

# EchoEs from the Valley

September 15, 2009

Volume 36, No.8

## Our Church Staff

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### Pastor

Rev. Michael D. Roper

### Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

### Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

### Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

### Ministry Assistant

Ms. Louise LePortier

### Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

### Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



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## A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church

1198 N. Valley Brook Road ▪ Decatur, Georgia 30033 ▪ Voice: 404-292-0212 ▪ Fax: 404-292-8459

Website: [www.vbbchurch.com](http://www.vbbchurch.com) ▪ Email: [valleybrook@vbbchurch.com](mailto:valleybrook@vbbchurch.com)

**The Hearts Of The People And The Doors Of This Church Are Open To Everyone**



## FROM THE PASTOR

On Sunday September 6, the newly formed deacon body under the leadership of Dan Warnock met for the first time. They are building on the foundation that has been laid and will emphasize family ministry, prayer, and personal commitment to the Valley Brook church. I was encouraged as this group of dedicated servants reviewed the responsibilities and duties of the office according to the expectation of the church and the encouragement of scripture. Please continue to pray for the effectiveness of this ministry.

Dan follows Luther Lord who served well for two terms as chairman. During the August meeting of deacons, Luther brought the devotional thought to begin the meeting. This is a practice where each month one of the members offers a brief devotional or inspirational insight. At the conclusion of each meeting one of the group will volunteer to bring the devotional thought for the upcoming month.

Luther's remarks were based upon a recent personal experience when he attended a granddaughter's graduation. The speaker was Suzanne Yoculan, retired gymnastics coach at Georgia. She offered her interpretation of "how to win." In essence she said, that you had to get a clear picture in your mind on what you were going to do, talk about that picture and then do it, just as pictured. Using the analogy, Luther presented an interesting question.

How do we picture ourselves as a church? I was struck by that thought.

- Do we have a clear and collective idea of our hopes and ambitions?
- Are we moving toward common goals?
- Who are we?
- What are we doing?
- How would you describe our church?
- What do we want to do?
- What are we trying to accomplish?

These are questions I am asking myself and taking steps to answer. Plans are underway for you to answer these or similar questions in the upcoming months. Begin thinking about your "Picture."

We have in place excellent statements of Purpose, Vision and Core Values. These will help us to understand who we strive to be. Our "Picture" should offer a balanced focus on fellowship with believers and obedience to Christ. A church can grow in numbers without ever becoming effective in God's plan. Success is not measured by numbers but by disciples. A disciple of Christ is someone who continues to learn and apply the word of God through active obedience.

We understand that the two greatest commands in scripture are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength *and* to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus stated that all the law is based and fulfilled through these two commands. Therefore, we must make this the primary foundation of our "Picture" for the Valley Brook church.

*Pastor Mike*



**September 26, 2009**

Come sell your junk and maybe it will be someone else's treasure! To reserve a table, contact the Church Office at (404) 292-0212.

Come sell, buy, or just visit and have fun. Feel free to bring a canopy to set up for shade.

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.



## The Perfect Stranger

Based on the bestselling novel

“Dinner With a Perfect Stranger”

*...the man told the lawyer he was Jesus Christ...*

*the lawyer decided to call his bluff...*

Nikki Cominsky is a successful attorney—troubled by the fact that her life isn't perfect. One day, a mysterious invitation shows up on her desk that reads,

“You are Invited to Dinner with Jesus Christ”.

Thinking it's a prank, she shows up....only to find herself in the middle of a whirlwind evening of debate and revelation—

—with the most unforgettable man she would ever meet.

On October 30, we will be showing a sequel to this movie, “Another Perfect Stranger” based on the Cominsky Family ten years later.

You can not miss these two movies!



Items needed for Food Pantry:

Beef Stew

Vienna Sausage

Ready-to-eat Soups (Healthy Choice, Progresso, Chunky, not condensed)

Canned Pasta (Spaghetti, Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni)

Ready to Microwave Mac-n-Cheese

Canned Hams

Canned Chicken or Tuna

Canned Corned Beef

Spam

Canned vegetables (Green beans, Potatoes, Corn, Peas, other Beans)

Non-Refrigerated Pudding or Apple Sauce (Snack Packs)

Instant Oatmeal Packets

Instant Grits Packets

Small Boxes of Cereal

Shelf-stable Milk (no Powdered Milk)

Ready to Microwave Rice Pouches

We try to have items in the pantry that do not require added ingredients other than water. We try to keep canned items with pop-tops for easy opening. Please check expiration date, as we regret having to discard donated foods that are out of date.



**September 20, 2009**

6:00 p.m.

Come and let your deacons cater to you. They will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. Serving these to you with all the fixin's. All you have to do is bring yourself, another friend, your neighbor and your appetites! Come around 5:30 to fellowship and just have fun with your church family, their neighbors and their family. Hope to see you there!

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**VALLEY BROOK**  
*A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church*  
1198 N. Valley Brook Road - Decatur, Georgia 30033  
Return Service Requested

## Brotherhood Fishing Trip



We will leave for Savannah on Thursday, September 17, 2009 and spend the night in Savannah at the La Quinta Inn in midtown. The next morning, we will be treated to a free breakfast and then we will go to Tybee Island and go fishing 15 miles out at the artificial reefs. We will be on the boat **"Gotcha"** which is a 60' boat and we have six fishermen ready to do battle with the fish and will leave the dock at 7 a.m. The weather should be pretty good with the exception of a possible thundershower. The fish we might catch includes, Spanish and King mackerels, spottail bass (also called reds or red-fish), sheepshead, sea bass, flounder, amberjack and barracuda. We would like to limit out but will be happy with a few fish apiece. The fishermen should be back in the Atlanta area in the late afternoon. A fishing report will be sent to all of those who normally receive one from Tom Gibbs.



On September 19-20, 2009, there will be a quiz posted on [www.vbbchurch.com](http://www.vbbchurch.com). On Monday, September 21, the scoring will be posted on this page. There will be another quiz in October and one in November. Each quiz submitted will be scored with a point for each correct answer and the one who has the most correct answers in the quickest time will get an additional five (5) points. The person with the most total points will win a prize.

Only submit one set of answers per quiz per person. If you use the same e-mail address but a different name, that will be O.K. Start studying. The best way to learn is to go to Sunday School and Church. Start attending both!