



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**2600 Cherokee Place**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**  
**35216**  
**205-879-0419**

**Email: [office@vccbhm.org](mailto:office@vccbhm.org)**  
**Website: [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)**  
**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Winter Worship Schedule

**Friday, Dec 24**  
4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec 26**  
10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Jan 2**  
10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Jan 9**  
10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Dec 22 - Advent Carol Sing in the Sanctuary at 11:30am
- Dec 23 and 24 - office closed for Christmas
- Dec 24 — 4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec 25—Merry Christmas!
- Dec 31 office closed for New Years
- Jan 1 2022—Happy New Year!
- Jan 2—Guest Pastor Rev. John Churchill
- Jan 3—Epiphany
- Jan 5—New Horizons Group begins at Valley

**December 20 2021**

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*From the Pastor's Desk*

## Coffee and a Story

A couple of Sundays ago, Carrie, her parents, Sadie, and I caravanned down 280 to the Old Baker Farm to pick out our 2021 Christmas tree. As we soon discovered upon arrival, the farm had already been picked almost clean over the previous couple of weeks—there were only a handful of trees remaining for sale.

It would have been easy—tempting, even—to throw in the proverbial towel right there and assume that we would not be able to find a tree we liked among the slim pickings that remained. We could have assumed that the only trees remaining were the trees that nobody else would want.

But we ventured into the tree lot anyways, and after several minutes found a tree we liked. It was a bit barer than we had hoped for, but Carrie liked its shape and I liked the solidity of its branches for all the lights and ornaments we would decorate it with.

It now stands in the center of our picture window, brilliantly lit up and topped with the finest six-dollar star you could find. This isn't a Charlie Brown Christmas tree, mind you—it wasn't like we went to the farm and found it laden with expensively beautiful trees. No, there were but a few left and we still found exactly what we were hoping to find.

I would not go so far as to say that God led us to that tree—I think the much bigger-ticket items of life and death, love and loss are far more God's purview. But I do think that being open to being led by God can make you more open to the possibilities of what is out there, of the new and the unexpected. In short, being led by God can open you up to people and places you might otherwise not encounter or give yourself a chance to appreciate for who and what they are.

In that spirit, I hope you would be open to joining us (either in-person or on Zoom) to worship the newborn Christ twice over Christmas weekend, first on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm on Friday, December 24, and again on Sunday, December 26, at our usual worship time of 10:30 am. We will sing beloved Christmas carols, hear the Christmas story as told in Luke's Gospel, and rejoice that born unto us is a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. I hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me to you and yours this holiday season!

Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

## Life in the Valley

### Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Janice Clifford, wife of our former minister, Jim Clifford has been in the hospital over the holidays and is facing biopsy surgery Tuesday, December 21st. Please pray for them.
- Carrie Atcheson, wife of our pastor Eric Atcheson, has a torn meniscus. She will be having surgery on it Tuesday, January 4, 2022. However, it should only take a few weeks to recover which is good news. Please pray for them as they deal with this injury.
- Our sister church, Primera Iglesia, whose members have been meeting at Valley for several years, are moving to another location in North Shelby county where most of their members live. They will miss Valley very much, thanked us and have enjoyed their time with us! God bless you Primera Iglesia!
- Peggi Zinser's granddaughter and Christy Zinser's niece, Taylor Ann Brent, graduated from Mississippi State University, Summa Cum Laude, on December 10th with a degree in Electrical Engineering.
- Sherry and David Keiser send Christmas greetings to all the members of Valley Christian Church.
- Please pray for Melinda Robertson, our beloved member, who had a fall and broke some ribs. She is still recovering at home.
- Please pray for Joel Kramme, Lola Kiser's niece's husband. He needs our prayers right now.

## January AAA Event

Our next AAA event will be a trip to the Birmingham Museum of Art on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, to see the exhibit entitled "Lost Realms of the Mound Builders, Ancient Native Americans of the South and Midwest. This exhibition contains more than 170 objects featuring the archaeology, art and history of the Mississippian Mound Builders, some of whom lived here in Alabama at Moundville. AAA visited that location several years ago.

We will meet at the church at 10:30am to caravan to the Art Museum for a self-guided tour at 11:00am. Afterward, we will eat lunch at the Fish Market Restaurant, 612 22nd Street South, Birmingham, AL 35233 - Phone (205) 322-3330, about 12:30pm. Reservations should be made by Friday, January 14, 2022 by calling Marilyn in the church office. Everyone is welcome to go with us. Come and bring a friend!



Merry Christmas

## 2022 Valley Officers Elected

Moderator	Andrea Clark
Vice Moderator	John Neville
Secretary	Carol Speed
Treasurer	Now paid position (Beth Collier)
Assistant Treasurer	Peggi Zinser
Financial Secretary	Ginny Guindon
Asst. Financial Secretary	Sarah Draper
Trustees	Ted Stuckenschneider (2022) Stewart Draper (2023) *Terry Nunnally (2024)
Elders	
John Gregory (2022)	*Judy Sellers (2023)
Ted Stuckenschneider (2022)	*Sara Simon (2023)
Clarence Sellers (2022)	*Stewart Draper (2023)
Deacons	
Ginny Guindon (2022)	*Ed Guindon (2023)
Carol Speed (2022)	*Tim Devine (2023)
Carolyn Nunnally (2022)	*Beth Collier (2023)
TBA (2022)	*Terry Nunnally (2023)

## Sounds of Advent Carol-Sings Return

You are warmly invited to be a part of the return of our Sounds of Advent carol-sing tradition. While we could not offer this worship and fellowship opportunity last year due to the winter wave of covid-19, we are excited to be continuing it this year! Join us at 11:30 am at the church on Wednesday, December 22, for Advent carol-singing and a brief accompanying Bible study led by Pastor Eric. Our first carol-sing, on December 1, was led by John Neville on the piano, on December 15 was led by Pastor Eric, and our music director, Mary Ellen Caughran will lead on December 22nd. We hope to see you there!

## Disciples Women

### Christmas Card Tree project

To greet your Valley church family, the Disciples Women invite you to bring a signed Christmas card and attach it to the Christmas tree in the parlor. You may also wish to leave a monetary donation (cash or check made out to Disciples Women) in the box that will be sent to the Florida Christian Center, a Disciples of Christ living facility serving senior adults and adults with special needs in Jacksonville, Florida. Within the Center is the Wishing Well Gift Shop, which offers residents a convenient way to shop for personal items and gifts for friends and family. Our offering will help the gift shop staff purchase items with which to stock the shop. The Disciples Women have supported the gift shop in this way for several years, and the Center's staff is very grateful for the assistance.



Happy New Year