



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

2600 Cherokee Place, Birmingham, AL 35216
(205) 879-0419

www.vccbhm.org; office@vccbhm.org

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NO.8

JOYS AND CONCERNS PRAYERS

- Lauren Simon and David Lambert were married Saturday, April 4th in the sanctuary with only family attending. Best wishes to the lovely couple.
- That the Coronavirus be contained.
- That the economy will roar back as soon as possible.
- Linda Rothoff, (Peggi Zinser's sister-in-law) had surgery on her femur at Grandview and is still in the hospital.
- Tia Cutcliffe, (Marilyn Cutcliffe's granddaughter) has recovered from her appendectomy and is doing well, praise the Lord.
- Debra Pounds, (Whitney Devine's mother) is back at her nursing home from the hospital and making good progress.
- Betsy Nolen (Darrell Nunnely's girlfriend) is finally being released from the hospital this Friday.
- Joan Noland returned home.
- Pray for the Shut-Ins, Peggy Hiller, Flora Richardson, Joan Noland and Mary Dodson.
- Dan Gainy, (cousin of Ted Stuckenschneider)
- Dee Moss, (friend of Ted Stuckenschneider)
- Brian Shoemaker's Family (Marilyn Ireland's sister-in-law's father) passed away from Coronavirus last week.
- Belinda Black, (Marilyn Ireland's friend) was ill briefly and positively tested for Coronavirus. She and her family are quarantined for 14 days

Please share your prayer request with the church.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has continued its work despite the Coronavirus challenges. We held video interviews with three candidates and are now in further conversation with a one of those three. Thanks to technology, we had a video conference with our candidate as part of the getting-to-know process. We will continue these conversations, and if all things go as we hope, we will schedule a visit in person, once travel is considered safe again.

We are very excited with this person and believe God is leading us to a new leader as we continue our ministry in this place and time. We will keep you updated as things progress.

CORRECTIONS TO THE 2020 YEARBOOK

- Clarence Sellers' cell phone number had a typo - it should be 601 and not 661.
- Darrell Nunnely's address is Birmingham, Alabama 35226 not Homewood, Alabama 35209

- The Deacons designated with the ** are the Board Representatives for 2020. They are Ed Guindon, Cindy Neville, John Neville and Marilyn Cutcliffe.
- Jan Watts email and phone are jan@wattsrealty.com 205-365-6942
- Bill Watts email and phone are bwatts@wattsrealty.com 205-966-1907
- Russell Reeves email address is rreeves77@gmail.com
- Marilyn Cutcliffe's address is Vestavia Hills, Alabama not Mountain Brook, Alabama.
- Healthsouth Lakeshore Hospital is now Encompass Lakeshore Hospital

Please make the changes in your yearbook. Thank you!

NEW WAYS TO WORSHIP

- There are four videos (messages from Edd) on our YouTube Channel with more to be posted each week. The Valley Christian Church's Channel on YouTube is located at the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCymaWYwJa9d48RLQwgYF8JA>
- Each Sunday we will teleconference during our worship at 10:30am. Dial 1 (701) 802-5083 - When prompted for an access code, enter 719117# Please dial in as early as 10:15am in order to get connected. If you get a busy signal, don't give up, but keep dialing until you can hear the voices of your friends at Valley.



REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida has been rescheduled for September 18-20, 2020. We pray that we will be able to attend and celebrate together the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2600 CHEROKEE PLACE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35216**



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

On the next two pages of The Voice are inspirational thoughts written by members of Valley Christian Church. During these dark days of the Coronavirus, may they bring you light.

ENCOURAGING PRAYERS FOR OUR CHALLENGING DAYS

May the three following prayers bring some inspiration to your spirit for these challenging times. The first prayer centers on the home where we are now spending most of our time because of social distancing.

Dear God, one of my greatest blessings is my home. Not only does it provide shelter for me and my family, but it is my safe place of physical rest and love. I am grateful that in this place your presence also dwells. Amen.

The next prayer deals with stress. We love our homes but lately we spend so much time there that we have “cabin fever”. We become stressed and restless.

