



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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NO.1

## A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

Many of us know from experience that on Christmas Eve there are three words that give a parent serious concern. I am talking about the three words that come when parents are putting toys and gifts together for their children and friends. Those three words labeled on the outside of the box are: "Some Assembly Required."

Think for a moment about what you do when you put a toy together. First you spread all the pieces on the floor. Then you take out the directions and try to follow them.

Two hours later the job is done. All the pieces which were once covering your floor are joined together into a beautiful new toy for your son or daughter.

In a sense we are all like that toy on the floor spread out in a hundred pieces. We each come into the world wrapped in God's love and labeled – "Some Assembly Required". We all come not completely assembled in the spirit of God. Therefore, we must let Jesus make us new. To assemble us as our God intends us to be, to allow him to put all the pieces of our lives together. So as we enter the new year may we remember that we all need some assembly required. May our prayer be, "Dear Lord, we pray for ourselves and others who come before you spiritually incomplete. Fill us with the desire to be built up and transformed by your hand that we may be used in the work of your kingdom here on earth to your glory and honor. Amen."

## A VISIT TOGETHER

During the months of January, February and March, I would like to visit in the homes of members and friends of Valley. An Elder of the church will be coming with me.

If it is not convenient to visit in your home, then we could get together for lunch at a restaurant.

My reason for these visits is to get to know each other better. I would love to hear about you and your family, your jobs, your hobbies and your life. I will share some of my life with you too.

I will call and make appointments because I know your time is valuable.

Looking forward to our moments together. God Bless You, Edd

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN 2020

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at Valley Christian in 2020. Please consider serving on one of these departments and contact Stewart Draper.

Fellowship Department: Responsible for providing a social life and fellowship activities for the church.

Membership Department: Responsible for care and nurturing of church members.

Worship Department: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.

Education Department: Responsible for Sunday school of all ages and the total education program of the church.

Outreach Department: Responsible for giving to those in need within Birmingham and throughout the world.

Evangelism Department: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.

Property Department: Responsible for the maintenance of property for the church.

Stewardship Department: Responsible for financial policies of the church.

## LAITY WEEK

Week of the Laity will be celebrated January 19-26, 2020. Laity Sunday is a special time when the lay people of the church often pause to consider their varied gifts for ministry, inside and outside the walls of the church building. The theme for this year is "You Have a Friend in Me".

The members of Valley will be conducting the worship service on Sunday January 26. If you are asked to participate please prayerfully consider doing so.

Thank you. Worship Department

## LAITY LUNCH

There will be a covered dish luncheon after worship on Laity Sunday, January 26th. The sign-up sheet will be on the table by the elevator this Sunday. The church will provide roast beef and beverage, so folks need to sign up to bring vegetables, salads and desserts.

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**



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## YEARBOOK INFORMATION

We are in the process of preparing the 2020 Yearbook for Valley. In order to have correct information and get the yearbook out quickly, we ask that you send corrections or updates to the church office by the date of your Leap Year Celebration, February 29, 2020. This will be your gift to us and will be much appreciated! Many thanks for your help.

## WHAT'S A PARABLE??

Join our Adult Sunday School Class on Sunday morning at 9:15am to learn about the parables Jesus used in his ministry. The parables are short stories, many of them metaphors told to illustrate a point. There are 30-40 parables in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke – none in John. In our Sunday School class we will use the book “Stories Jesus Told.” by Greg Carey to help us interpret the parables and learn how to read them. On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> we are studying the “Parable of the Soils”. Read it from Mark 4:1-9 and join us for a challenging discussion. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come!

## A REMEMBRANCE

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jerry Smith. Please be in prayer for the Jerry Smith family in this time of sadness and loss. Jerry had a long career in ministry, serving numerous congregations in three different states. He also served on Regional staff in Alabama-Northwest Florida for several of his retirement years as PEPP Coordinator. Jerry made his home in Hartselle and attended First Christian Church, Hartselle, a congregation he formerly served as pastor on two separate occasions.

## ANNUAL CHURCH PLANNING RETREAT

The annual church planning retreat will be on Saturday, January 18, 2020 in the church fellowship hall at 9:00am until 12noon. At this time, committees of the church will plan our program for the year. It is important that all who are asked to be on one of the committees be present to participate in this important work. – Stewart Draper

## JANUARY AAA

Our January AAA event will be a luncheon here at the church in the Fellowship Hall on January 22, 2020 at 11:30am. The event will feature spaghetti by Eve Harman and Ginny Guindon will provide green salad with dressings and toppings, garlic bread, drinks and dessert. We will have a donations basket to cover the cost of the food. Carolyn and Terry Nunnally will present a program about their trip to Italy. Everyone is welcome – friends are invited! Please sign the reservation list on the table near the elevator if you plan to come.

## DISCIPLES WOMEN MEETING

The Disciples Women (DW) are privileged to host Mary Jones, Direct Services Coordinator at Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM), at the January 13, 2020 at 10:30am meeting in the Christian Issues classroom.

Mary will be sharing information about needs of women who are served by GBM and how the DW could be involved to assist these women. Mary graduated from UAB with a major in criminal justice and a minor in social work and has been involved with numerous agencies which seek to address human social, economic and justice needs locally and beyond. She was the speaker on Bread for the World Sunday at Valley in recent years. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting to learn more about how we can help with these issues.

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

A total of \$657 was contributed to the Christmas Special Offering last month. Thanks to all who gave so generously!

## CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

**Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.**

**Patty Allen**, Paul Allen's Spouse (Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Huntsville)

**Jack Baldwin**, Former Minister Madison Christian Church

**Michael Beeson**, Dana Stuckenschneider's brother

**William Byrd, Sr.**, William Byrd's father

**Nancy Chism**, Stephanie Edge's mom, 14120 Bone Camp Road, Coker, AL 35452

**Mason Clark**, Tim Devine's nephew

**Matt, Akira, Cerys and Tia Cutcliffe**, son and grandchildren of Marilyn Cutcliffe

**Roy Evans**, Jean Thrasher's brother, home

**Thomasine Glenn**, Macedonia Christian Church

**Nell Lawson**, Tim Devine's grandmother

**Brandon Ligon and family**, Jamie Ligon's nephew

**David Mobley**, John Mobley's (Regional Minister) brother

**Bobinell Ricci**, 4208 Paradise Lane, Bessemer, AL 35022

**Jean Thrasher's friend**, Martha Latimer

**Robert & Ruby Wilkes**, Macedonia Christian Church

**Mary Dodson**, River Highlands, Memory Care, Room 17, 1851 Data Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244 (mother of Gary Dodson)

**Peggy Hiller** 400 University Park Drive #170, Homewood, Alabama 35209

**Midge Hoke**, % James Hoke, 1104 West Joy Lane, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

**Hattie Belle Lester**, Bay Ridge at Westminster Village, Skilled Nursing, Room #528, 500 Spanish Fort Blvd., Spanish Fort, AL 36527

**Joan Noland** 400 University Park Drive, #171, Homewood, Alabama 35209

**Flora Richardson**, Fairhaven, L2, Room 7215, 1424 Montclair Road, Birmingham 35210

**Shirley Shaw**, Jan Clark's sister, at River Highlands Nursing Home, Room #218, 1851 Data Drive, Hoover, AL 35244