

# EchoEs from the Valley

April 15, 2008

Volume 35, No. 08

## Our Church Staff

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### 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



**Welcome Spring!**

I am  
the  
vine;  
you  
are  
the  
branches.  
John 15:5

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***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 gap of time between the present and “The Trip” is rapidly shrinking. In just a couple of weeks Janet and I will be experiencing the journey of a lifetime. It is difficult to imagine that we will be walking the streets of Capernaum, Bethsaida, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem; walking the shores of the bodies of water that are such an integral part of the Bible story: the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. What an experience it will be to actually walk where Jesus walked; strolling through Jerusalem, beyond the eastern gate, descending into the Kidron Valley, then actually moving about on the slope of the Mount of Olives. That alone is a longtime dream.

To visit there is a unique privilege. Israel, one of the youngest nations of the modern world is also one of the oldest with a history dating back almost 6000 years. Prior to May 14, 1948, when the people of Israel proclaimed themselves an independent republic, the Jews were scattered abroad. This scattering is referred to as the Diaspora, originally brought about by the Babylonians around 586 B.C then later reinforced by the Greeks and Romans.

Israel today is often referred to as the Holy Land because of the three major religions systems with ties to the region; Judaism, Islam and Christianity. We Christians appreciate the rich heritage of this incredible land where our Savior was born and lived during His sojourn on earth. To visit is there is a tremendous opportunity.

While we are away for ten days, we will miss only one Sunday at Valley Brook. On that day, you will be in good hands.

My friend and classmate from Luther Rice Seminary, Rob Rhew, will fill the pulpit on Sunday, May 4 and will be available for pastoral needs during my absence. I know you will enjoy and appreciate Rob.

Janet and I appreciate our church family and your prayers for an enjoyable trip and safe return.

*Pastor Mike*

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Our suitcases are identical suitcases—all the same size—but some people can pack more into them than others.

*“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.”*

*Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)*

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**Valley Brook Baptist Church Lawn**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

To reserve your table and two chairs, please contact the church office. There is no charge to participate and it is a great time to clean out your closets. You can make money on your nicest junk. If anyone can help set up and/or take down tables and chairs, please let a member of the Outreach Committee know.



**The  
Pastor  
will be  
Away**

Pastor Mike and Janet will be away from April 29 to May 10. They will be on a tour of the Holy Land. Please pray that they will have a safe trip. We are anxiously awaiting their return and hear of their great adventures. Rev. Rob Rhew will be filling in for Pastor Mike.



**“My Cup Runneth Over”**

**Ladies’ Tea**

You are invited

May 17, 2008

1:00—3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

This will be an event to celebrate the women of our church and our spiritual bonds.

Dress should be church attire—by all means, wear a hat if you like. All refreshments will be complimentary.

Those attending will need to obtain a ticket from Shelia Harkleroad. Tickets will be available April 13.

*“Honor one another above yourselves.”  
Romans 12:10*



**WMU SPONSORING A  
A FOOD DRIVE**

WMU will be doing a church-wide drive for the food pantry at Valley Brook. Items needed for Food Pantry:

**Beef Stew**

**Vienna Sausage**

**Ready-to-eat Soups** (Healthy Choice, Progresso, Chunky, not condensed)

**Canned Pasta** (Spaghetti, Ravioli, Beef-a-Roni)

**Ready to microwave Mac-n-Cheese**

**Canned Hams**

**Canned Chicken or Tuna**

**Canned Corned Beef**

**Canned Vegetables** (Green Beans, Potatoes, Corn, peas, other Beans)

**Non-Refrigerated Pudding** (Hunt’s Snack Pack or Store Brands)

**Instant Oatmeal Packets**

**Instant Grits Packets**

**Small Boxes of Cereal**

**Shelf-stable Milk** (Non-refrigerated...not powdered milk)

**Ready-to-Microwave Rice Pouches**

**Boxed All-In-One Casseroles**

**Individual Wet Naps, or Wet Ones**

**Plastic Spoons & Forks**

**Napkins**

Please make sure items do not need added ingredients other than water and get pop-tops, whenever possible, for easy opening.

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*“If you can’t feed a hundred people,  
then just feed one.”*

*Mother Teresa*

“Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.”

Isaiah 58:7

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

**Thank You! Thank You!**  
**Church Family**

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness.

Shirley Mitchell

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)*

**WELCOME BACK**  
**GARY WINDSOR** 

Gary Windsor  
2889 Concord Drive  
Decatur, GA 30033  
(404) 573-6924  
Birthday: 7/1



“FIRST PLACE” Second Session  
Orientation—June 4 at 7:00 Fellowship Hall  
Classes Begin: June 18—September 10  
6:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$87.00 for New Members  
\$20.00 for Alumni