

ECHOES from the Valley

October 15, 2010

Volume 37, No.10

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



"All tithes
from the land,
whether the seed from the
ground or the fruit from the tree,
are the LORD's; they are holy
to the LORD." Leviticus 27:30, NRSV



OCTOBER

A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Stewardship is word we hear most often as it relates to church life. We at Valley Brook are very familiar with the term, often including a time in worship to reflect upon the biblical design for managing all our resources. For us it is a "Stewardship Moment." Biblically, it is a most important concept. Someone has wisely commented: "Stewardship is everything we do after we say, "We believe...." It is an active expression of our living relationship with God. It is our response to God, not only because of *His instruction* but in appreciation of His unconditional love; the gifts of salvation through Jesus Christ, and His involvement in our lives.

Stewardship is not *merely* about money. It is about how we use everything that God has given us. It is about how we live and how we give. What do we give to God in response for all that has been given to us? We give time, talent, and treasure.

Many people find giving their time and talent easy, almost natural. Giving treasure seems a bit more difficult. We may ask, "How do I fit the church into our family's budget?" *That* question comes from living a life with an emphasis on *scarcity* or *shortage*. However, when we live a life in *recognition of abundance* the question changes to "How do I best respond to God's gifts?". The Egyptians

believed that they could take it with them, but if you go to the Museums in Cairo you will see all of their wonderful stuff still there, here on earth! We are wise to view this life as a training ground for eternity; we are given property, material possessions, gifts, abilities, and relationships. It is what we do with these, what we learn from them, and what we impart to others that will become the true treasure. We also wise when we view God as the owner and ourselves as managers. Let us use and manage His goods wisely; let us be good and faithful stewards.

We have in place a Stewardship team. Their task according to our Constitution and By-Laws is detailed as follows: *It (the Stewardship Team) shall be responsible to recommend an annual budget for consideration by the Finance Committee and the Deacon Fellowship, which shall present their recommendation to the church in conference. It shall also suggest ways and means of leading the church membership to support the budget with adequate funding. The committee shall promote throughout the year the Biblical principles of tithing and stewardship and encourage the congregation to follow these principles."*

This team begins work on October 19 for the 2011 calendar year. Pray that God's wisdom will direct their budget planning, leading them in this important work as they encourage us all in our commitment to God's plan for our stewardship of life.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living-sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this

is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2)

Janet and I are continually encouraged by the love and kindness shown us by the people of Valley Brook. We are committed to and greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve God in this place. Each of you are important to us in so many ways and for a host of reasons.

You all let us know last Sunday that the month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Dan Warnock came forward at the close of the morning service to make a presentation and offer some very kind words. I always say that you make us feel appreciated every month of the year, but it was great receiving your expressions of love and support through many beautiful cards and thoughtful comments. The tangible expressions of love are also much appreciated.

I love you all and I love being your pastor,

Pastor Mike



Trunk 'R Treat will be held on Saturday, October 30th instead of the 31st.

Donations for treats can be brought to the church office anytime between now and the 30th.

Thank You to Our Church Family

No words can express my appreciation for all the visits, calls, food and especially the prayers during my battle with cancer. I continue to feel your prayers as I continue the battle.

Thank you for the cards, prayers and words of encouragement during the time of my sister's death.

Again, thank you for all of your expressions of love.

Bobbie Rivers



When your burdens come, you see just who your friends and loved ones are. Our Valley Brook family has been a shining star through Charlie's recent surgery. We seemed to be surrounded by angels—those who sat and held our hands, those who visited, those who prayed, even an anonymous angel! We know that they were all hand picked and sent by God, just as He directed us to the Church that would be so good to us. Thank you, from both of us, for holding us in your hearts, and for praying for Charlie's recovery. We are overwhelmed by and so thankful for your loving care—it has kept us going.

Charlie & Shelia Harkleroad

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VALLEY BROOK
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Movie
Night

Belle and
October 29 the **BEAST**

Eric Landry is a cold-hearted man that people have nicknamed "The Beast." Years of anger and bitterness have consumed him, turning him into a selfish man. But Belle Watson is the exact opposite. She's caring and kind. She works hard to help her family, often sacrificing her own wants and desires to satisfy the needs of others. When her father accidentally breaks a valuable work of art at the Landry mansion, Belle is thrust into the life of the Beast. Trying her best not to be intimidated by his meanness, Belle agrees to work for Eric in an effort to repay him and save her father's job. She discovers there just might be more to Eric. Will she find the man within the Beast?



If recently you brought a slow cooker to a Family Night Supper, please check your lid. Catherine Reeves has a WestBend® Slow Cooker and came away with a lid that does not fit. Please check your cooker and see if you have the proper lid..



Fish Fry
November 7 @ 6:00 p.m.

HELP WANTED

On Saturday, November 6 at 2:00 p.m., help is needed in thawing and preparing the fish for Sunday. We need volunteers for cooking the fish and fries on Sunday afternoon. Jean Tarvin will be cooking the hushpuppies. We are needing deep fryers for cooking. If you have a deep fryer or you are volunteering to help, please contact Tom Gibbs.