



# 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**

## Spring Worship Schedule

### Sunday Service

May 14 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

May 21 10:30 a.m.

### Pentecost Service

May 28 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Jun 4 10:30 a.m.

### Sunday Service

Jun 11 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- May 14 - Mother's Day
- May 14 & 21 - Blankets of Hope Offering
- May 17 - AAA - Transportation Museum (Tuscaloosa)
- May 21 - Guest Minister Dale Braxton
- May 22 - Voice Deadline
- May 28 - Pentecost Sunday
- May 28 - Guest Minister Jan Watts
- May 29 - Memorial Day - Office Closed
- June 4 - Food Pantry Sunday - Summer snack foods for kids

**May 9, 2023**

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## A Word from Your Pastor

During this time of year we are surrounded by the beauty of God. Elegant spring flowers and budding trees visually refresh our spirits. I call these beautiful springtime creations of God, roadside altars. Places of beauty where we can slow down and be in touch with God. Places where we can find strength to face the everyday issues of life.

The scriptures are filled with these roadside altars. In the Old Testament there was a man named Moses who was traveling through the hills of the desert seeking God's guidance. He came to a roadside altar - a burning bush. Moses sensed the beauty, power and wonder of God in the bush. And in that bush God had a purpose for his life.

In the New Testament the Lord Jesus was walking down a dusty road with His disciples who were troubled about life. They passed by a roadside altar of beautiful lilies growing in the field. He said to His disciples, "Do not be troubled. Consider these beautiful lilies of the field. Take a good look at them. They do not worry. They know that God will take care of them. Surely you can trust God to do as much for you." So these roadside altars of nature along our roads and gardens in Birmingham, the desert of Moses and the fields of Galilee remind us that He has a purpose for our lives and that He is always with us. Praise be to God. God Bless You, Edd



## Blankets of Hope

You can purchase Blankets of Hope on May 14th and May 21. These blankets are used to give to people who are involved in disasters of any kind. Church World Service will take our gifts and give them to people in need. You can purchase them in honor or memory of anyone who has held you in a blanket or anyone you have held in a blanket. Unfortunately, inflation has caught up with us. The blankets are now \$10.

## On-line Giving Capabilities

Valley has engaged the services of EasyTithe to offer interested persons the option of secure on-line giving via the church website ([www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)). Many churches now offer this capability on their websites, which allows church members and friends to contribute their tithes and offerings conveniently from anywhere at anytime, either once or on an automatic recurring basis. As always, Valley gladly will continue to accept checks and cash through the mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate during Sunday morning worship. To give, choose the "Giving" tab on the home page of the website and you will be directed to another page to sign up. You may designate which fund you wish your contribution to help (General Fund, Special Day offerings, Memorial Gifts, etc.), and you may give via credit or debit card, Google Pay, or ACH (from your checking account). The processing fee is 0.75% for ACH donations and 1.99% for credit or debit cards and Google Pay; contributors have the option to cover this fee if they wish to. For example, the processing fee for a \$50 gift via ACH is only 38 cents. Additionally, Valley pays 77 cents for each contribution transaction. Contributions are directly deposited into the church's bank account and the financial secretary receives notification by email. The donor also receives an email receipt. If you are interested, please explore the page on the website. I am available for any questions or to provide assistance with using the feature. Special thanks go to Tim Devine for his help in the implementation of this feature on Valley's website. - Ginny Guindon

