



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
Website: www.vccbhm.org
Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Spring Worship Schedule

- Sunday Service**
July 17 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
July 24 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
July 31 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Aug 7 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Service**
Aug 14 10:30 a.m.

Dates of Interest:

- **Wednesday, July 13th - AAA visits Priester's Pecans on I-65 near Montgomery Alabama.**
- **Sunday, July 17th - Board Meeting**
- **Saturday, July 23rd - Regional Convocation Workshop at Mount Calvary Missionary Christian in Tuskegee**
- **Monday, July 25th - Voice Deadline**

July 12 2022

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 13

A Word from Your Pastor

Recently I have noticed that some of the directional signs along the interstate and roads are covered with summer vegetation. Road signs with words and numbers that are blocked out by branches of trees, weeds and even Kudzu. The intrusion of Mother Nature makes it difficult to navigate and know when to exit the highways of Alabama. We also journey in a world where the signs that point to God and give us a direction of wholeness are covered with darkness. This covering of darkness that blocks out the hope of God. There is, for example, the present problem of inflation, the war in Ukraine, Covid, mass shootings, crime in our cities, hunger and social unrest. There is also our own personal darkness of conflict in marriages, problems with children or parents, loneliness that hurts our spirits, and sickness that troubles us. Therefore, just as a maintenance crew is needed to cut away the plants that cover the signs along the roads, someone is needed to cut away all this darkness that covers our lives. And that is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Christ has come to help us in the midst of our struggles to be the sign that is not covered with darkness. He can do this because He has walked the streets of life where we walk, faced the problems we face, and wrestled with the problems we struggle with. He understands them, and He comes to join hands with us as we seek to deal with them. We are not alone! He dwells with us. Man-made signs along our highways can be covered up or destroyed. But it is important to remember there is One who cannot be covered up or destroyed. There is One that cannot be overwhelmed by darkness. He is God's light and it will get stronger and brighter. May we follow this light of Jesus and allow it to be our eternal landmark and sign of light. Praise be to God for His light is always shining in the darkness. - God Bless You, Edd

Mary Ellen Caughran Retires

Dear Valley,
I submitted my letter of resignation to the moderator and vice moderator in mid June effective July 31. I notified the vocal and bell choirs by email the next day. I wanted to let the congregation know how much I have enjoyed being your choir director and working with the musicians, pastors, and staff over the past 3 years. I love the people at Valley and hope you find someone younger with more energy to take my place. It is time for me to be truly retired.
Mary Ellen Caughran

Search Committee Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, July 10th was a day of great activity for the Pastoral Search Committee at Valley. Members and friends brought their completed self-study survey forms which the committee will use to develop a congregational profile in the coming weeks. Following the worship service, the committee hosted a luncheon and town hall meeting in the fellowship hall. Many persons participated in the discussion surrounding searching for and calling a new minister as well as looking forward to the ministry opportunities and possibilities that God may be calling Valley to in this new life chapter. Thank you for providing input on the surveys and attending the luncheon and meeting to hear and express your thoughts, ideas and hopes for Valley. The information shared will be very helpful to the Search Committee and the congregation as we move forward. - Ginny Guindon, Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee

Valley Christian Church's letter to St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills after the tragedy that occurred there on June 16, 2022 when three members were killed.

Dear People in Christ,

When will it stop? We hope deaths by guns will stop before they come to our community, and for St. Stephens, into your place of fellowship where people gather to feel and share the love of Jesus Christ.

Our congregation knows about sacred space, however, we have not had a violation of that space. Our hearts go out to the members of St Stephens as you try to make sense of such a violation.

May you know the presence of God who walks with you in these tragic and troubling times. As you commit the bodies of your loved ones to our Lord, may there be a flood of comfort to bear your grief and the grief of family members.

We pray that the Boomer group will soon gather again to find strength in the sharing of their stories and of their faith. May they say to the community that the whole Church will continue to gather in many ways and times. We can echo Paul's words in Romans 5:1-5:

"We take pride in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Valley Christian Church is close to your community and congregation. We are open to hear your grief, give you comfort, and affirm our faith in the love of God.

May the voice of our Creator, the words and actions of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you in new and loving ways.

In Jesus Name,

John W. Gregory, Elder
On Behalf of the Congregation
Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Edd Spencer had a joy over how much rain we have received recently and a break in the high temps. He also wanted to express the church's gratitude to all who assisted with the Search Committee Town Hall meeting and the lunch. It was a big success.
- We welcomed some friends, Rick and Kay Keith this Sunday, who attend First Christian Church Birmingham. We were glad to see them!
- One of our members, Ann Johnsey, had a recent diagnosis of stage one colon cancer. Since it was caught so early from her colonoscopy, the doctors are very optimistic about Ann's prognosis. She found out today that her treatment plan will probably be laparoscopic surgery since it has not traveled in her body. She asks for prayers from everyone. Also, Ann had some great news that her healthy great grandson was born. James Alden Crisp was born to parents Caroline Johnsey Crisp and Evan Crisp on July 8th.
- One of Clarence Sellers' good friends from early childhood, Phil Graham, had a massive heart attack, fell down steps and hit his head on concrete. He never regained consciousness. He was good to everyone in Clarence's class. Please pray for his family and friends that the Lord gives them comfort and peace.
- Margaret Cox had a joy that she saw a lady who grew up in the Cherokee Road neighborhood and who asked her if she was still at Valley Christian Church. She said one of her favorite childhood memories was getting the Vacation Bible School flyer from Valley in their mailbox every summer and attending the Bible School at the church. Margaret thought everyone would enjoy hearing that sweet story.
- On the 4th of July we want to thank God for all our freedoms, especially freedom of worship.
- Please pray for Sara Simon's daughter, Lauren Lambert, who had her daughter Ava in the third week of June and then got Covid soon after.
- Edd had a great time on vacation in the Smokies with the family. He got to do a lot of his favorite things. He wants to thank John Gregory for his sermon and leading worship while he was away.
- The July AAA Event to Priestley's Pecans had to be postponed to Wednesday, July 27, 2022. Please let us know if you can go on this wonderful trip.
- Food Pantry items for the month of July are sugar, flour and cornmeal.