

Voice

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



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October 2024

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 10

A Word From the Pastor

We have become so dependent on our cell phones for everything from our calendars to how we pay for things. For so many, their cell phone is their life as it holds pictures, allows streaming of movies, handles our banking, can lock and unlock doors, even start cars. It can be our weather forecaster, our gaming center, news reporter and of course our link to our social media accounts. It can help us when we are lost or need directions, it can give us lists of restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores and churches that are near us and it can track our every movement. It can text, email, snapchat and facetime with just about anyone anywhere in the world in an instant. It is as close to an all-in-one device that we can imagine and let's not forget it can make a call if needed. What would we do if we didn't have the use of our cell phone. I think many would go into withdrawal not really knowing what to do or where to turn. The cell phone has become part of our lives as much as eating, sleeping and living. It is no longer an accessory but a necessary part of our daily routine that in many ways controls our activities and how we spend our time.

But even with all of its prowess and ability, it does have limitations. It needs to be recharged, it can be broken, it may lose its signal or it just may quit working to name a few. Even for all of its wizardry and wonder, it is still a piece of equipment that can and does fail and it will need to be upgraded and/or replaced several times over our lifetimes. It just goes to show that nothing tied to this earth is permanent nor perfect, including but not limited to us human beings.

For all of our ingenuity and inventiveness, we still fall short of all that our God has, is and will do as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of this world. In God we find more than any device, any instrument, anything we can produce. God is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the ultimate and try as we might, we will never be able to match all that God has, is and will do in this world.

But even with all of God's greatness, with all of His wonder, with all of His abilities, God wants nothing more than to have a relationship with us, to partner with us in creating what we like to call heaven on earth. God isn't out to control us, to make us into mindless puppets or even to condemn us when we stray. Our Lord's sole purpose is to bring us closer to him, to guide us into a fruitful and faithful relationship with Him and to recover, reclaim and restore us to our original glory.

As much as the cell phone has become a part of our lives, I pray we give more of our lives over to God, that we give our Lord as much attention as we do the apps on our phones, that we think of our Rock and Redeemer as much as we do our social media accounts, that we turn to our ultimate Savior as much as we do our phones remembering that while our phones have limitations, our God does not.

And this is great news for us for as **Luke 1:37** reminds us; ***For nothing will be impossible with God***, which means that with God on our side, in our lives and guiding us and directing us, the trajectory of our lives today and in the future is limitless. Next time you pick up your phone, may it remind you that as wonderful as it may be, our God is ever more so and is worthy of our praise and adoration now and forevermore. Come, spend some quality time with our Lord and find a connection that can never be broken, that will never need replacing, that will never leave us stranded and that will never fail us; praise be to God.

Pastor Rick Malugani
Senior Pastor
Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Dates of Interest:

• Oct 5 - Valley Work Day

Oct 6 - Elders' Prayer

Food Pantry Sunday
(Yes, I Can Bags for Thanksgiving Dinner)

Safety & Security Review

Thrift Sale

Oct 16 - Disciples Women

Men's Luncheon

• Oct 17 - BVM Paw Paw Patch

Oct 20 - Board Mtg

Oct 21 - Voice Deadline

Oct 24 - AAA Sloss Furnace

Oct 31 - Halloween

Life in the Valley



Young Adult

On Sunday mornings, during the Young Adult study group, we discuss real-world issues and relationships in a relaxed and comfortable setting. Please join us for a cup of coffee and discussion at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.



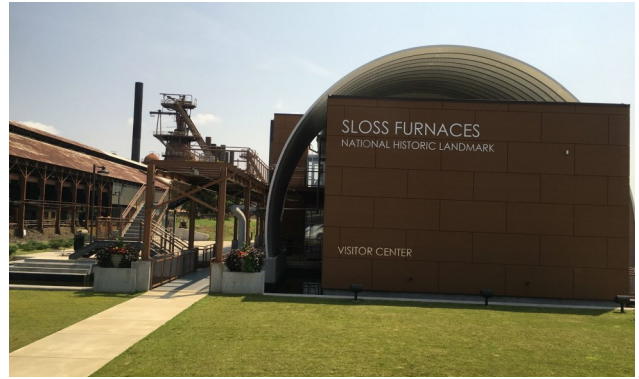
During September, Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) welcomed Eamon Griffith as our new pianist. If you have not yet met Eamon, please introduce yourself when you have a chance. We are all thrilled to have Eamon join us in our church family!



2024 Reconciliation Offering

We will be receiving the 2024 Reconciliation Offering on September 29th and October 6th.

