

# ECHOES

# from the Valley

December 15, 2009

Volume 36, No.12

## 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



**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**



“The Short Life and Sudden Demise  
of a Flexie Flyer”

*(A Short Story by Pastor Mike –  
Written December, 2002)*

*Originally published in December  
Echoes, 2007 - Republished by  
request)*

As Christmas approached in my seventh year I became captivated by the desire to own a most wonderful wheeled machine . . . the legendary Flexie Flyer. That was my Christmas wish, *not to be fulfilled* for quite sometime. Mom managed to delay the Christmas arrival of my Flexie Flyer for three years. She offered logical reasoning for the postponement. Her reasons distressed me. I was too young, it was a dangerous toy, lots of kids got hurt with them and the clincher; I needed to become more responsible. . . . Of course she was right. She always was.

Following those three years of intense longing, nights spent lingering over the Sears Roebuck catalogue, fantasizing about downhill runs on that marvelous machine; it finally arrived on the Christmas morning of my 10<sup>th</sup> year. It was sleek, swift and silent; a thing of beauty; wheels of hard rubber, the hubs bright

red. The wood that formed the riding surface was aerodynamically shaped, glistening with a thick coating of varnish. Deep within the clear coating was positioned a most wonderful decal . . . bold lettering and wings of red, blue and gold symbolizing speed, power, freedom and adventure.

I was ecstatic, exhilarated, triumphant, yet my joy was brief. A neighbor, Mrs. Lamb, killed the Flexie Flyer. She utterly destroyed it with her rumbling, stumbling, repulsive station wagon. My beautiful machine was sitting innocently in her driveway. . . I never forgave her. The tragedy occurred very early in the spring following that wonderful Christmas morning. Mom secretly rejoiced I'm sure, and with good reason. The Flexie Flyer was every thing that Mom knew it would be.

Just two days following Christmas it claimed the glass door of the family bookcase. "Mike, don't be riding that thing in the house." "OK, mom, sure." *Crash!* Then came the predictable lumps, bumps, bruises, dares, fights and arguments over who was "next." Billy McLendon ran home in tears once or twice a week . . . Skip Thompson learned well the art of bribery to get more riding time. Frank Owen lost two layers of skin, from ankle to hipbone, as we rode double, spilling onto the asphalt of the steep downhill section on Cloverdale Drive. "Mike, don't be riding double on that thing." "OK, mom, sure." *Ouch!* "Mike, don't be riding that thing on Cloverdale Drive." "OK, mom, sure."

*Ouch!*

The Flexie Flyer was a menace to the community, its' demise a mystery. I was never sure just how my lovely machine found its' way to Mrs. Lambs' driveway. That event broke my heart; it answered Mom's prayer!

The End

Janet and I thank you for your continuing support and encouragement. Your graciousness, kindness and friendship are always evident, bringing joy to our lives. We also appreciate your warm wishes and tangible expressions of love during this wonderful Christmas season as "we" are recovering from knee surgery. You all are special to us. From our heart to yours, we wish each of you peace, joy and a very merry Christmas.



*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

*Philippians 1: 3-6*

I love you and I love being your pastor,

*Pastor Mike*



The WMU is proud to announce that our missions offering was \$755.00. Though slightly short of our goal, we are optimistic that in the next several days it will be attained. We gratefully acknowledge those who braved the flooding rains and high winds to come out on December 2 and hear Chris Grove, missionary to Mongolia, speak. We also met his lovely family at this WMU sponsored event.

From now until January 15, 2010, we will be collecting blankets, coats, scarves, gloves and hats for the Atlanta Union Mission. If you have any used coats, etc, in good condition for men, women or children, please bring them to the church along with blankets or quilts. The AUM will pick up our donations.

Our next meeting will be January 5 at 12:00 Noon and it will be a potluck affair. Also, please bring a pair of scissors since we will be doing a small craft project.

The WMU wishes to extend Happy Birthday wishes to Lorraine Barnard WMU Director for twenty-two years. Lorraine will be celebrating her 91st birthday on December 14. Best wishes and God Bless You.

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 238  
Decatur, GA 30030

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



## *Watch Night Service*

**New Year's Eve Service**

**December 31 2009**

**10:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)**

**11:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)**

Come join us as we celebrate  
the New Year.

We will enjoy a time of fellow-  
ship, remembrance and wor-  
ship

with the observance of the  
Lord's Supper



If God had a refrigerator, your picture  
would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be  
in it.

He sends you flowers every spring, and  
a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll lis-  
ten.

He could live anywhere in the universe,  
and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent  
you in Bethlehem; not to mention that  
Friday at Calvary.