to our normal routines blinded by the to do lists and our daily tasks?

One of my favorite Christmas movies is the Muppet Christmas Carol. In it the Ghost of Christmas present speaks of the Spirit of Christmas as not just being a once a year phenomenon, but one that lasts the whole year long. *"The season of the heart, a special time of caring, the ways of love made clear. It is the season of the spirit, the message if we hear it, is to make it last all year."*

This is our challenge, to allow this spirit, this spirit of love, of compassion, of caring last all year, actually all of our lives. This is Christ's vision, one that looks beyond the wonder of the Christmas season, one that seeks to make every day one of hope, of peace and of love not just for a few but for all of God's creation. This is the world Jesus imagines, the one he lived and died for and the one calls for us to not only envision but live into as well.

I remember working with a food bank that lamented how in November and December, they are overflowing with donations as people feel the need to give and help. But come January and especially February, their shelves are almost bare as people move on with other priorities. This isn't meant to be an indictment, just a reality. There is something about the Christmas season that triggers our benevolence but once the calendar turns that feeling seems to wane as we turn to the business of living our lives.

This is not to say everyone feels this way as we certainly do not, but it does shine a light on the need to stay the course, to continue to seek ways to be positive difference makers even as the calendar turns the page. Imagine the difference we could make if we carried the spirit of Christmas, the Spirit of our Lord into every day and part of our lives, if we lived out the call to care, to provide, to be a shining light in a dark and dreary world not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year.

This is who we are at Valley Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Through our outreach ministries that support among others, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Grace Klein Ministries, Jimmy Hale Missions, Christian World Services and The Firehouse along with our work at Miracle Academy, our presence at North Hill Nursing Home, Brookdale Assisted Living and many others we are making a difference and living into the call to be positive difference makers in our world not just at this time of year, but throughout the whole year. We may not be able to change the world, but we can and are making a difference in our little corner of it, and I pray we never lose that focus and that drive.

Merry Christmas.

Pastor Rick Malugani

Senior Minister

Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- ✦ Please continue to pray for Marilyn Ireland.
- ✦ Billy McDaniel is improving. Please continue to pray for him and Pat.
- ✦ Phillip Treadway's friend, Ralph Teeter, still needs our prayers as he recovers from surgery.
- ✦ Jackie McFarland, former member and daughter of Jack and Cooper McFarland, is suffering from dementia and is on hospice care in Arkansas. Please be in prayer for Jackie and her family.
- ✦ Please remember to pray for Mrs. Effie King.
- ✦ Judy Sellers is scheduled to have surgery on her other eye on October 23. Please be in prayer for a successful procedure and full recovery.
- ✦ Jane Churchill had foot surgery and she is at home recovering. Please continue to pray for her.
- ✦ Phillip Treadway recently had successful eye surgery. He and Jean thank you for your prayers.
- ✦ Eamon Griffith is home. Please lift him up in your thoughts and prayers for healing and restoration.
- ✦ Mrs. Judy Dudley passed away. Please be in prayer for George and the family.
- ✦ The family of Mary Bell, a longtime member of Macedonia Christian Church who recently passed away.
- ✦ Melissa, Beverly Walker's sister who is suffering from migraines.
- ✦ Teresa Schoener, Pastor Rick's sister who is having severe pain in her pack and neck.
- ✦ Please continue to pray for Elaine Lawrence as she had a successful surgery and is now in rehab.

Christmas Open House



Open House

Come one, come all to an open house hosted by Pastor Rick and Ellen and enjoy some fellowship, Christmas goodies, a light display and fun. It will be Saturday, December 13 from 4-7 pm at their house located at 1737 Tecumseh Trail in Pelham.

A word of guidance, our driveway is actually on Wooddale Lane and not Tecumseh Trail, so when you come to the dead end sign on Tecumseh Trail, take a left and the first driveway on the right is ours.



Greater Birmingham Ministries Wal Mart Gift Cards

The December outreach donation for Greater Birmingham Ministries is gift cards from Walmart. They have asked that they receive them by December 7th.

