



Voice

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



Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Email: office@vccbhm.org
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Office Hours: 8am-12pm
Monday through Friday

Winter Worship Schedule

Sunday Service

Jan 29 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Feb 5 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Feb 12 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Service

Jan 19 10:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Jan 22 12:00 p.m.

Dates of Interest:

- Jan 29 - Valley Planning Retreat after worship with lunch provided.
- Feb 14 - AAA event - Rev. Edd Spencer 's Valentine Magic and Lunch
- Feb 19 & 26 - Week of Compassion Offering
- Feb 20 - Presidents Day
- Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday Worship at Valley
- Feb 26 - First Sunday in Lent

January 24 2023

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A Word from Your Pastor

If you want to know what time it is, you look at a clock. If you want to know how cold it is, you look at the thermometer. If you want to know how fast you are going, you check the speedometer. And if you want to know how far off course you are, you check your compass. As we enter a new year we need to check our spiritual compass. A compass to help us be on the right course. God has given us His word as a spiritual compass. A compass that helps us to tell right from wrong. Let me offer some suggestions about His spiritual compass.

First, when we are confused by a question of right and wrong, then let us search the scriptures. To let them be our spiritual compass and to see what God would have us do. The Bible is God's word. "It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway." It is the right place to start.

Second, when we are confused over a moral issue, may we just try to use some common sense. God gave us minds to use. Think about it. Does this seem right? Does this sound right? Does it make sense to do this?

A third guideline for our following a spiritual compass is to address the question of right or wrong to the test of our best self. We are not always at our best. We do not always see the whole picture and we often say things that we are sorry about later. We may take a position that does not actually reflect our highest and best. Let us stop and allow our best self to look at a situation. Then we will come closer to doing the right thing.

A final guideline in following a spiritual compass and God's way is to look toward the future. Look ahead and on down the road. Where does the road lead? Jesus gives a spiritual compass for looking ahead in the Sermon on the Mount. He said, "Enter in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life." Therefore, may we choose the strait and narrow gate as we look down the road of life. Will our look down the road into the future be for our spiritual gain or our spiritual loss?

These four guidelines are for us to consider for 2023. May we use them as our spiritual compass. May we see how they work out the next time we face the question of whether is is right or wrong.

One final thought for all of us. God has given us His son to be our Savior. When we do wrong, we have a Savior. We can be forgiven. That is good news! And there is more God has given us. He has given us the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who encourages us to check out the guidelines of our spiritual compass. So happy traveling in 2023. Let us practice the four guidelines and grow in Christ.

God Bless You, Edd

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 with a donation of \$3.00. 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.

Life in the Valley

Prayers, Joys and Concerns

- Please pray for Jan Watts, who will be having surgery at UAB on Wednesday.
- 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.
- Thanks go to Ed Guindon for his sermon Sunday and to all those who made Laity Sunday a success.
- Valley Friends, Words can not express our shock when we received recognition of our service to God while we have been members here at Valley. We have found a place that "Serves God by serving others" and we love it. May we continue serving God as we grow together. Sarah & Stewart Draper

recipients of the Christian Service Recognition did a wonderful presentation of each of those newly chosen to receive the 2023 recognition. Judy Sellers was presented her plaque by Carolyn Nunnally and we found out many surprises about her and her husband's life, Judy has worked tirelessly and headed up many events for us at Valley. John Neville presented the plaque to Dr. Jim Taylor and told of Jim's medical education and his life with his family. Peggi Zinser presented the Life Time Christian Service Recognition to Sarah Draper and Stewart Draper for all their hard work and devotion to Valley Christian Church, both working in many capacities throughout the years. It was a wonderful day in the life of Valley's members with a wonderful sermon, delicious food and the recognition of our devoted and faithful members.

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 Nunnally (2024)

Jim Taylor (2025)

Elders -

Judy Sellers (2023) Sara Simon (2023)

Stewart Draper (2023) Sarah Draper (2024)

Carolyn Nunnally (2024) Ed Guindon (2024)

Deacons -

Carol Speed (2023) Beth Collier (2023)

Terry Nunnally (2023) Jean Thrasher (2024)

Clarence Sellers (2024) Peggi Zinser (2024)

John Gregory (2024)

Ministry Chairpersons -

Worship Ministry - John Gregory

Education Ministry - Lola Kiser

Evangelism Ministry - Carolyn Nunnally

Property Ministry - Terry Nunnally

Fellowship/Membership Ministry - Jean Thrasher

Outreach/Stewardship Ministry - Sarah and Stewart Draper



Top left—John Neville with winner Jim Taylor

Top right— Lifetime Winner Stewart Draper

Bottom left—Peggi Zinser with Lifetime winner Sarah Draper

Bottom right—Winner Judy Sellers

Laity Sunday 2023

Laity Sunday was a blessing for all, beginning with the Installation of Officers for the 2023 year. Valley is fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated members. The congregation and visitors enjoyed Ed Guindon's coming down the aisle dressed in period biblical clothing, which was an added element of surprise to his portrayal of Jesus' disciple Andrew. Ed gave the sermon and told of Andrew's life, not only as a fisherman and Brother of Simon (later renamed Peter by Jesus), but of his life of devotion. Andrew first followed John the Baptist and then became a follower of Jesus. Ed told of what Andrew preached about and also how he chose to be crucified, on a X-shaped cross, which is the symbol of the Disciples of Christ that we see on our chalice and in our stained glass windows.

