



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
2600 Cherokee Place, Birmingham, AL 35216  
(205) 879-0419  
www.vccbhm.org; office@vccbhm.org

### SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CANDIDATE

After months of searching and several interviews, the Search Committee is recommending that we call Eric Atcheson as our next Senior Minister. Due to the stay-at-home requirements across the country, many of our committee meetings have been through Zoom, and all of our discussions with candidates had to happen the same way. We were unable to bring Eric here to meet in person, so we had three interview sessions online before we recommended him to the church board. The church board met Eric through a Zoom meeting last Wednesday, and after more than an hour of questions and discussion, they voted unanimously to recommend him to the full congregation. To continue to be safe, we still feel the need to introduce him to the congregation using Zoom as opposed to bringing his family here to meet in person.

As further introduction, Eric is planning our call-in worship service for June 28<sup>th</sup>, and he will deliver the sermon that day. He has talked with Edd Spencer and will continue the series on the Lord's Prayer that Edd began last week. We will then have an additional Zoom meeting to give those in the congregation who are not on the Board the chance to speak to Eric and ask him any questions they may have. A congregational meeting by Zoom will follow so the whole congregation can vote on his call.

The Search Committee is excited about Eric and hope you will be too once you meet him.

### WHO IS ERIC ATCHESON?

Our ministerial candidate, Eric Atcheson is a lifelong Disciple who grew up in the Kansas City area. He is currently living in Vancouver, Washington with his wife, Carrie, their 20-month-old daughter, Sadie, and their two dogs. He served seven years at Longview Christian Church as Senior Minister, and is completing two years as Interim Director of Family Services at First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver.

Eric received his ministerial training on the west coast with a BA from Lewis & Clark College, an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Seattle University. He also has a Certificate in Jewish Studies from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

In addition to his biblical knowledge, our committee has been struck by his enthusiasm, sense of humor, flexibility, and expertise in social media and technology. We believe he would bring a lot of energy and a fresh perspective to the ministries at Valley. He is particularly interested in our relationship with Macedonia and working with local ministers (both Disciples and other)

to find common missional opportunities in the community.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTES TO CONTINUE CALL-IN WORSHIP

The Executive Committee met by phone on Tuesday night to consider the possibility of returning to worship in the sanctuary. After much discussion, it was felt that with COVID19 cases still on the rise in our state and no vaccine or accepted treatment for the virus, we would delay any return to worship in the sanctuary for some time longer. There was discussion about gathering in the parking lot for worship, but this was deferred as well. We will continue to hold our phone-in worship service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday for the near future. If you are interested in meeting in the parking lot or have other thoughts on this discussion, please let Stewart Draper know.

### BLANKETS OF HOPE POSTPONED

DW are postponing the purchase of Blankets of Hope to a time after we are worshipping in the sanctuary.  
Sarah Draper

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

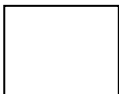
June 12<sup>th</sup> – Effie King  
June 21<sup>st</sup> – Ted Stuckenschneider  
June 26<sup>th</sup> – Vivian Oliver

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Edd and Mary Pat Spencer  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – Bill and Jan Watts

Please call the church office if your birthday or anniversary is not listed. You are special and we do not want to miss celebrating your special day.

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216



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### A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

We live in a world where things are negative and out of balance. We live with the uncertainties of the Coronavirus, a struggling economy, civil unrest, the stress of being sheltered at home, and our own personal problems. We wonder about hope for the future.

Well there is hope for each one of us in this struggling world. A hope that comes from Almighty God. A hope which lights the future. A hope that gives us a certainty, that in spite of the good or bad tomorrow brings, God will have the last word.

During these days of the Corona Pandemic, I miss watching baseball games. There is a story that during a baseball game a dog suddenly appeared on the playing field. After running around he finally sat down on third base. The crowd loved it, and began to yell out its instructions: "Get off the field", "Run for home", "Bite the umpire". But the yelling did not change things. The dog just stayed on third base, confused.

In an article the next day, the sportswriter said that the dog did not move because there was no dominant voice from the crowd to which he could respond. What is the dominant voice you hear in the arena of your life, or do you just sit there on third base not knowing what to do next?

I hope for all of us during these struggling days that the dominant voice is that of Almighty God. Calling us to get up and continue our journey of life with the hope and love of the Lord. God Bless You, Edd

### A PRAYER FOR COURAGE AND HOPE

In the eyes of all the storms around us we hear your gentle words, O Lord. Though the earth trembles with a virus and social unrest your calming spirit speaks of hope.

With your hope we can walk through the thunder of our day, dance like daisies in the pouring rain, and not be afraid of the lightning.

Help us hang on to that which is true; the only one who can create life out of death, life that lasts, is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May we, like Jesus, face all our storms with prayer. A prayer that has power to restore our sinking souls. Amen.

### LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Our prayers are with Garrett Smith and family, cousin of Whitney Devine, who is recovering from a car accident.
- Our prayers are with Dana Stuckenschneider, who is recovering at home from knee surgery.
- Our prayers are with Lynda Rothoff, sister-in-law of Peggi Zinser. She is in The Oaks at Parkview Rehab Facility on Hwy 150.
- Congratulations to Edd's granddaughter Teanna Cason who is graduating from Chelsea High School. She will be attending Troy University with a track and field scholarship.
- The Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is celebrating the ministry of Susan Henderson,

Administrative Assistant and Dale Braxton, Associate Regional Minister. Well done good and faithful servants.

- Work Day at the church is Saturday, June 13 at 9:00am.
- We are having good attendance at our worship services by Zoom teleconference.
- During June and July, Edd will be sharing sermons on the Lord's Prayer.
- Our prayers are with Bill and Jan Watts' daughter Christie.
- Father's Day is Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Andrea Clark's mother-in-law, Eleanor Clark is home from the hospital. She is blessed to be 108 years old.
- The regular-size print edition of the Secret Place devotional booklet is available on the table near the elevator.
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in "Life in the Valley".

### VCC FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Treasurer team has been asked to update the congregation about the financial status of our church at this difficult time. After a thorough review we're happy to report that Valley is doing fine as of June 7. Things could change of course, but we are fulfilling our commitments, paying our bills and remaining under budget as of the first five months of 2020.

It is surprising to us that our income for the year is only about \$1,500 less than the amount projected for this date in the 2020 budget. We have received very little Use of Facilities income but pledged giving has been excellent, verifying once again that Valley is a very giving church. Thanks to all of you. Year to date expenses have been about \$11,000 less than we budgeted. The building is not being used a lot so maintenance and utility costs are lower than expected, and committees are not spending very much. There might also be an insurance adjustment or rebate. However, we note that most of our budgeted expenses are for Administration and Staff. We're currently only about \$5,000 under budget. Pastor Edd is doing a wonderful job as our Interim Minister, but he is part-time. When the full-time pastor arrives at Valley our numbers will tighten up, especially if the pastor gets here earlier than our Stewardship committee was projecting last year. We still remain confident that 2020 will prove to be a challenging but successful year meeting our budgets or coming very close to doing so. Please keep Valley in your prayers and may God bless all of you. – Terry Nunnally

### A HAPPY THOUGHT

We celebrate our wonderful friends at Valley. Friends who accept us as we are. May we remember that a good friend is someone who thinks you are a good egg even though you are slightly cracked.

