

EchoEs from the Valley

June 15, 2008

Volume 35, No. 11

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Michael D. Roper

Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant

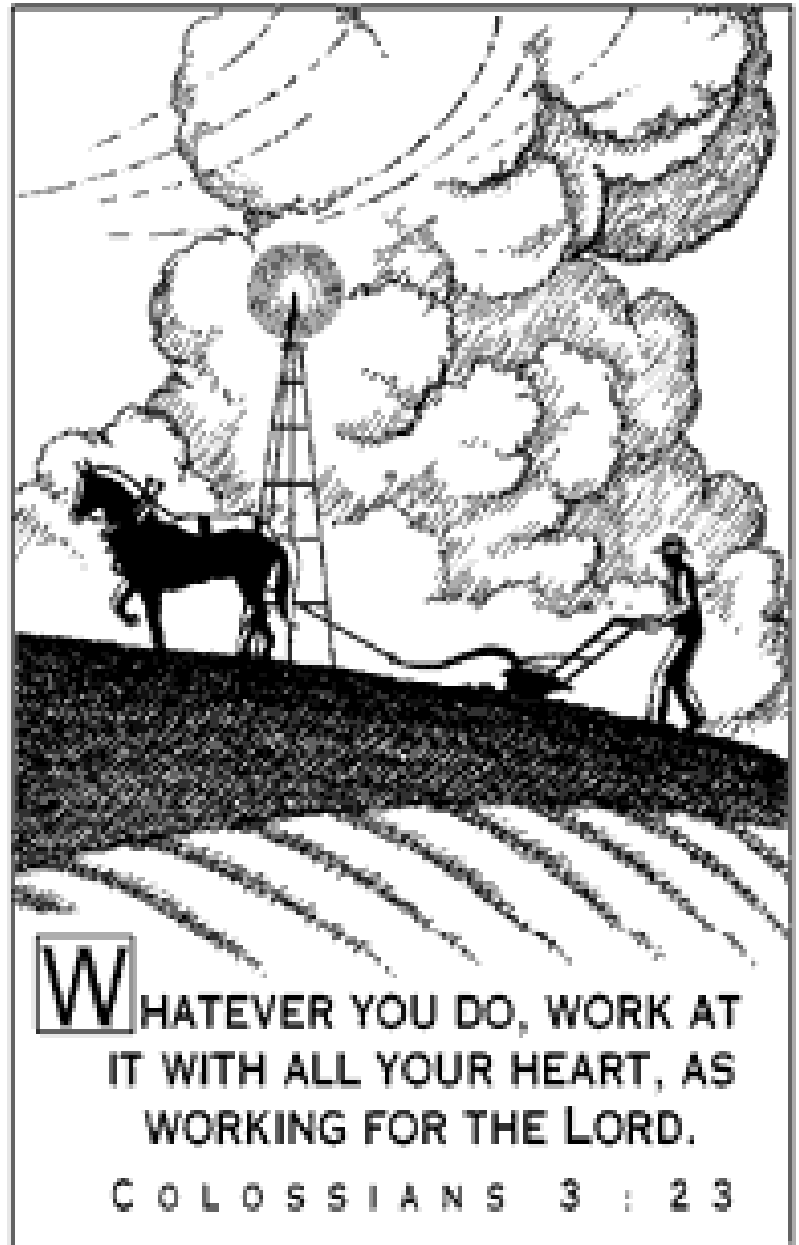
Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Sheila Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



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



Homecoming Day on June 1st was a great success. Many positive remarks have made their way to me and I always find those especially enjoyable. It was good to have Rev. Josh Hughes back at Valley Brook bringing a message of Home and Hope. We are excited for Josh as he is about to embark on an exciting journey to Lyons, Georgia where he has been called to serve as pastor of The Oakes Baptist Church. God has led the steps of Josh preparing him for this important transition. Please continue to pray for him and the church he will begin pastoring in July.

For many it may seem that Homecoming is much like an ordinary Sunday, with a few more smiling faces, a guest speaker and a wonderful dinner following the service. Yes, it is all that, yet so much more. Months of planning and preparation are necessary to bring about a successful event. The weeks leading up to the Big Day find our volunteer grounds team busily cutting, trimming, weeding, painting, touching up, cleaning and generally getting the building and grounds looking great!

Our decorations team plans, purchases and produces those “nice little extras” that result in a festive touch. Bulletin boards filled with Valley Brook history, floral arrangements and other decorative incidentals create a special atmosphere. The center pieces on each table were especially nice. They did not just mysteriously appear. Each of these creative objects was individually crafted.

