



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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COFFEE AND A STORY

Dear Valley,

This is an exciting third installment for me as your pastor-elect—both because that September 1 start date is closer than ever, and because I am able to start sharing with y’all some of my hopes and plans for our life together, beginning with my first sermon series at Valley.

Your search committee communicated to me during our call process that evangelism was something important to y’all, but that there lingers some feelings of insecurity or even inadequacy around it. The nature of evangelism—the good and the bad of it—is something I thought a lot about in the Pacific Northwest, where the cultural status of (and the expectations around) church attendance are quite different from here in the Deep South. Not better or worse necessarily, just different. From that experience, I want to use my first sermon series here to talk with y’all about some of the tough conversations and skeptical questions that can come up when trying to talk about your faith with someone else. I call those questions the “whatabouts,” as in “Well, what about...?” While the Whatabouts might sound initially like the name of a solidly C-list ‘90s pop band, the name represents a whole vein of questions about Christianity and the Bible that perhaps you worry you don’t have ready answers for, or are wrestling with yourself.

And that is just fine! The goal of this series will be to share with you some *possible* answers to those questions, as well as to let you into my own theology and preaching, because I try to be a pastor who does not duck the tough questions, even if the answer is, “I cannot 100% say for sure.” With all that said, here is how our autumn sermon series, “The Whatabouts: Responding to Questions with Faithfulness,” will go (after I preach “Labors of Love” on Philippians 2:19-24 on September 6 for my first official Sunday here):

September 13: “What About Literal 24-Hour Days?”
Genesis 1:26-2:4

September 20: “What About Injustice?” Exodus
3:1-10

September 27: “What About Divine Wrath?”
Ezekiel 16:47-50

October 4: “What About Feeling Abandoned?”
Habakkuk 3:17-19

October 11: “What About the Rules?” Matthew
22:34-40

October 18: “What About the Turn-or-Burn Hard
Sell?” Matthew 5:13-16, John 12:44-50

October 25: “What About Miracles (or a Perceived
Lack Thereof)?” John 11:17-27
November 1: “What About the Partisanship?” 1
Corinthians 10:14-24
November 8: “What About the Cherry-Picking?” 2
Timothy 3:14-17
November 15: “What About the Hypocrisy?” James
2:14-20
November 22: “What About the End Times
Mania?” Revelation 13:11-18

I am looking forward to this series, and I hope that now, you are as well! Christ’s and yours, Pastor Eric

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

My last Sunday to be with you is Sunday, August 30th. I thank God for the time we have had together over the past ten months. During this time, I have enjoyed you both, as a congregation and as friends.

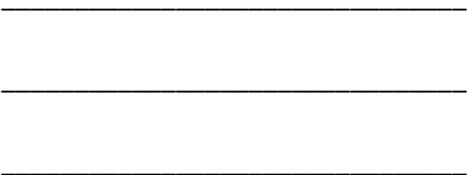
Often in my prayer life, I lift up to God your ministry at Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I appreciate your faithfulness, your love shown to those around you, your untiring service to the church, and the region, and the good spirit by which you work.

As you know, I am always sharing a story with you. So let me close with one last story. There was a little girl who often in the evening saw her grandmother in prayer before she went to bed. The next morning at breakfast the little girl would say, “Grandma, you must sleep in heaven, you are so happy at breakfast.”

Your commitment to the Lord has enabled me to live in a spirit of heaven that has brought happiness to my life.

I will keep you in my prayers. May you experience joy and happiness under the pastoral care of Eric. Thank you for being part of my life, you will always be important to me. God Bless You, Edd

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RESUMING VALLEY MEETINGS

We will return to our routine of Elder and Board meetings in September. Elders will meet by Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:PM, and the Board will meet on the 3rd Monday of September at 7: PM by Zoom. The Board and Cabinet will alternate every other month as we have done in the past. The cabinet will meet at 7PM by Zoom as well. Stewart Draper, Moderator



SEPTEMBER - AAA ADVENTURE - ORR PARK MONTEVALLO, ALABAMA

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – We will meet at the Church at 9:30 and caravan to Montevallo. Please let Marilyn know if you are going and if you can drive. Lunch will be at the Main Street Tavern in downtown Montevallo. Orr Park is the crown jewel of Montevallo. Mayor Milton Orr donated 40 acres for a park in Montevallo, but after a storm ravaged and killed most of the cedar trees they were destined for the lumber yard.

Tim Tingle, a local coal miner, artist and storyteller, asked in 1993 after he had been laid off from the coal mines, if he could carve the dead trees into story book fairytale characters. Today Orr Park is a lovely place to take a walk along the paved trail and see some of 30 carvings there. Meandering along the side of the trail is Shoal Creek, a lovely place to just sit and relax on the many benches along the way.

We are very lucky to have Mr. Tim Tingle as our guest speaker to walk with us and explain the meaning of the carvings. He is a storyteller and has a good story for each of the carvings. I know this will be a very enjoyable fun filled AAA visit to the park.

A CHILD'S VIEW OF THE PANDEMIC

The following thoughts come from the diary of Margaret Cox's grandson Conner. They are the

insights on the Coronavirus from the mind of a child. Thank you Conner for your outlook on the virus. -

The Coronavirus has been spreading since last time I wrote. My mom had to go to two grocery stores and she said there was no toilet paper in either store. Almost everyone is in their home. I think that after five days everybody will want to see someone other than their parents.

Life with COVID19 is really stressful. It is hard but my mom has taken up watercolor painting. I get to see beautiful pictures.

Today, I got all my toys from the basement and put them in boxes saying "free". I got a chair and whenever a car came by, I would wave a sign that said "free stuff". I got lots of customers and some gave me tips. I gave the tips to the Children's Hospital.

FACING THE CORONAVIRUS

A young man began his studies at a college and was on crutches everywhere he went on campus. He was a friendly and optimistic person and soon he had the respect and friendship of many of his classmates.

One day a fellow student asked him what had caused his deformity that required his crutches. "Infantile Paralysis", he replied.

His classmate then asked, "With a misfortune like that, how can you face the world so cheerfully?" "Oh", he responded with a smile, "The disease never touched my heart".

May the fear and reality of the Coronavirus never touch our hearts. May we keep our faith in God and remain positive knowing that God is with us.

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Congratulations to Tim and Whitney Devine who are expecting a little brother or sister for Benjamin.
- Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Russell Morrow, (Ted Stuckenschneider's friend) who passed away last week.
- Please pray for Eloise Hatcher, Sharon Hill's (Macedonia) mother.
- Please pray for John Gregory who is recovering from a blood clot removal in his foot.
- September Birthdays:
7th Michael Daughhetee 10th Pat McDaniel
14th Charlotte Daughhetee
18th Hattie Belle Lester 21st Naaman Fatkins
27th Doug Daughhetee 30th Judy Sellers
September Anniversaries:
9th – Ted and Dana Stuckenschneider
- Please share what is happening in your life, for all of us to read in "Life in the Valley".