



Voice

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



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Monday through Friday

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From the Pastor's Desk

Coffee and a Story

I found myself thinking as I drove home from the church building one afternoon this past week, "September here is worth waiting for."

That isn't something I have found myself saying much at all in my life. As a kid, even a nerdy goofball like me would still mourn the end of the freedom of summer. Then, as an adult living on the West Coast, September meant the imminent arrival of October's rains that would generally continue through the winter and well into the spring.

Here, the weather still very much looms large—we are at the very peak of hurricane season, and only days removed from Ida's destruction in Louisiana, Mississippi, and New York—but I find myself looking forward to September now anyway. And not just because of football season, or even my anniversary here as your minister, although that is surely on my heart as well.

It is because that is one thing that being here in Birmingham with all of you has gotten me to experience differently. I experience the autumn differently here. And I have enjoyed that difference.

I have said it many times to y'all already but it feels worth saying again: we have experienced a profound amount of change these past two years. A new minister represents a sea change. The pandemic represented a sea change. We experienced both simultaneously.

So much is different now, and not much of it has been easy. But in this changing of seasons, I am reminded that sometimes, change also bears good fruit. And as things continue to change, I hope that you experience the goodness of the fruits we have chosen to harvest together so far—a brand-new way of doing adult Sunday School that Lola Kiser has ushered in, or the ability to worship with us on a Sunday you might not otherwise have been able to before because you were out of town.

I want to emphasize how important I think those things are. In a time when so much has been made more difficult and dangerous—travel, celebrations, concerts, and much more—we chose to make it easier and more accessible to experience Valley through things like online worship and one-month commitments to Sunday School classes. That is a meaningful, spiritually edifying thing for us to offer in this moment, and I want to take this time, in this newsletter space, to commend us for that, and to encourage us to keep drawing from that well together.

I look forward to seeing you—in-person or online—on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for education and 10:30 for worship. Each are, I think and hope, worth waiting for.

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday, Sept 12

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept 19

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept 26

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Oct 3

10:30 a.m.

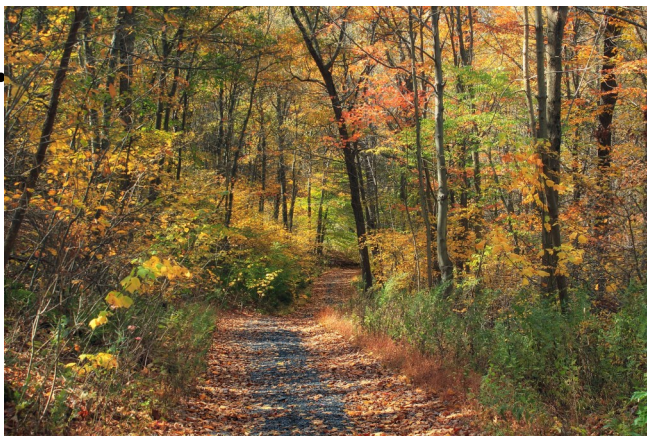
Dates of Interest:

- Sept 11th—Valley Workday
- Sept 15th—Spaghetti Lunch and Appalachian Trail Lecture by Edd Spencer—Fellowship Hall
- Sept 24-26th—Womens' Retreat, Rolling Hills
- Sept 26th—Reconciliation Special Offering
- October 3rd—Sixtieth Anniversary of Valley's Sanctuary

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- We had a request for prayers from Jan Watts whose oldest grandson is a marine in Afghanistan. He was friends with one of the marines killed and the military over there has been going through a ramping up of the war and had a lot of tragedy. Please pray for our service members, especially in Afghanistan.
- Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Wayne Deason Sr., who passed away last week. He is the father-in-law of Paige Nunnelly Deason, the daughter of Terry and Carolyn Nunnelly. Please remember his wife, Vicki Deason, who has several health problems. A memorial will be planned later.
- Please pray for the daughter of Judy and Clarence Sellers, Katherine Johnson, who has successfully gone through gall bladder surgery and is recovering nicely.
- Carol Speed's good friend Vicky Shay's (who visited us with her dog at our Blessing of the Pets event) husband, Harold Shay was diagnosed with lung cancer and passed away last week.. Please pray for his wife, and his family and friends.
- Please pray for the victims of Hurricane Ida, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Please pray for Margaret and Jeff Cox and their grandson Connor who is sick with COVID19. The family is in quarantine.
- We would like to thank John Neville, who is playing piano for us while Margaret Cox is quarantined. He is doing a wonderful job.
- Margaret Cox has a new grandson, Noah Harrison Reiss. He was born September 5, 2021 in Austin, Texas. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. His proud parents are Sam and Maggie Reiss.



The Appalachian Trail

September AAA Event: A Journey on the Appalachian Trail

A treat awaits us on Wednesday, September 15th when Reverend Edd Spencer will present a program in our fellowship hall entitled "A Journey on the Appalachian Trail". Lunch will be at 11:30am (\$4.00 per person) and will feature spaghetti (which is a trail favorite), salad, bread, chocolate

cake, peach cobbler and ice cream.

Following lunch, Edd will present a program about his experiences on the trail, including beautiful pictures, magic, trail songs, and stories about bears. The program will conclude with a moment of communion together.

Reservations for lunch must be made by Friday, September 10, 2021 by calling Marilyn in the church office. (205-879-0419—you may leave a message)

Invite a friend to come with you to discover the beauty and majesty of this trail along the tops of the Appalachian Mountains.

October AAA Event: Oak Hill Cemetery

AAA is planning a spooky Saturday event on October 16, 2021 and hope some members that work will be able to join us. We are planning a trip to Oak Hill, Birmingham's oldest cemetery. Right now our tentative time is 11:00am for a minimum walking tour. There are benches along the way for those that might want to sit. The cemetery will have tour guides dressed up in period costume to explain some interesting facts about Birmingham's founding fathers and some of Birmingham's interesting scandals thrown in also. The fee is \$10.00. You need to make reservations so please call me or Marilyn if you are interested in going. Lunch plans have not been made at this time, but we will add a lunch after the tour. Stay tuned for more information. Thank you, Peggy Zinser

Christmas is a comin'...

.... And it is time now to begin work on our Advent Devotional Booklet, this year Entitled "Gifts Given and Gifts Received". The booklet will be in two parts:

Part I: A gift you would give the baby Jesus if you had lived in Bethlehem or nearby when He was born or a gift from your present life.

Part II: A gift you have received in your own life from Jesus.

Please signup on the bulletin board list near the office. You can write a devotional for one or both parts, and you do not have to list the gifts now—just signup for the date(s) you want

The devotionals should be about 250 words, give or take a few words. We will need them by Monday, November 1st, so that we can prepare the booklet for distribution the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, 2021. Many thanks for your help! Lola Kiser