Dear God, remind us that Jesus knew much about stress in the home. When he walked the earth, his family suffered not only the daily stress we all feel but also the stress of knowing, as Mary did, that Jesus came to suffer and die on the cross for the world. Help me, Lord to face my small problems without complaining. Amen.

Finally, may we pray for hope in the circumstances of fear that we encounter in these difficult days.

Dear God, when I stop to think, I realize that my positive circumstances always outweigh my negative circumstances. Your blessings always dominate my life. Help me keep my eyes on that rather than focusing on those things that are not going as expected. Amen.

IT'S THE PITS

Yup, it's the pits having to stay home for weeks on end and I can't go to the grocery store. All I want is to go to the grocery store by myself and get my own stuff. Neither one of my daughters or granddaughter will let me go and I know it is for my own good, but all I want is to go to Walmart or Winn Dixie or Publix or even the Pig. However, after reading our Lenten Booklet through Holy Week and thinking about what our Lord Jesus went through, I think of my trip to Israel and walking the cobblestone streets of the Via Dolorosa. I think of Jesus' arrest and His trip to the High Priest Caiaphas' house where he was thrown into the dark, deep, cold hard rock pit. I start to think of what he must have gone through and I remember I was down there myself with Carolyn and Terry. The pit evoked fear, despair and loneliness in me. I think he was probably thirsty and I have cold clean water coming out of my refrigerator door. He was probably hungry and I have so much food I can't decide what to eat next. He was probably cold and here I lie with my warm comfortable blankets in my bed. He was probably scared and I feel

very safe in my house. I am sure Jesus wondered what tomorrow would bring for him and here I sit with all the entertainment I need – a TV with movies, books to read and a phone to talk to anybody I want to. As tears flow down my cheeks I am ashamed and reminded that Jesus died a horrific death for me and all I can think of is Walmart. Peggi Zinser

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM COVID-19

This is indeed an interesting time. Nothing that I (or anyone of my acquaintance) expected to be dealing with. But life is nothing if not an adventure...so I would like to share with you, my church family, a few insights into what I have learned during this time of quarantine:

1. A two hour nap after lunch is essential for good mental health.
2. No matter how much time there is available for house cleaning, I still hate to dust.
3. TV was much better when it was in black and white.
4. Cats would prefer if they were left alone all day.
5. The number of toilet paper sheets I use is directly related to the amount left on the roll.
6. Lola Kiser is the smartest person I know because she understands Fermat's Last Theorem...don't ask unless you are totally bored!
7. It takes less time to put on a facemask than it does to put on makeup and basically achieves the same purpose.
8. I could have happily lived the rest of my life without knowing what a pangolin looked like.
9. That we are all of us, like it or not, two legs or four, black, white, yellow or brown...connected.
10. And what we do matters.

Love, Jamie Ligon

PRE-COVID 19 VERSUS POST-COVID 19

In our former “pre-COVID 19” world, my life was “full!” Because I didn't have much free time, I would sometimes think about how fun it would be to take art lessons one day after I retired and Conner graduated from high school.

About a month before COVID-19 “hit” our community (or that we became aware of it's arrival,) a friend invited me to take a free “Introduction to Watercolor Painting” class at our local library. I am so glad that I decided to reschedule a few piano students and took time to go! Fun evening!! Inspired, I even ran by Hobby Lobby a few days later and bought watercolor paints and paper and assorted paintbrushes! Those art supplies sat in that sack untouched for about a month. Fast forward. The pandemic arrived and life changed dramatically!! So, I am now a third grade teacher (for Conner, oh my) and run a “restaurant” in my home seven days a week! (Thank goodness for Jeff, my dependable dishwasher!) But, some good news! Now I have some free time for my newest passion! You guessed it—watercolor painting! And ya know what? I'm kinda good at it! It's so relaxing and so fun! And ya know what else? God knew that all of this was going to happen. I believe God worked in these circumstances and gave me a little “gift” to provide me a little extra dose of creativity, joy and peace during this challenging time. And I am grateful. Margaret Cox

POSTIVE THOUGHTS

Naaman said the positive thing for him is getting to stay at Aunt Ginny and Uncle Ed's house during the pandemic lockdown because he isn't needed at his job at Dairy Queen and the library where he spends a lot of his free time is closed.

