



# 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](mailto:office@vccbhm.org)**  
**Website: [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org)**  
**Office Hours: 8am-12pm**  
**Monday through Friday**

## Summer Worship Schedule

**Sunday Service**  
Aug 13 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 20 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Aug 27 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Sep 3 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Service**  
Sep 10 10:30 a.m.

## Dates of Interest:

- Aug 9 - Brown Bag Lunch in the Parlor and Worship in the Sanctuary on "Wind"
- Aug 13 - Church Picnic and Vespers at Valley. BBQ brisket, BBQ butt and home-made ice cream
- Aug 19 - AAA trip to Bill and Jan Watts' Lakehouse (Smith Lake)
- Aug 25 and 26 - "Vital Signs" Transformation Workshop (First Christian Birmingham)

**August 8, 2023**

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 15

## A Word from Your Pastor

When Moses led over two million people out of Egypt, he didn't have all the logistics worked out ahead of time. He just knew that God had told him to do something, and he stepped out in faith.

You know the story. Moses and the people left Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and journeyed through the wilderness for forty years. But have you ever really considered the magnitude of what was involved?

For that many people to cross the Red Sea in one night, they had to have an opening in the Red Sea three miles wide just so they could walk 5,000 abreast. To feed that many people would require fifteen hundred tons of food each day, or in modern terms, the contents of two freight trains at least a mile long each. The eleven million gallons of water necessary each day for drinking and cooking would fill a freight train of tank cars totaling eighteen hundred miles in length. And finally, the land needed for campsites when they stopped at the end of a day would be 750 square miles. It would be amazing enough had it been for just one day. But remember their journey lasted forty years.

Moses trusted his Lord's ability to enable him to do what he had been told to do. It didn't matter that to the natural mind it did not seem possible. Moses believed in God, and he stepped out in faith.

In our lives we also have opportunities to step out in faith. It might not be as difficult and momentous as Moses and the Israelites, but there will be for us moments in life when faith is hard. I don't know what it will be that will cause it - death or sickness, suffering or disappointment. But it will come and we ask ourselves what can we do in moments like that?

Maybe when faith gets hard, we need to continue to serve others. In serving others, we will not be sitting around dwelling on our problems.

Maybe, when faith gets hard, we need to share our burdens with one another. We were never meant to bear our burdens by ourselves.

Maybe, when faith gets hard, we need to continue to pray and worship. We need to remember that God is bigger than the world, bigger than all the problems, bigger than death. We need to remember all this, week by week in worship.

Let us remember if God could take care of the Israelites in the desert, he has no problem taking care of our needs.

Therefore, when faith gets hard, may we trust God to help us take just one step more. That step may be hard to take, but God will help us take it, and then another and another. May we trust Him to do that.

God Bless You, Edd

## Church Picnic and Vespers

On Sunday, August 13th, we will gather at Valley at 5:30pm for a church picnic and Vesper service. The Men's group and Membership/Fellowship Department are sponsoring the picnic. Clarence Sellers will be cooking the brisket and a Boston Butt. Membership/Fellowship will provide all the side dishes along with homemade ice cream. Following the meal a Vesper worship service will be held outside by the magnolia tree. In case of rain, we will have our picnic and vespers in the Fellowship Hall.

# Life in the Valley

## *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- Our sympathy is expressed to the Taylor family in the loss of Jim Taylor. He was special to us at Valley.
- Invite a friend to the church picnic at 5:30pm on Sunday, August 13th.
- Continue to pray for our Search Committee as they are seeking a new pastor for Valley Christian Church.
- Our prayers are with Mary Pat Spencer's college roommate who is in the hospital in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- Food Pantry Sunday was August 6th and the need is for Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce. You can bring your donations at any time during the month of August and the Outreach Chairpersons will take them to GBM for you.

## Vital Signs

### A Regional Transformation Event August 25th and 26th First Christian Church

The transformation event will enable churches in our region to have the power to move from surviving to thriving.

The two worship leaders for the event are Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Director for the Center of Faith and Giving in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The other leader is Rev. Dr. Denise Bell, Regional Minister of the Christian Church (DOC) in Georgia.

The schedule is a Regional Worship Service at 7:30pm at First Christian on Friday, August 25th. On Saturday, August 26th there will be workshops from 9:00am—11:45am and after lunch at 12:45pm with closing communion at 1:45pm.

The workshops will cover the eight factors that are consistent in all vital congregations—leadership, vision, discipleship, communication, expectation setting, gratitude, trust and innovation. These factors will enable the church to have a new vision for the future. They will help the church to live its vision and serve with the transforming power of the gospel.

The church is paying the registration cost so that the event will be free for those attending.

May all of us at Valley consider attending the "Vital Signs" Transformation Event.

## A Day at the Lake

Jan and Bill Watts have graciously invited AAA and Valley to visit them at their new home on Smith Lake on Saturday, August 19, 2023. They are preparing a delicious lunch for us, and afterward those who wish can enjoy a special boat ride and tour around the lake. It will be a day of good fellowship, food and fun. Everyone is invited, both AAA members and others, but we need reservations given to Marilyn or Peggi by Friday, August 11, 2023.

We will caravan by car to the Watts' lakehouse leaving the church at 9:00am. Please let Peggi know if you can

drive your car. Maps and directions are available by email from Marilyn or you may pick them up at the church. Because it is a new house the GPS directions using the address are not correct right now. You will need Bill Watts' directions, which are available at the church.

If you plan to go on the boat ride please wear a hat, light jacket and take sun screen with you.

Thank you, Jan and Bill, for this lovely invitation! We are all looking forward to this visit with you at your new home!

## Summer Brown Bag Lunch and Worship

Our last Brown Bag Lunch and Worship for the summer is Wednesday, August 9th. Lunch begins at 11:15am in the parlor. Bring your own lunch and the church will provide drink and dessert. Worship begins at 12:00noon in the sanctuary. The worship service will focus on the power and symbolism of Wind in the scriptures. Special thoughts will be focused on Jesus and Peter in the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The story can be found in Matthew 14:22-33. Invite a friend for this special time together.

## The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes form the introduction to what is the best sermon ever preached. We call it the "Sermon on the Mount", which was preached by Jesus. You will find this sermon in Matthew 5-7.

The Beatitudes in the sermon are found in Matthew 5:1-12. They begin the sermon in a wonderfully positive way. Listen to these opening words from the Sermon on the Mount: "Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where He sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and He began to teach them: "Blessed are those who...". That's how Jesus began His sermon. Not repent, not be sorry, and not do this, but be blessed or happy.

For the next three Sundays in August and the four Sundays in September, Edd will share a series of sermons on the Beatitudes. Sermons that focus on the blessings and happiness in the Christian life. The sermon series is as follows:

Sunday, August 13 "Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

Sunday, August 20 "Blessed Are the Meek"

Sunday, August 27 "Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"

Sunday, September 3 "Blessed Are the Merciful"

Sunday, September 10 "Blessed Are the Pure In Heart"

Sunday, September 17 "Blessed Are the Peacemakers"

Sunday, September 24 "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

May we all discover over the next several weeks, the blessings that makes us leap for joy.