Thank you, Outreach Department – Peggi Zinser



December AAA

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025 AAA will travel to Anniston, Al for lunch at the Classic on Noble restaurant with members of the First Christian Church in Anniston, Al. This is the last chance to go to the Classic on Noble, have your picture taken in front of their tremendous Christmas tree as the Classic on Noble is closing at the end of this year. The van will leave the church at 9:45am, but please be there at 9:30am to load up. Van transportation is \$8.00 per person. We will order individually from the menu.

Everyone is invited to join us for a delicious lunch and for fellowship with Anniston friends. Guest are always welcome. Just let Peggi know if you plan to go either by van or car. Come and enjoy a wonderful day with AAA!
Lola Kiser



AAA News

Read all about it!

Betty Dykes will be our new AAA reporter for the Voice giving our readers details of where we went, what we did and what we learned.

Thank you Betty for your help.

Lola Kiser

Thanksgiving Special Offering

This year, our Thanksgiving Offering highlights Supporting Higher Education and Bringing Students and Resources Together. For over 130 years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has committed to supporting higher education in 15 colleges and universities, and 7 seminaries and divinity houses. This program goes straight to the institutions, which enables them to offer Scholarships and other assistance programs. Please consider a generous donation in order to make a difference in the lives of thousands of students.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser



The Road to Bethlehem

As part of our outreach, we have put together a play titled, "The Road to Bethlehem." It is the story of the birth of our Lord told through music and acting and promises to be a fun and exciting project.

It begins with the visit of Gabriel to Zachariah in the temple and climaxes with the birth of Jesus and the visit by the shepherds.

We will present this play on **December 14 at 2:00 pm** at Brookdale Assisted Living with the assistance of Elizabeth Vise, their activities director. She will provide our backgrounds via a large screen television as well as lead in the singing of hymns with the support of the resident choir.

We are blessed to have so many talented performers as well as support staff who have agreed to share their gifts in bringing this play to reality, and it is one more way we are bringing the love of our God into contact with others and living out our vision to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

There are plans to feature two more plays next year, "The Road to the Cross," near Easter and "The Road to Emmaus," a little while later so there will be ample time for others to join our cast and demonstrate the Word of God in a different and exciting way.

James V. (Jimmie) Davis, Death and Celebration of Life Service

Carol Adair's father, James V. (Jimmie) Davis, died on September 29, 2025. Since their home is across the street from the Cherokee Place entrance, Carol and Mr. Davis regularly walked together on the walking trail until a couple of years ago when he wasn't able to do so anymore. He was 107 years old and would have turned 108 on October 8th!! Several of us got to know Carol and her father and they came to the church for special events sometimes. A Celebration of Life Service for Mr. Davis will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Home, 1503 Dawson Road, Albany, GA 31707 Visitation 1:00 PM—Chapel; Service 2:00 PM - Chapel
Ginny Guindon



Christmas with BVM

BVM (Building Valley Macedonia) has been practicing Christmas music for several months and will present two special programs soon.

On **Friday, December 15, 2025** at 11:00am we will sing at North Hill Nursing Home. Please bring stuffed Christmas stockings and/or Christmas bags for the residents (no sugar or alcohol products in them). These may be left at Valley in the box near the office door beginning Sunday December 7, 2025. Afterward we will journey to Applebee's for lunch. On **Wednesday, December 17, 2025** at 9:00 am we will sing for the students and staff at Miracle Academy where we worked on the building and the flower garden. These two Christmas events will replace our regular dinner at the Paw Paw Patch for December. Our next regular meeting will be at the Paw Paw Patch on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 at 6:00pm. Come join us then! Merry Christmas!

Lola Kiser



2025 Disciples Women-Christmas Coffee

The Disciples Women invite all ladies and guests to join us on Saturday morning, December 6th at 10:00 in the church parlor as we host the annual Christmas Coffee. We will enjoy holiday goodies, coffee and punch as we fellowship together, followed by a time of sharing stories. Since the reason for Advent and Christmas is to prepare for and celebrate Jesus' birth, our program will be sharing birthday memories. So put on your thinking cap and see if you can recall a special or memorable birthday that you'd like to describe to the group. If you wish, you may bring a favorite holiday treat, sweet or savory, to add to the refreshment table (not required). Come and celebrate as we begin the Advent season!

Ginny Guindon