The wonderful dinner we enjoyed was more involved than merely bringing a few items of food to share. Our kitchen crew

will testify to that. They had to plan for up to 150 people to be accommodated. Of course, tables and chairs have to be removed from storage and set up in the fellowship hall. Utensils, beverages, breads and the provided main course must be arranged along with all the sides that are brought in. The days before and the day of Homecoming, are extremely busy ones for this group. Then, of course, there is the aftermath. Most of the people are gone but so much of the “stuff” remains. We appreciate those who linger a bit to help with clean-up and stowing away of the tables and chairs.

My intention in mentioning these behind the scenes activities has been to point to those wonderful volunteers in the church that make it all possible. Please, take the time to identify these individuals and express your gratitude to them in some manner. I appreciate these faithful folks and their efforts that combine to produce such nice results. These essential individuals serve on the following teams or committees:

- Building and Grounds
- Decorations
- Kitchen
- Homecoming

"Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah)"

- Colossians 3: 23-24

Pastor Mike



Steaming News.....about Valley Brook's first Ladies' Tea.

Feedback reveals that the Valley Brook Ladies' Tea, held in the Fellowship Hall on May 17th, was an overwhelming success.

The weather cooperated, the food was an excellent example of the Kitchen Committee's skills, and the place exploded in fine china and bright spring colors. We even caught the interest of the local paparazzi—Tom Gibbs and Charlie Harkleroad. Overall, a *honey* of an event.

The Tea Committee, comprised of Janet Roper, Shelia Harkleroad and the Kitchen Committee, Barbara Barnett, Carolyn Scott and Nancy Warnock, extend a gracious "thank you" to all our additional hostesses--Effie Pittman, Shirley Mitchell, Delores Guthrie, Cindy Hulsey and Mary Gibbs. All ladies provided a lovely setting for their guests.

The tea was a perfect *blend* of the social and the spiritual. We had a chance to relax and talk, and then turned our attention to Sherri Dodd's excellent ministry message. (Thanks to Jim Phillips for technical support.) Marcia McBride included a bit of music as we sang and closed out a wonderful two hours.

Our hope is that this event will become *steeped* in tradition and we will continue to make time for each other in an otherwise *strained* and hectic world. We decided that this kind of event suits us "*to a tea.*"
—Shelia Harkleroad

The Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year has been voted upon and will soon begin work. Please be in prayer for this group and for the results of their important task. They will be busy seeking those individuals who will serve on the several teams and committees that exist within the church. Also, be in prayer for those who will be asked to serve while considering your own willingness to become involved or more involved. The work of the church is dependent upon the commitment of many volunteers in many capacities. If there are areas that are of particular interest to you, please contact Pastor Mike or Luther Lord who is chairing the Nominating Committee this year.

Valley Brook needs you!

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A revised publication scheduled has been implemented for the **Valley Brook Echoes**. Seeking greater efficiency, and as a cost saving measure, our newsletter will be mailed on the 15th of each month and will continue to include the calendar for the upcoming month. As always, your involvement is welcomed. If you have church news or reports of group activities, please provide the church office with that information via email or in written form. The **Echoes** is your newsletter.

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

Celebrate the Fourth of July at home with family AND celebrate again with us on Sunday July 6th. We will have a cookout beginning at 6:00 p.m. These are always great fun for all of us and this year will be no exception. Hot foods from the grill will be served up along with beverages. Those attending are asked to bring sides, salads, deserts and other accompaniments that will complement the provided foods.

Opportunities abound for service and involvement. In addition to the formal committee structure in place, we offer additional opportunities for individuals to get plugged in. On Wednesday mornings, our faithful **Prayer Team** meets for a time of intensive intercessory prayer. This valuable ministry has touched lives all across the globe as evidenced by feed back received from as far away as Iraq. If you are not comfortable praying aloud, don't let that stop you from attending. Your silent participation will benefit the group and your own experience

will bring a blessing! Another opportunity for involvement is through the ongoing Valley Brook ministry at nearby **Montclair Assisted Living Community**. We conduct a brief worship service each month that features singing, a devotional message and personal interaction with the residents. Be assured these people appreciate our presence. You are welcomed to join this outreach opportunity by merely being there and shaking a few hands. Interested?? Get in touch with Pastor Mike.

Are you seeking more interaction with others? Consider the **Over the Hill Gang**. . . even if you are not over the hill! This weekly men's breakfast outing leaves the church at 7:55 each Tuesday morning. Monthly opportunities include **WMU, Keenagers and Movie night**. Check the church calendar and find these and more opportunities to become involved, enjoy yourself and benefit from quality time spent with the church family.