



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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**Website: [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)**  
**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Fall Worship Schedule

**Sunday Service**  
Jan 15 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Jan 22 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Jan 29 2:00 p.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Feb 5 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Feb 12 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Jan 16 - Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed
- Jan 18 - AAA visit to the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion in Tuscaloosa
- Jan 22 - Laity Sunday, Ed Guindon preaching
- Jan 23 - Voice Deadline
- Jan 29 - Valley Planning Retreat after worship with lunch provided.

**January 10 2023**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

New Year's Day reminded me of something that happened during the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day a few years ago. With people watching along the parade route and many more watching on television, the Rose Bowl Parade came to a sudden stop. There was a long delay because one of the large floats lost power and came to a complete stop. The beautiful float was so huge that it covered most of the street, and the other floats and the marching bands could not get around it. So the parade was stopped for some time.

A quick investigation found that the problem was not some major mechanical failure that had stopped the float and delayed the whole parade. No, the problem was that this large and expensive float had simply run out of gas. Someone had to run and find a gallon of gas before the Rose Bowl Parade could start up again.

Now, the point is, it can happen to any of us. If we do not pay attention, we can run out of gas. This is also true spiritually. If we are not careful, if we do not pay attention, we can run out of gas spiritually.

This is what Paul was talking about in his letter to the Philippians in the Bible. In his letter he wrote to the people in the Philippian church to encourage them to hang in there, to hold on to their faith, and not to "run out of gas".

Paul expressed it like this: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 13-14)

In other words, Paul was saying to them, "Hold on to your faith! Whatever happens, don't lose heart! Keep on trusting God! Keep on growing spiritually! Don't give up! Don't quit! Don't run out of gas! Press on!"

This advice of Paul is also good for Valley Christian Church. He is saying to each one of us at Valley: Please don't quit! Don't quit on life! Don't quit on your faith! Don't quit on the church! Don't quit on God! Don't run out of gas spiritually!

So, in the new year of 2023 may we press on. May we trust God with all our whole heart. May we keep our faith alive and well and growing. May we not run out of gas spiritually! Happy New Year, Edd

## Laity Sunday

We will celebrate Laity Sunday on January 22<sup>nd</sup> as Valley Christian begins the 2023 year with Ed Guindon, our new Moderator, bringing the sermon. On this Laity Sunday, during our morning service, we will have the Installation of Officers for 2023 and welcome new members Jean Thrasher and Effie King. After our Sunday service please join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and the presentations of our Christian Service Recognitions. Carolyn Nunnely is preparing a meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls. Please let Peggy Zinser know if you can bring a dessert.

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our prayers are with Ed and Ginny Guindon, Sarah and Stewart Draper and Clarence and Judy Sellers who are all recovering from Covid.
- Please pray for our former pastor, Gary Edge, as he cares for his brother and sister.
- Please pray for Peggy Hiller, who was moved temporarily to a motel because of broken pipes at Brookdale.
- We have misplaced a long blue scarf that was used the night the Walk to Bethlehem. Please call Peggi Zinser if you find it.
- The Valley Staff, Edd Spencer, Margaret Cox, Beth Collier and Marilyn Ireland would like to thank you for the wonderful Christmas Love Gift. Thank you so much Valley! We are blessed to work here!
- Looking ahead - The Valley Planning Retreat for 2023 is Sunday, January 29th after worship. Lunch will be provided.

## Our 2023 Church Board

Moderator - Ed Guindon

Vice Moderator - John Gregory

Secretary - Carol Speed

Treasurer - Beth Collier

Assistant Treasurer - Peggi Zinser

Financial Secretary - Ginny Guindon

Assistant Financial Secretary - Sarah Draper

Trustees:

Stewart Draper (2023) Terry Nunnelly (2024)

Jim Taylor (2025)

Elders:

Judy Sellers (2023) Sara Simon (2023)

Stewart Draper (2023) Sarah Draper (2024)

Carolyn Nunnelly (2024) Ed Guindon (2024)

Deacons:

Carol Speed (2023) Beth Collier (2023)

Terry Nunnelly (2023) Jean Thrasher (2024)

Clarence Sellers (2024) Peggi Zinser (2024)

John Gregory (2024)

## Your Opportunity to Serve in 2023

The following are some wonderful opportunities to serve our Lord at Valley Christian in 2023. Please choose one and notify Ed Guindon or Edd Spencer.

- Worship Ministry: Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services and special services such as Christmas and Easter.
- Education Ministry: Responsible for Sunday School and the total education program of the church.
- Evangelism Ministry: Responsible for bringing new members into the life of the church.
- Fellowship/Membership Ministry: Responsible for providing a social life for the church and for the care and nurturing of church members.
- Stewardship and Outreach Ministry: Responsible for the financial program and for the giving to the needy within Birmingham and throughout the world.
- Property Ministry: Responsible for the maintenance of the church property.

## Sermon Series for January

January is Laity Month as we celebrate the ministry of the laity of Valley Christian Church. The members and friends of Valley are indeed committed to following the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. To celebrate the laity, Ed Guindon will bring the message on Sunday, January 22. During January, Edd will share sermons on a special laity group of Disciples in the Bible. He will focus on the three Disciples that were very close to Jesus. The sermons will be on the small group of Peter, James and John. May the lives of these special men help us to move a step closer to our Lord. The sermon schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, January 15 - "John - The Beloved Disciple"
- Sunday, January 22 - "Laity Sunday - Ed Guindon preaching"
- Sunday, January 29 - "Peter - The Disciple Who Became a Rock"

## "In Defense of KINDNESS -

### *Why It Matters - How It Changes Our Lives - How It Can Save the World"*

Join the Tuesday evening class at 6:30pm from the comfort of your home to see what this Presbyterian pastor has to say about 'Kindness' and saving the World(?). For about 5 sessions, via Zoom, you can be in conversation with some really sharp and faithful people. John Gregory has the title, teacher, but everyone is a teacher as we learn and share ideas about the Christian life with kindness.

- Please use these phone numbers and links between 6:15pm and 6:45pm Central Time on Tuesdays. You can join in one of two ways:
- By computer, smart phone or tablet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952948962?pwd=SFheDBOYWtINmE0WERKVzdnVmRPZz09>
- By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID 829 5294 8962, Passcode 205879
- (If you need a live link to the Bible Study link, you can go to the homepage of our website at [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org) and click on "Links to Zoom" then click on the Valley Meeting 1 link.)

## Our Plans For the Year

Our Planning Meeting for our ministry together in 2023 is Sunday, January 29th. We will meet after church in the Fellowship Hall. A lunch will be provided. We will dream and plan programs for worship, education, evangelism, membership, fellowship, outreach, stewardship and property. All new committee chairs will be present to share ideas and dates for the coming year. Members and friends are also encouraged to attend the planning session.

## January AAA

The January AAA event will be a trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 to visit the beautiful Italianate designed antebellum Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion. The van will leave the church at 9:30am for the trip to Tuscaloosa, a tour of the house at 11:00am to 12:00noon and lunch at the Blue Plate Restaurant in Northport, Alabama at 12:30pm. After lunch we will go by Capital Park where the Alabama State Capitol stood when Tuscaloosa was the State Capital of Alabama, 1826-1846. The van transportation fee will be \$5.00 per person. Please make your reservation by Friday, January 13, 2023 by calling Marilyn in the church office. There is no charge to visit the house. Friends and visitors are always welcome!