



The Valley Voice

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

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COFFEE AND A STORY

From our little egg hunt to singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” I very much enjoyed my first Easter here at Valley as your minister, and I look forward to many more. There is much to look forward to even between now and Easter 2022, including what will hopefully be our return to in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

Expect to hear more about what that day will look like as we get closer (the thirty-second version is that we will still expect everyone to wear masks, pews will be taped off, measures will be taken to improve air circulation, and communion and the offering will look significantly different).

In addition to Easter, we have another important April celebration: Valley turns seventy years old this month after being planted in April 1951 by members of Birmingham First Christian Church! We are doing several things to commemorate the occasion: each of my living predecessors—Rev. John Gregory, Rev. Dr. Jim Clifford, and Rev. Gary Edge—will be giving a guest reflection in worship, our Outreach Department under Sarah Draper is spearheading a special giving opportunity, and I have crafted a special five-week sermon series, which will be outlined at the end of this column.

Our outreach opportunity, like the sermon series, is built around the theme of seventy-times-seven. Seventy represents the number of years of Valley’s active ministry in the Birmingham community, and seven represents the infiniteness of God’s creation (as in, the seven days of creation). This is why, when Jesus was famously asked by Peter how often to forgive someone, He responded with “Seventy times seven!”

As part of that theme, we hope to raise seventy sets of seven staple grocery items for Greater Birmingham Ministries. Their community pantry welcomes gifts of staple items such as canned vegetables and meats, soup, dry cereal, oatmeal, flour, sugar, rice, and pasta. We invite you to create your own shopping list of seven staple foods and purchase a set—or several!—to bring by the church for GBM. Our goal is to gift at least seventy of these seven-item sets to GBM after Pentecost Sunday. Will you help us reach that goal to celebrate our seventieth anniversary?

“Seventy Times Seven: A Celebration and Commission of Valley Christian Church”

April 18: “Genesis,” John 1:1-4 (guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Jim Clifford, Valley minister 1983 – 2006)
April 25: “Evolution,” Mark 4:26-34 (guest speaker: Rev. Gary Edge, Valley minister 2007 – 2019)

May 2: “Debtors to Past & Future,” Matthew 6:7-15 (guest speaker: Rev. John Gregory, 1975-1982)

May 9: “The Profile,” Luke 1:1-4

May 16: “Seventy Times Seven,” Matthew 18:18-22

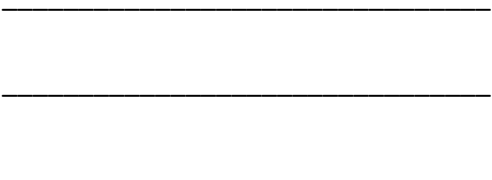
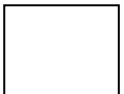
Christ’s and yours, Pastor Eric



VALLEY HAS A HAWK FAMILY

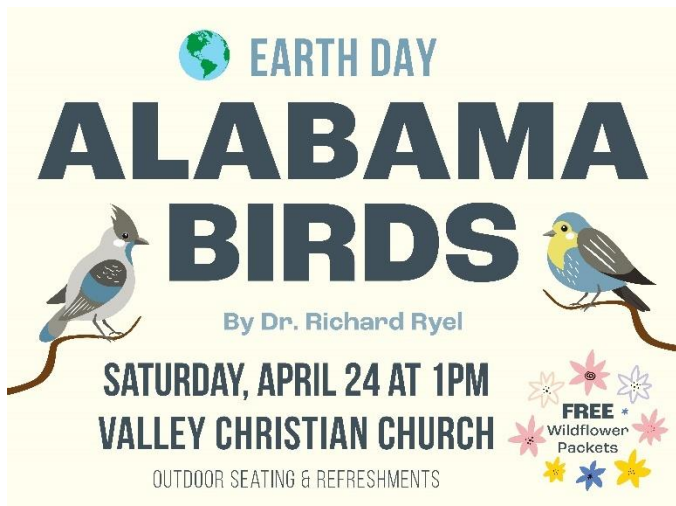
Did you know that at Valley Christian, we have our own Hawk Family? Last summer, as I worked in the garden, I watched Mrs. Hawk teach Baby Hawk to fly. Soon, they were sailing gracefully together overhead. But one day, I heard Baby squawking loudly for a solid hour. With some concern, I spotted him sitting and squawking on the tallest piece of power company equipment. Evidently, flying high was great fun, but hunting his own food was quite another matter! Mama Hawk finally brought him a tasty morsel and all was well. Watch for these magnificent birds when you visit our Outdoor Area.
- Dana Stuckenschneider and Linda Reeves