# Life in the Valley

## *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our prayers are with Jim Taylor who was recently in UAB and is now back home.
- Our most heartfelt sympathy to Phyllis Kirk, on the passing of her brother, Henry Stough III on May 1st and the passing of her daughter, Kristen Kirk on May 3rd. Phyllis is a longtime choir director at Grace Christian Church and she also uses Valley's facilities on Monday evenings with another choir group (Embellishments). Please pray for Phyllis and her family in this tragic loss.
- Pat McDaniel's niece, Doris Jane Watkins needs our prayers. She is having surgery to remove a kidney with cancer.
- Please pray for Peggi Zinser's brother Alan. He is in the hospital in Sarasota trying to get a diagnosis for his problems.
- Everyone please pray for the families of Allen, Texas where there has been another mass shooting. This country needs prayers from everyone to stop these senseless acts of violence. Please hear our prayers Lord.
- Thank you to everyone who had a slice of pizza to support Greater Birmingham Ministries.
- The elders will not have their meeting on Sunday, May 14th which is on Mother's Day.
- Edd will be on vacation two Sundays in May. In his absence Dale Braxton, Interim Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Alabama/Northwest Florida, will preach on Sunday May 21st. Our own Jan Watts will preach on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.
- Terry Nunnally was grateful for everyone who helped with the work day at Valley this past Saturday. It was a beautiful day and they got a lot accomplished. Thank you for your faithfulness.
- Continue to pray for our Search Committee members who are doing a wonderful job on our behalf in seeking a new pastor for Valley.
- Please be in prayer for Terry Nunnally's sister, Kay Hammett, who had successful rotator cuff surgery and is recovering at home.
- We celebrate the visitors who are worshipping with us on Sunday mornings.
- Sunday May 7 was wonderful as we lifted up the ministry of Marilyn Ireland in morning worship. The celebration included all members and friends signing cards with their personal thoughts, a special card with a gift from the church, and a beautiful cake at coffee fellowship. Thank you Marilyn for your service to the church.
- Midge Hoke will be 104 years old on May 18. Her address for birthday cards is 1104 West Joy Lane, Ft. Pierce, Florida 34945 - Phone 772-979-2557.
- Pentecost is Sunday, May 28th. This day is the birthday for the church. The color for Pentecost is red and everyone is encouraged to wear something red to church.
- Thank you so much to all the members of the church for recognizing me on Secretary's Day this Sunday and for the wonderful gift from the church. I enjoy working here so much and appreciate what a great job it is and how much pleasure and satisfaction I get from it. The wonderful members are so good to me and are the best! You truly have a special sweet church. - Marilyn Ireland

- Food Pantry Sunday was May 7th and the need is for canned meat. You can bring your donations at any time this month and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.
- Edd will be on vacation for the next two weeks. Please call Stewart Draper, who is chair of the elders, if you have any concerns.

## May AAA Event

Our May AAA event will be a trip to the Transportation Museum in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The museum is the result of the renovation of an historic swimming pool bathhouse designed by Don Buel Schuler, a protégé of the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It contains a variety of exhibits about local history and types of transportation. The van will leave the church at 9:30am for a \$5.00 per person guided tour at 11:00am. Lunch will be at the Blue Plate Restaurant at 12:30pm. Please call Marilyn for reservations by Friday, May 12th.

## Blessings by the River

Thank You for the fun day we had at Cahaba River Walk Park. You made us feel very special and appreciated. Because you all were wearing similar T-shirts, you made it easy for us to come up to you and say "Hi" in our own sort of way. We enjoyed getting to know members of your Church. Our new friend Pastor Edd Spencer repeated the program many times to make sure each of us had a Blessing. Terry Nunnally and Ginny Guindon greeted us in the parking lot and directed us to the pavilion where Carolyn had set up the activities. Lola Kiser issued the certificates of Blessing. Carol Speed helped us choose bandanas. John and Beth Gregory kept everyone on key as they sang "He's Got the Whole World." It was music to our ears to hear the verse about "all the dogs." Beth Collier assisted those who posted paw prints on the Rainbow Bridge. Mary Pat Spencer took lots of pictures. Jean Thrasher and Philip Treadway gave out refreshing cold water to anyone who wanted some. Ed Guindon drove the van and made sure visitors received information about the Church. You all are fantastic!

Us dogs have always had a strong desire to be loyal companions to the ones who feed us and give us homes, and now we know why. God created us to be joy and comfort for our families. On Saturday we tried very hard to be on our best behavior and listen to the words of Pastor Edd. It seemed like talking to God can ease a lot of problems, and we are grateful for the prayers done on our behalf. The world remembers St. Francis of Assisi for being on the side of all animals, and the medallions you gave us are very nice. The treats were good too!

The weather was great, the scenery was beautiful, and there were many interesting smells. Before going home, we had a chance to run free inside the fenced dog park, and some of us were allowed to swim in the river. We had a wonderful time as did the 20 or so people who held our leashes!

We love Valley Christian,  
Tigger, Maple, Kona, Barney, Betty,  
Fiona, Bebe, Fred, Berniedette, Made-  
line, Molly, Jake, Sherrill, Fozzie, Pump-  
kin, Tiger, Tassy, Jazz, Angel, Carlie and  
Buddy