This offering is used to fight racism and bring justice for all.



October AAA TRIP TO SLOSS FURNACE

October is always a fun and spooky time for the AAA group. On Thursday, October 24th, we will tour Birmingham's Historical Sloss Furnace with "ghost" storyteller, Ty Malugani. The tour costs \$5.00, and there is a \$3.00 gas fee. The tour begins at 10:30, so we will leave Valley at 10:00 a.m. Please be at the church at 9:45 a.m. Lunch is at Mr. Chen's in Homewood at the Chinese Supermarket. Please call Peggi if you plan on going and riding the van or if you are driving.

Thank you, Peggi Zinser



Safety and Security Review Sunday

Sunday, October 6th we will review our safety and security procedures. Information on what to do when in the building in case of a: 1. Heart Attack 2. Tornado 3. Fire 4. Active Shooter. 5. Information on news security locks downstairs. We will go over the procedures during our church service that the Mt. Brook Fire and Police have suggested to Valley Christian Church.

Peggi Zinser – Security Coordinator

Update on Valley Christian Church Planning

At our planning meeting in January, I laid out a plan to discern God's will for us moving forward. Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a long legacy of service, outreach and support for the community, and I wanted to leverage that while at the same time refocusing ourselves to what we believe God is calling us to be and do in our current state.

The plan was three-fold, first to discern God's vision for us and from that formulate our mission. That would lead us into ministries that fed both the vision and mission and would help us focus on that which we believe God was calling us to be at this time. Accepting the fact that we are smallish, that we have some years on us and that although we may want to do as many things as we can, we need to be good stewards of all of our resources including how thin we spread ourselves.

I believe that by going through this process we will land on a ministry or ministries that will not only maximize our resources but do so in a way that leaves room for growth and not leave us burned out or feeling overburdened. It will also help us focus our resources on that which we believe God is calling us to do at this particular moment.

It seems like a long-winded way to get to actual ministry, but I believe that in the journey we will not only learn what God wants us to do, but also more about ourselves and what fuels us as Disciples of Christ.

The first step then was to discern God's vision for us, and this was done through intentional prayer, a survey and conversations with this body of Christ. At our gathering on September 15, we put forth what we believe is God's vision for us; *Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Bible-based, spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and a growing commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.*

This first part now will inform everything that follows as everything we say and do needs to feed into this vision. Our next step is to discern our mission which is the "how" part of the equation. How will we make this vision a reality? This is different than the "what" which will be the actual ministries. How will we show the love of Christ, how will we be the hands and feet of Christ? One way we show the love of Christ is through our worship. Others include our Bible study, our disciples' groups, our fellowship as well as our outreach activities.

To get the ball rolling, I thought of this: At Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) our mission is to share the love of God through meaningful worship, engaged fellowship groups and inspired service to our community.

This is just to get started and while it sounds quite close to our vision, there is a difference. The vision is what we hope to be, the hands and feet of Christ where the love of God meets the people. The mission is the how; through worship, through fellowship, through outreach, etc.

The last part then will be to put the "what" into this process. What will we do to bring the love, to be the hands and feet. This is the nuts and bolts, the actual ministries that we engage in to fulfill the mission and feed into the vision.

I firmly believe that if we finish this process, we will have a clear idea of who we are, how we are to move forward and what it is we are being called to do now and into the future. And this will not only help us focus but be a foundation upon which we can grow both internally as well as externally. With God's help, we will get there.

Pastor Rick Malugani
Senior Pastor
Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Thrift Sale Is Back for One Day Only Sunday, October 6, 2024

Remember the good ole days when Valley had the Thrift Sale? Well, we are going to do that again on Sunday, October 6, for Grace Klein Missions. It is primarily a food harvest mission, but they have a GIVE AND TAKE closet for anyone who needs clothing or household items. They also have a shelf of knick-knacks. So, I am asking everyone to bring one item that they are not using to church on the 6th, and we will take it to them.

Thank you very much. Peggi Zinser



YES, I CAN!

On October 6 we will hand out the Yes, I Can! bags. You are asked to fill them with items to replenish the pantry or items for the Thanksgiving meal. These items will be delivered to Greater Birmingham Ministries and St. Anne's Home. GBM is an Inter-Faith Ministry that helps people who find themselves in an income oasis. St. Ann's Home is a home for women who are in need of a place to live after being incarcerated or those who need a safe place after becoming drug free. The bags should be returned by October 20th.

If you have any questions, please contact
Sarah Draper.