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2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216



ADDITIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION SITES

If you have not yet been able to secure an appointment to receive a covid-19 vaccine but would like to, both Jefferson County and Main Street Family Care clinic currently have appointments available. To make an appointment to receive a vaccination from Jefferson County at Birmingham Shuttlesworth Airport, go to <https://www.flybirmingham.com/new-covid-19-vaccination-site-at-bhm-airport/> or call 205.858.2221. To make an appointment to receive a vaccination from Main Street Family Care, go to <https://www.mainstreetfamilycare.com/covid-19-vaccine/>



“Everyone is invited to our 2021 Earth Day program. We hope all our members will attend and give a warm welcome to any of our visiting neighbors. Feel free to bring people with you, and please wear your “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other” T-shirt if possible. The program will be outside, with seating available. The event will be suitable for adults and children. The playground will be open, along with sidewalk chalk for Bird Drawing, refreshments, wildflower seed packets and door prizes. Please wear a mask. See you there!



Turkey Creek Nature Preserve

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A Happy New Year to everyone as we begin a new year for AAA with a trip to Turkey Creek for a box lunch and enjoyment of the great outdoors on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Turkey Creek is part of Forever Wild and is a beautiful nature preserve. We will travel in cars rather than by van, leaving the church about 10:30am. Please save the date – details will follow later. Everyone is welcome!

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!

Our Valley Christian Church library book box will be installed shortly near the playground in time for Earth Day on Saturday, April 24, 1:00pm. We need gently used or new books, both adult’s and children’s, which can be placed in the box and shared with others. If you would like to donate books for the library book box, please leave them in our church library on the table by Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Please pray for our faithful member Carol Speed as she recovers from her first surgery, visits the doctor, and awaits her second surgery for heart problems.
- Please pray for our faithful member Peggi Zinser as she recovers from a fall and must remain immobilized for two more weeks. Peggi says she is much better and only takes something for pain at night.
- Margaret Cox’s precious friend Sherry O’Kelly has been laid to rest in Atlanta at a very beautiful service for a very beautiful soul. Please pray for her husband Tim and all her family and friends including Margaret.
- Please pray for Margaret Cox’s sister-in-law because her home was destroyed by a tornado.
- Peggy Hiller’s son, George Hiller, III, is at home and recovering well. Thank you for your prayers.
- We ask you all to pray for all the people who continue to clean up from the storms and tornados that came through in March, especially those that lost their homes.
- Please pray for Virginia Spidle, friend of Jamie Ligon, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Virginia has many tough treatments to go through. Please pray that the Lord will make them be light and easy.
- Marilyn Cutcliffe has a joy that she sold her home and is looking for a new, one level home for herself and her son Matt.
- John and Cindy Neville are joyful that they received their second shots of the vaccine and that Daniel visited them.
- Ed and Ginny have a joy that their daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Spencer, will be moving to Auburn (after eight years in Colorado) where he has obtained a Research position. Welcome back Jessica and Spencer!
- Linda Reeves’ Aunt Mildred is in the hospital. Please pray for her and family.
- Ted Stuckenschneider had a joy that his sister, Melie, visited from Florence, Alabama.
- Please pray for Dana Stuckenschneider’s friend Joe Langston, who has cancer.
- Please pray for Pastor Eric’s realtor, Meg McCarthy, and her brother and her family, because her brother is in intensive care.
- Valley received a thank you note from Frank and Jane Williams for our prayers and love during his illness.
- Please call or email the office with your prayer concerns, joys or reports to include in “Life In The Valley”.