

EchoEs *from the Valley*

January 15, 2008

Volume 35, No. 02

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Mike Roper

Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant

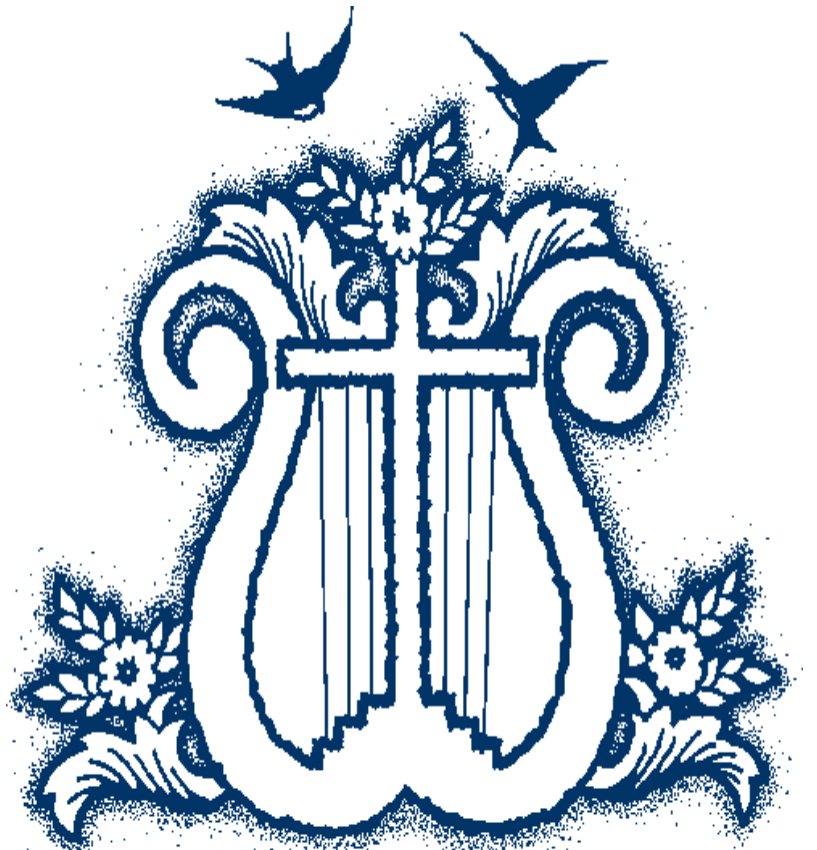
Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



JANUARY

FOR YOU MAKE ME GLAD BY YOUR DEEDS,

O LORD;

I SING FOR JOY AT THE WORKS OF YOUR

HANDS.

P S A L M 9 2 : 4

A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church

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

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



On New Years Day, Janet and I enjoyed having most of our children and grandchildren visiting in our home. A fine bunch indeed! We are blessed with a great family. We had a wonderful time enjoying traditional New Year's food, lively conversation and spontaneous laughter. The twenty or so who gathered there seemed to be a much larger group and not just because the grandkids are noisy. You see, our house is small so we were crowded, packed in and it was great!

I was reminded of how much I love a crowd at church. It is refreshing to see people filling the pews. My sometimes strange sense of humor made me think that if we reduced the area of our sanctuary and seating capacity by 40% we could do a better job of filling the pews and having a full house. Nonsense, of course! What I really want is to see us better utilize the space we have available. Why?

- Is it because it is more fun to preach to a large group?
- Is it more difficult to see who is sleeping when the pews are full?
- Is it merely to show positive results on paper and in charts?
- Does having a larger attendance increasing bragging rights?

The answer is "none of these." I do enjoy preaching to a large group, the stats are nice to track, and by the way, *I see you when you're sleeping and I know when you're awake* no matter the crowd size. I want every pew filled because we have a story to tell. God has given us excellent facilities to be used in the telling of that story. People need to experience the worship of the living God. Your staff works to

be innovative and bring meaningful services. A larger group increases our "critical mass" and is more appealing to those who are visiting. We show that we are healthy and alive. We all need what is being offered. Your participation, support and attendance are important. When you are not here, you are missed. My hope is that you will make church attendance a priority and bring someone along with you. God has a place for each of us, an opportunity for service and involvement. Get plugged in. We need you! We need one another!

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10: 24-25

Pastor Mike

God whispers in your soul and speaks to your mind. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you. It's your choice: Listen to the whisper, or wait for the brick.



 **BOOK, VIDEO/MUSIC SWAP** 
February 9 - 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.


Our Echoes goes out in the mail on the first and fifteenth of every month. If you have an article to be published, please turn in a week before mail outs.

The Editor

“FIRST PLACE” CLASSES

Beginning February 6
6:45 p.m.

“First Place” is a Christ-centered weight control program including Bible study, small-group support, accountability, a proven commonsense nutrition plan and exercise. This nationally recognized health program is geared toward all areas of a person’s life: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Questions? See Janet



Winter wearing you down? Shorter daylight hours and cold weather leave lots of us in the doldrums. Try these tips to lift your spirits:

Lighten Up. Some people actually experience a type of winter depression called seasonal affective disorder (SAD) that may result from too little sunlight. Even those who aren’t clinically depressed can feel down in the dumps during dark winter months. Getting outside for about an hour—especially around noon—may help. Also, add more indoor light with lamps and translucent curtains, and by trimming shrubs and trees around windows.

Get Moving. Physical activity can boost mood, relieve depression, and reduce anxiety. If you’re exercising in the cold, dress appropriately with layers of clothing, gloves, and water resistant footwear. For indoor exercise, try a little jazzercise movements to upbeat music or walking indoors at the mall.

Stay Connected. Make plans with family and friends, join a social group, or volunteer at your church. SOURCE: AARP/HEALTH



1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

Too many churchgoers are singing “Standing on the Promises” when all they are doing is sitting on the premises.

*That ye be not slothful, but followers of them
who through faith and patience inherit the
promises.
Hebrews 6:12*

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1198 N. Valley Brook Road - Decatur, Georgia 30033
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VALLEY BROOK



Gene & Wanda Harlan

The only telephone number that you may reach the Harlans' is (404) 914-6268.

Please mark your directories.

Bill Hayes

2314 #7 Lawrenceville Hwy.

Decatur, GA 30033

Telephone: (770) 853-2108

Cook's Tricks

To absorb the pungent odor of foods like fish or cabbage, place a small bowl filled with white vinegar on the stove while cooking. To deodorize a musty-smelling freezer, fill a clean sock with dry coffee grounds and place inside.



Virginia Ann Blake
121 Northern Ave. #4
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 373-6904
Birthday: 05/16

Two things are hard on the heart—running upstairs and running down people.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

The best exercise for the heart is to reach way down and lift someone up.