

EchoEs from the Valley

October 15, 2009

Volume 36, No.9

Our Church Staff

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



"Through Jesus,
therefore, let us
continually offer to
God a sacrifice of praise -
the fruit of lips that confess his name."
Hebrews 13:15, NIV



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 ▪ Email: valleybrook@vbbchurch.com

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



In last month's Echoes a series of questions were asked: How do we picture ourselves as the church? 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?

I want to remind you again that each of you will have the opportunity to offer insight and provide input as together we seek to answer these important questions. In order to help us in that process I have enlisted a group of individuals to assist me with evaluation, planning and implementation. This informal group has no official title. They may be considered a "leadership team" or an "advisory team" that will work with me on an as need basis.

Those I have selected are individuals that have proven leadership skills. The group is comprised of those who have served, or are presently serving, as Chairman of Deacons in the Valley Brook Church. In order to serve in that capacity an individual must have had the confidence of the church family *and* his peers on the deacon body. By that criterion these men were chosen: Dan Warnock, Luther Lord, Terry Markert, Steve Perry, Tom Gibbs. I appreciate the willingness of each one and value their support.

This group met on Sunday, September 27 for a very enlightening "brainstorming" session. With Valley Brook's PURPOSE, VISION and CORE VALUES in mind we began to take a look at how we measure up to those standards. We asked the questions:

Are we primarily in the fellowship business?

Are we primarily in the social action or social service business?

Or are we primarily in the business of calling people into discipleship and maturing them in a life changing faith?

I am glad to let you know that the meeting was very positive. We determined those areas where we believe we are very strong as well as those areas where the opportunity exists for improvement. We will always have these opportunities and should see them as gateways to growth and refinement toward the goal of continuous improvement.

Results of the meeting included the determination of some initial action plans and assignments.

Dan Warnock will be communicating with the current deacon body, enlisting their input as we all begin thinking about answers to the previously stated questions concerning our church.

Terry Markert will accomplish the same objective working through the Sunday School Department.

Steve Perry and **Luther Lord** are going to begin working to develop a "picture" of who we are as a church. Their work will form the basis of the picture that we as a church family are working toward.

Tom Gibbs will enlist our Wednesday Morning Prayer Team to earnestly pray for those involved in the process and for the outcome.

Your pastor will continue to maintain open communication to the church, begin a review of present ministries/programs and develop strategies based upon discovery.

Please join me in prayer and preparation as we seek the wise counsel of God, remembering His declaration in Jeremiah 29: 11 – *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Pastor Mike



.....and I appreciate you, too!

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your continuing love, support, encouragement, tangible expressions of love and the many beautiful cards that came our way on Pastor Appreciation Day. Janet and I read and enjoyed each one!

I've mentioned before that if all churches were like Valley Brook, there would be no need for a special day or month to recognize and demonstrate appreciation for pastors. You make Janet and me feel very much wanted, needed and much appreciated. We love our ministry, opportunity for service, and involvement with each of you.

Please continue to pray for us as we do for you. Appreciation, affirmation and prayerful support are appropriate throughout the entire year.

I love being your pastor!

Pastor Mike



Once again, Valley Brook will be hosting "TRUNK 'R TREAT" on October 31, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. We always have a great time and as usual, we need you! You can help by bringing your car (trunk) and candy (treats). Dress up in your costume, bring the kids and grand-kids and join in the fun. Flyers will be distributed in the community. If you cannot join in on the fun, please bring wrapped candy to the church office.

Daylight Savings Time Ends



It is time to FALL back on November 1! Turn your clocks back on Saturday night and enjoy that extra hour before coming to church on Sunday. Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Thanks to all of you who helped in making our Community Yard Sale a success!

Outreach Committee



Another Perfect Stranger

The Sequel to "The Perfect Stranger" (Based on David Gregory's second novel) takes up the story of the Cominsky family then years later.

Sarah Cominsky thinks her mom is insane; she claims that, ten years ago, she met face to face with Jesus Christ. Nikki's daughter Sarah, now 19 and heading West for college, is at her own spiritual crossroads.

To further complicate matters, her mother has recently revealed that, nearly a decade ago, she was the dinner guest of the Almighty Himself. Thinking her mom has gone off the deep end, Sarah strikes up an unlikely friendship with a travel companion who shares her disdain for religion.

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Return Service Requested



The WMU has kicked off its new year with a food box drive. This was originally Lynn Eddys' project when she was chairman of Outreach and she has provided invaluable assistance in this project. The food boxes feed a family of four for three days these boxes. When a hungry family comes to us, the Pastor or Louise can just hand them a box instead of scrounging in the pantry for food. The WMU would like to extend our warmest thanks to Joe Brown for providing us with the boxes

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 20 at 12:00 Noon in our new meeting room. We cordially invite all ladies to attend. The meal will consist of sandwiches and all the 'fixins'.

Ya'll Come!

The following is a list of items we need donated to help fill these boxes:

- 3 complete Casserole Dinners
- 3 cans Vegetables
- 4 cans of Soup
- 1 box Saltine Crackers
- 1 large Baked Beans
- 12 Vienna Sausage
- 3 cans Fruit
- 3 packages Jell-o
- 12 pack Pudding
- 1 large Deviled Ham
- 1 large Tuna Fish
- 1 instant Oatmeal or Grits
- 1 box Cherrios
- 12 small Juice
- 1 Parmelot Milk (Shelf Stable)
- 1 small Peanut Butter