Carolyn Nunnally and her team prepared a delicious meal for everyone's enjoyment. The last three year's

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/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 February

During January, our sermon series was on three disciples in the New Testament. We discovered new insights into the lives of James, John and Peter. During the month of February, the sermon series will be on three persons in the Old Testament. The schedule for the sermons is as follows:

Sunday February 5

“Naaman - Taking the Plunge” II Kings 5:1-14

Sunday February 12

“Jacob - A Wrestling Match” Genesis 28:22-32

Sunday, February 19

“Daniel - In the Lion’s Den” Daniel 6:1-28

The First Sunday in Lent is February 26. A sermon series on the Passion of Jesus during Lent will be listed in the next issue of the Voice.

February AAA

Do we have a Valentine for you!! On Tuesday, February 14 at 10:30am our own Rev. Edd Spencer will present a program for AAA entitled “Valentine Magic”. Lunch will be provided with a donation of \$3.00. Everyone is welcome to join us to learn about Edd’s work with the children at Children’s Hospital and the joy he has brought to them. Members and friends are always welcome!

Holy Baptism

Anyone who would like to reaffirm their baptism or be baptized for the first time should contact Edd. A Pastor’s class will be available to discuss the meaning of baptism for participants. Baptism will be in the morning service on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent begins next month on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. A holy season is to remember that Christ made a tremendous sacrifice for each one of us. The Worship Ministry Committee is planning some special services for Lent. These services will be lifted up in next month’s Voice.

The Best Gift to Give

Last year in November and December we were encouraged to share our financial gifts through our pledges with the church. Below are some other gifts that we should share:

To your friend—the gift of loyalty

To your enemy—the gift of forgiveness

To your child—the gift of a good example

To your parent—the gift of gratitude

To your mate—the gift of love

To your God—the gift of your life.

Thoughts from the Moderator for 2023

As January draws to a close, we transition to leadership by our new officers and department heads. I want to thank those who led us through 2022 – a year that brought us some surprises and challenges, but also a year when everyone stepped up and worked to see that Valley Christian’s ministry contin-

ued, despite the challenges. I especially want to express my appreciation to Andrea Clark, past moderator, and John Neville, past vice-moderator, for their leadership through 2021 and 2022.

2023 promises to be a challenging year. We expect some budget challenges, and we know that we will have to work equally hard as we did in 2022 to ensure the continued success of our many programs and ministries. I am grateful to all of our new department heads who have graciously agreed to organize and direct our various ministries. But their success depends on the willingness of the rest of us to pitch in with the ideas and manpower needed to implement their planned programs. In addition, I challenge all to look for better, more efficient ways to do our ministries to make sure no one feels overburdened by their various responsibilities.

Our first opportunity comes this Sunday, when all are invited to stay following church as we plan together the programs for the year. This year, we will be doing calendar-based planning rather than the committee/department-based planning we have done in the past. It is hoped that this will provide for a wider range of ideas as well as more cross participation of members among the various departments.

I ask for continued prayers for the Search Committee as they work to identify and recommend a pastor to the congregation. The pool of suitable candidates is affected by both the after-effects of the pandemic and the cultural conflicts of our time. We ask God to provide them the discernment they need to recognize the pastoral leader He has for us.

Finally, I want to thank Edd Spencer for his leadership and encouragement every day. We are truly blessed to have an interim who is fully engaged in supporting and encouraging us all, both individually and as a congregation. I am especially grateful for his ideas and leadership as we tried a couple of new things – the “Walk to Bethlehem” and the “Birthday Party for Jesus”. These provided both a break from “the way we’ve always done it”, but also provided opportunities for us to invite others to participate.



A life of service really is a thing that you should treasure
For you will make a difference to this world that lasts forever.
For those who are around someone whose life has good intent
Will always and forever be affected by their scent.

Whilst you may humbly fail to see the permeating heat
That comes from all your kindness to the people that you meet,
Yet others do appreciate the blessing that you bring.
It adds a glow to life, just as the sunshine does in spring.

You may not ever notice it. You may not ever know
The beauty of your life’s work, when humbly put on show.
So, never feel resentment; guard your heart as if it’s gold.
Just wear the belt of righteousness, and let God’s truth unfold.

And don’t rely on gratitude for all the things you do,
But ask the Lord for grace and love to help you see them through.
Enjoy your special role and know the privilege is yours:
God chooses workers carefully to compliment His cause.

And be assured that many of the seeds you sow will root
And in your absence will go on to flourish and bear fruit.
So live in humble servitude, content that God above
Is watching with a father’s pride, to shower you with love.