



# Voice

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



**Valley Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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**Office Hours: 8:00am-  
12:00pm Monday-Friday**

## Dates of Interest:

- Sept 1 - Elders' Prayer Time
- Sept 1 - Food Pantry Sunday (Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate)
- Sept 2 - Labor Day (Office Closed)
- Sept 7 - Valley Work Day
- Sept 8 - Cabinet Meeting
- Sept 15 - Visioning Meeting/Lunch
- Sept 18 - Men's Luncheon
- Sept 18 - Disciples Women
- Sept 19 - BVM Paw Paw Patch
- Sept 23 - Evangelism Meeting
- Sept 23 - Voice Deadline
- Sept 25 - AAA - Tuscumbia - Belmont
- Sept 27 - 29 Women's Retreat
- Sept 29 Commitment Sunday

**September 2024**

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## A Word From the Pastor

I can't believe it is September already. They say time flies when we are having fun, and I tell you this year is flying by. I have been with you for eight months now and I have learned a few things.

First and foremost, this is a loving congregation. That is evident in the way we treat each other, the way we care for each other and the way we welcome others no matter their context or background. This love also emanates out into the community through water giveaways, helping those who have fallen on hard times to supporting organizations such as Greater Birmingham Ministries and Alabama Arise.

This is a committed congregation. This body of believers wants to be difference makers, to be beacons of hope and to demonstrate our love of Christ through love of neighbor.

This is a dedicated congregation. Although we are small, there is never a shortage of willing hands to step in and help in whatever capacity needed.

This is an energized congregation who has not let age or anything else get in the way of serving God and God's people by trying new things and new approaches to ministry.

This is not a congregation that is sitting back, wringing our hands wondering if we are going to survive, rather we are looking for ways to continue to bring the message of reconciliation, of hope and of love to all we see regardless of circumstance or situation. We are a people of God who are constantly looking for ways to serve God and God's people. We may be small, but we have huge hearts and a huge desire to share the gifts we have been given so that others can experience the love, the hope and the life that comes through a relationship with our Lord.

We enter September with our future on our mind, a future that will be realized through people like you and me. It will be through the gifts we share that will fuel this future, that will give it the gas to be the difference makers we desire to be not just in our communities but in the world at large.

Lloyd C. Douglas tells a story as recounted in his book, "The Living Faith." Thomas Hearne recalls his adventure to the mouth of the Coppermine River. Just a few days into their journey, a group of Indians came and stole much of their supplies. His comment on this was "The weight of our baggage being so much lightened, our next day's journey was more swift and pleasant."

Hearne was on his way to something important and the loss of a few supplies meant nothing more than simply lightening the load. Had he decided to just sit and wait living off of what he had; the loss of those supplies might have been more worrisome. How we respond to "losing" some of our resources for God's work depends upon whether we are on the move or waiting for our last stand.

Valley Christian Church is on the move seeking even more ways to be positive difference makers in our community and world and each one of us has a part to play. As we move towards September 29 which will be commitment Sunday, I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will add the gas that will help fuel these efforts not just for today but for the many days to come remembering these words from

**2 Corinthians 9:6; The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

Let us be those bountiful sowers.

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

## Life in the Valley

### *Prayers, Joys and Concerns*

- ✦ Ted Stuckenschneider needs ongoing prayers.
- ✦ Marilyn Ireland as she received her final treatment. Follow up in 3 months.
- ✦ Please pray for Terry Nunnely's niece, Sonja Baker.
- ✦ Food Pantry Sunday will be September 1st and the need is for coffee, tea and hot chocolate. However, you can bring your donations at any time during the month of September and the Outreach chairperson will take them to GBM for you.
- ✦ Please pray for Eloise Hatcher, Sharon Hill's mother. She is at home feeling much better.
- ✦ Please pray for Ted Stuckenschneider's sister Nelia, who has been diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer. Please continue to lift her up in your prayers as she continues this journey.
- ✦ Holly Hancock, Ellen's aunt, who is recovering from a fall.
- ✦ Rick Kirby, a friend of the Maluganis', has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ✦ For God's revelation of Valley's vision moving forward.
- ✦ Prayers for Mary Charles Capp as she will be having eye surgery on September 12.
- ✦ Kohler Collier had neck surgery on August 26, and he is recovering at home. Please continue to pray for him.
- ✦ Grace Buettner, friend of Lola Kiser, diabetes and complications.
- ✦ Sarah Draper's nephew, John - Continue to pray for him.
- ✦ Joel Kramme, husband of Lola Kiser's niece, Mary Kaye, has Parkinson's disease and has had a brain stem stroke. Please pray for him.
- ✦ Clarence and Judy Sellers' granddaughter, Maddie, had surgery because of appendicitis and is now recuperating.
- ✦ Al Clanton, Ted Stuckenschneider's friend, had surgery to replace his aortic valve and it went well. Please pray for his continued recovery.
- ✦ Ted Stuckenschneider's friend Pat Clanton, married to Al, has had a recurrence of breast cancer and is also suffering from staph infection in her port.
- ✦ Peggi Zinser is having surgery on August 30, and will be recovering at home. Please pray for her.
- ✦ Curtis Greene, Donnette's brother, will be having stents placed on September 12, 2024.

