

EchoEs *from the Valley*

January 15, 2009

Volume 36, No. 01

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Mike Roper

Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant

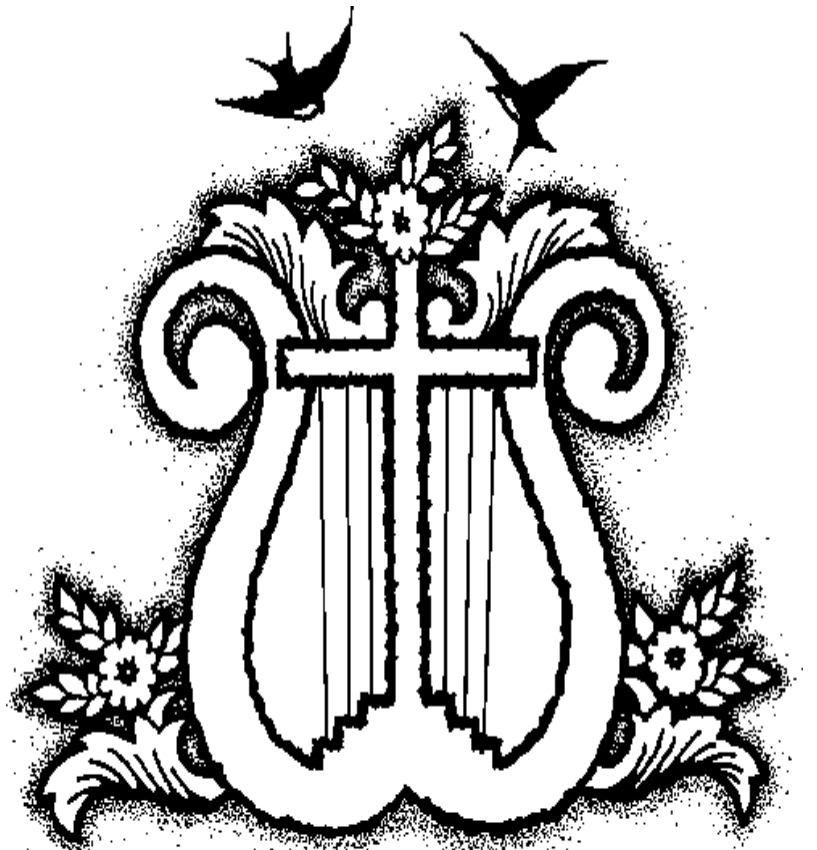
Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



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



JANUARY

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



The 2008 holiday season is behind us as a New Year begins to unfold. As much as I look forward each year to the celebrations, festivities and activities I have to admit that I always breathe a sigh of relief when all the fun is over.

Our celebration of Christ is something that needs no calendar emphasis; it is continual. Our joy is eternal, our hope everlasting, our message continues. So, with all the busyness of the season fading into the background, it is time to get re-focused on the task at hand. That task consists, in part, of working with the groups, organization and ministries that presently exist within our church. These groups are comprised of people sharing the common goal of bringing glory to Christ. Consider becoming an active participant in one or more of these open groups representing opportunities for service, learning and involvement:

- **Sunday Bible School** – Presently we have three adult classes and one for youth. Here the Bible is taught and discussed in a small group, interactive environment. You will benefit through your participation.
- **WMU** – A women’s organization to teach missions and to promote support for missions around the world. We welcome our women to participate in this worthwhile organization.
- **Brotherhood** – This one’s for the guys. An organization to encourage the involvement of men and boys in the work of the church and in support of mission activities
- **Prayer Warriors** – Meets weekly for a time of intensive intercessory prayer. If you are available at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, join this group. You will be blessed and will be a blessing to others
- **Keenagers** – Mostly, not exclusively, a seniors group. Meets monthly for fun, food, fellowship, spiritual emphasis and occasional outings.
- **Over The Hill Gang** – A breakfast club for the guys. This is a great time of fellowship where the goal is to have fun and enjoy good company. Our men meet at the church every Tuesday morning for a 7:55 departure to one of several local eateries.

We have a cause, a purpose, a reason for being and the means of accomplishment. Get connected!

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

(Ephesians 2:10)

I am looking forward to a productive 2009. Several of our committees, or teams, are working hard to develop fresh approaches to ministry and outreach. Please pray for their efforts. You will be hearing of their progress as plans are further developed.

During each of the first two Sundays of the New Year a challenge has been issued as part of the morning message . . . a challenge to commitment. These are commitments that when realized will bring great blessing to us individually and as the church at Valley Brook:

- » I will begin the year by giving myself more completely to God than I have ever done in the past; with my ultimate goal to make every day His.
- » I resolve that in the coming year I will seek to know Christ more intimately.

If you will make that resolution in humble commitment, Christ will give you the power to see it come to pass. He truly can make all things new.

I am with you each step of the way,

Pastor Mike

The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.

The seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Luke 8:15 (NASB)

It is good to remember that the tea kettle, although up to its neck in hot water, continues to sing.

Rejoice evermore. In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16,18

A Word of Recognition

Thank you, members and friends of the Valley Brook church. We came very close to meeting our budget for 2008, while keeping expenditures in line. Your generous giving is absolutely essential to the continuing operation of our facility and the successful implementation of ministry and outreach programs. May Christ be honored in all we do with our tithes and offerings.

There is a lot of misunderstanding today concerning the tithe (one-tenth of our income belonging to God). In fact, one of the great injustices that many of us preachers have done to the church is to insist that God demands one-tenth of our income and one-seventh of our week.

This implies that the other nine-tenths of our income and the other six days of the week are ours to do with as we please. The truth of the matter is that everything we have belongs to God. Not just the tenth...everything! We are nothing more than stewards passing through this world. For most of us today, within 50 years everything we own will be in someone else's name...your land, your home, and your assets. When you came into this world you came into it naked without a dime. And the obvious truth that follows is that you will leave this world the same way. We do not own a thing. We are merely stewards of God's resources.

Someone has said that you can tell what God thinks about money by the kind of Christians He gives it to. As far-fetched as it may seem our finances generally mark the position of our spiritual pilgrimage. We are no farther along in our walk with God than the point to which we have learned to trust him with our money. Someone has well said that more could be learned about a person's commitment by looking at their check-book than at their prayer book. Giving is the place where many Christians go astray.

- Some because they have never been taught the spiritual truths concerning stewardship.
- Others because they have not studied the Word of God to find these truths for themselves.
- And sadly, for some, because of willful rebellion against the word of God

Consider God's Abundant Promise To Us!

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in My house, and try me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, says the Lord of hosts."

(Malachi 3:10)

Top Ten 2009 Predictions

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.



Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the Jim Phillips family because of the death of Lynn Phillips on January 10, 2009.

Our church family is saddened as well and is experiencing a genuine sense of loss.

Lynn was an active member and a very important part of the Valley Brook Baptist Church.

She will be greatly missed.

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VALLEY BROOK

From the Editor:

The **Echoes'** staff invites your input. Let us know of your committee work, group activities that are underway and of interest. If you are able to help with an article, please provide the church office with that information via e-mail or in written form.

Remember, the Echoes is your newsletter!

◆ january february march ◆

◆ october november december ◆

◆ april may june ◆

◆ july august september ◆

A Year of Opportunity



Calling Post

If you have not been receiving your Calling Post messages, please contact the church office with your updated telephone information.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

And whatsoever; ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23