For me, I am glad to be spending more time thinking, reading, being in touch with family and friends and doing some decluttering. Ginny Guindon

THE DRAPER'S WORSHIP CENTER



The first week of the shelter in place our doorbell rang. When I opened the door there was Peggi Zinser bearing gifts.

She gave me a beautiful pink tea towel that was made by her daughter, Christy. Written in white were the words "HE IS RISEN".

When we were preparing our worship center for the next Sunday worship, I place this towel as the cloth on our worship center. We have used it each Sunday since then.

This towel has been another link to our church family when we are still scattered. It is like when we are all on the teleconference and we hear each other voices. It is the link that reminds us, 'YES', we are church. We are still connected. Thanks be to God. Sarah Draper

REACH OUT TO SOMEONE

Several years ago one of the telephone companies used the phrase "REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE" in many of its advertisements. It was very effective then, and it will be equally effective for us today as we live under the distancing restrictions of the Coronavirus. I am pleased with the way members of Valley have "reached out to touch each other" in these days of isolation. I have appreciated very much being remembered by others in these stressful times. There are many ways to keep in touch: phone calls, cards, letters, texts, emails, a friendly smile or wave given from six feet away, an offer to go to the grocery or pharmacy, a prayer for healing or safekeeping shared with a neighbor. The tele-worship services, bulletins, Voices and letters from the church are very meaningful. All of these things help to keep us together spiritually when we cannot be together physically.

Let us pray for the "touch of the Maser's hand".

Lola Kiser

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM FOR THE CORONAVIRUS

The Lord is my peace. I shall not live in anxiety. He puts me under His wings of comfort and calms my spirit within me. He takes all my anxieties on Himself and

helps me to focus on Him. Yes, though I walk through a time of grave uncertainties and fierce anxieties of the Coronavirus. I will not fret – for You are my peace. Your Word and Your presence calm me now. You hold my uncertainties in the palm of Your hand. You smooth my wrinkled brow. Surely serenity and trust in You shall fill me all the days of my life. And I shall keep my mind stayed on you forever.

A GUIDED VISUALIZATION

The words below are a guided visualization to help you feel the presence of Jesus. Relax and separate yourself from the world around you and picture the Master close to you.

- ✓ See yourself by the shore of the Sea of Galilee... Jesus comes to you. The two of you sit down together... Jesus looks upon you with great love... Receive this love...
- ✓ Then Jesus blesses you. He places His hands on your head and says to you: "Receive the gift of the mind." Receive this gift.
- ✓ Jesus places His hands on your ears: "Receive the gift of listening clearly and with love." Receive this gift.
- ✓ Jesus places His hands on your eyes: "Receive the gift of seeing deeply." Receive this gift.
- ✓ Jesus places his hands on your mouth: Receive the gift of speaking kindly and justly." Receive these gifts.
- ✓ Jesus places His hands on your heart: "Receive the gifts of compassion and forgiveness." Receive these gifts.
- ✓ Jesus places His hands on your feet: "Receive the gift of going to those in need." Receive this gift.
- ✓ Then, Jesus holds your hands and says to you: "These hands are made for both giving and receiving." He lifts your hands and kisses each one of them... He looks into your eyes and says to you: "The gift you have received, give as a gift to others. And always remember I love you."
- ✓ Thank Jesus for His presence and His gifts... Then return to this time and place with gifts you have received...

SHOWING UP

A little girl was sent to the corner store to get a loaf of bread. When she did not return promptly, her mother became anxious. Finally the child did return, and her mother questioned her about the delay. The girl explained that she had come upon her friend who had just broken her favorite doll. "Oh", said her mother, "you stopped to help her fix it?" "No" said the girl, "I stopped to help her cry."

That was a wonderful thing that the little girl did with her friend. In these days of sadness when our family and friends are in fear, pain or grief, there is a ministry we can perform. We can show up and we can help them cry.