### Young Adult

The Young Adult Sunday morning study will be on a book, *A Woman Jesus Can Teach*. So come join us for a cup of coffee and discussion at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.



**RECONCILIATION  
MINISTRY**

### 2024 Reconciliation Offering

We will be receiving the 2024 Reconciliation Offering on September 22nd and 29<sup>th</sup>.

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



## Belle Mont Mansion Tuscumbia, Alabama

On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, the AAA Valley Seniors will tour the Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia, AL. We will leave the church at 9:00 am arriving at the house at 11:00 am. The gas fee is \$8.00; admission to the Mansion is \$6.00 per person. Belle Mont Mansion is a Historic House Museum, built in 1828 in pre-Civil War times, by Alexander Mitchell from Virginia, who grew up living close to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Belle Mont is one of Alabama's crowning architectural achievements and is one of the few outstanding Palladian-style houses in the Deep South. The design is that of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladian with a direct influence from Thomas Jefferson. With over 100 enslaved people, Mitchell was the owner of the area's largest cotton plantation. In 1833 Mitchell sold the property and moved to Philadelphia. We will eat lunch at a meat and three restaurant, Two Fat Sisters, at 12:30 pm. Please contact Lola Kiser if you are planning on going and if you want to ride the van or if you plan to drive.

## VCC Property Committee Update



The Valley Property Committee has gotten a lot of much needed maintenance and improvements work done inside the facility and on the grounds over the past few months, thanks to some very dedicated Valley family members. But there's plenty of work left to do. The next scheduled Workday is set for Sat. Sept. 7 from 9-12. With the upcoming football season upon us, it may not be easy to get a crew together on Saturdays, so we would invite anyone who has some time available on any weekday to contact Terry Nunnely (e-mail or text in yearbook) for more information. If you are not active on the current Committee but would like a copy of the work items list, please contact Terry to be added to the email distribution of updated work items list. War Eagle!! Roll Tide!! Go Blazers!! Hope to see you Sunday.

Property Committee



## Update on Visioning Process

When we set out for a trip or journey, most of us have a pretty good idea of where we are going. What comes next is the how we are going to get to our destination. Are we going to fly, take a train, drive, walk or hitch-hike? And then comes what will we need: an airline, a train, a car, comfortable shoes or a handy thumb?

A vision is the destination, it is where we are going or planning to go. For a church we need to know where we are going before we can make plans on how to get there and what we will need to make it all happen.

To that end, we have been working since our January planning meeting to discern a vision for Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It began by meeting with the elders to engage in a time of intentional prayer seeking God's wisdom and guidance and out of that came the survey which was presented to the congregation in July. It was then the congregation's turn to pray over the questions and provide answers that would help us move closer to discerning the vision God has for our church. The responses we received were thoughtful and gave us a foundation from which to begin to develop a vision.

We used the survey responses to craft a working vision statement which is different than a mission statement.

A vision statement is the destination, in our case the why are we here question. Why has God placed us here at this moment, in this place for what purpose?

A mission statement provides the how to the vision statement. How will we reach that vision. It is like the road map leading us to our vision.

The final piece of the triad is ministry, the what. What are we going to do to make this all happen. This is the nuts and bolts of what we do.

We start with why, move to how and then to what. Vision, mission, ministry.

We are at the point now where we can develop the vision statement for Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We used the survey responses to help formulate a working statement which will be the focus of the meeting scheduled for September 15 after worship. It is at this meeting that we will seek input and guidance from you, the very ones who will be called to implement this vision going forward. This is an important first step as we seek to discern God's plans for this church both now and into the future, so I invite you to attend this meeting, to give your input and to be a part of this new song we are singing as we seek to be positive difference makers in our community and world.

Below are the top answers to the survey questions and at the end is the draft of the vision statement. I ask you first to pray over this information and then look at the vision statement and offer your insights at the meeting in September.

### **What do you believe are the strengths of Valley Christian Church:**

Friendliness/Family Oriented/Fellowship. Outreach oriented.

### **What do you believe are the weaknesses of Valley Christian Church:**

Lack of children/youth/young adults/age diversity. Lack of visibility.

### **What do you wish people knew about Valley Christian Church:**

Welcoming/Friendly/Family oriented. Outreach oriented.

### **What do you tell others about Valley Christian Church:**

Small but friendly and caring. Welcoming and inclusive.

### **What would you like to be able to tell others about Valley Christian Church:**

We are growing and have youth/young adult ministries.

### **Name one ministry you would like Valley Christian Church engaged in now:**

Contact based ministries; home maintenance, visiting nursing homes, adopt a school/classroom, be an adoptive grandparent/mentor, adopt a family with housing insecurity.

### **What would you like to see Valley Christian Church doing in five years:**

Family oriented ministries; Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, teaching with vibrant music and exciting ministries.

### **Our working vision statements with subtle differences:**

*Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): a Bible-oriented, spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ.*

*Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Bible-oriented, spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ.*

*Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Bible-oriented, spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and a commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ.*

*Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a Bible-oriented, spirit-filled family where the love of God meets the world through outreach and our commitment to be the hands and feet of Christ.*

Please look this information over, pray about it and then join us on September 15 after worship. By the way, there will be a meal provided so make plans to stay and give us your input.

Thank you very much,  
Peace,  
Pastor Rick.