



The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

2600 Cherokee Place, Birmingham, AL 35216

(205) 879-0419

www.vccbhm.org; office@vccbhm.org

VOL. 71

December 21, 2020

NO. 24

COFFEE AND A STORY

We have just emerged from the longest night of the whole year—December 21. If you are like me and may feel a bit of seasonal depression due to the minimal amount of daytime, this is when things begin to change, bit by bit and day by day, all the way to the summer solstice.

While it is dark by 5:00 pm here just like it is in Vancouver, a big difference I have already noticed is the nature of the daylight hours. Instead of the continuous greyness of a West Coast winter, I do get to enjoy days full of sunshine before the sun makes a hasty exit just in time for my commute home.

There is a quality there that helps make up for the lack of quantity—it has helped me get through one of the busiest church months in general, but one that has been especially intense during a pandemic and because it is my first December with y'all!

I do find beauty in the nighttime, though—the crisp air as I walk our dogs, the starry skies that are easier to see here without the constant cloud cover of the Pacific Northwest, and seeing the light displays of my neighbors. Those moments lend an extra sense of specialness to the season for me.

Still, I will welcome the return of more daylight, and that route begins right around Christmas Eve, when we welcome the baby who would go on to call Himself the light of the world. I would love for you and your family to worship Him with all of us at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve over Zoom.

I also look forward to continuing the Christmas story, this time from Matthew's Gospel, on December 27, the Sunday after Christmas, before I go on vacation through January 4, 2021. My Disciples of Christ colleague Rev. Vanessa Myers-Dudley will bring the message on Sunday, January 3, and I hope you will tune in to hear what God says through her!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not add a loving exhortation for all of us to take extra caution this Christmas. I am increasingly receiving prayer requests for people sickened with covid-19, and vaccines will not be widely available for a few more months. Please do what you can to minimize your risk of exposure to covid-19 so that in 2021, our homes and our church pews alike are as full as they possibly can be!

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours, and a Happy New Year. Be safe and be well, and I will see y'all in 2021. Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Christmas Special Offering which will be collected during the month of December provides funds for camps, conferences, and retreats and supports pastors in their ministries. Please consider adding a

contribution for this Special Offering when you mail or drop off your December tithes and offerings. Thanks!

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Ginny and Ed Guindon are going to be grandparents! Rebecca and Brad are expecting in June. They are so thankful for the Lord's blessing.
- Stewart Draper reported that the Gifts, Memorials and Bequests Committee approved this year's checks to The Salvation Army - \$3000, the Central Alabama Food Bank - \$3115, the Greater Birmingham Ministries - \$5000 and the Ala./NW Fla. Regional Office - \$3000.
- Carol Speed has had COVID but feels much better. She'll have a second test in four days.
- Midge Hoke has had COVID and is in rehab. Jean Thrasher says she is getting better each day.
- Carolyn and Terry Nunnely's neighbors, Vincent and Jennifer Priola, have COVID and need our prayers.
- Jamie Ligon's nephew Brandon Ligon, and his mother and father, Damon and Melissa, are home from the hospital after COVID.
- Andrea Clark's sister Belinda Dorrance and her husband have had COVID but are doing much better.
- Ted Stuckenschneider's niece Michelle has now had COVID twice. Please be cautious.
- Russell Reeves reported that the hospitals are full because of COVID and we still need to remain vigilant with our precautions.
- Peggi Zinser's brother, Alan Rothoff, has left the Veteran's Hospital and is at home now. His doctors have said that the diagnosis of leukemia was an error but they are not sure what he has that is causing his symptoms.
- Andrea Clark is so thankful to Valley for all their cards, prayers and support in her mother-in-law's passing. She said it was a very sweet service.
- Carrie Atcheson wants to thank all the members for cards, prayers and treats during this Christmas season for the Atcheson family.
- Please call or email the office with your prayer concerns, joys or reports to include in "Life In The Valley".

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


