

# EchoEs from the Valley

July 15, 2008

Volume 35, No. 12

## Our Church Staff

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### Pastor

Rev. Michael D. Roper

### Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

### Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

### Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

### Ministry Assistant

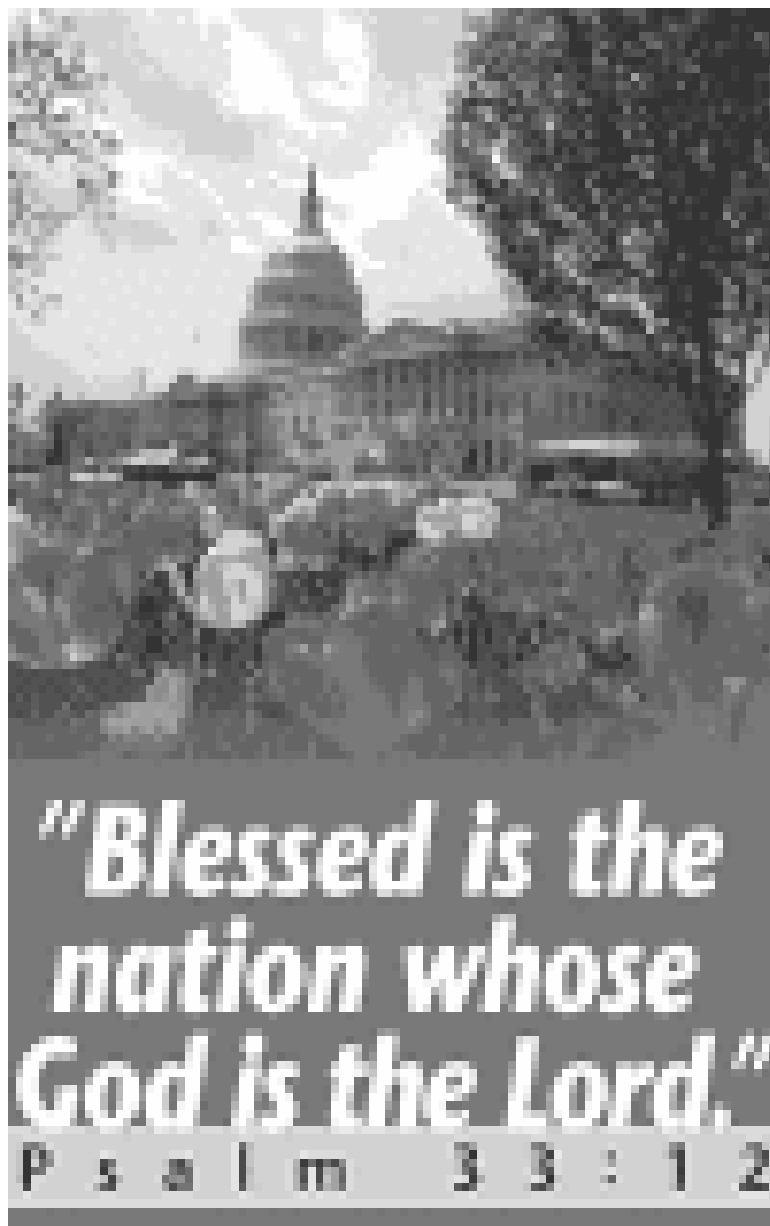
Ms. Louise LePortier

### Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

### Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



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**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**



I wish that every morning upon waking I could check my email and find there a message from God. That message would provide a recap of my activities for the previous day along with divine evaluation and criticism, with precise action plans for improvement, or in some cases damage control! Also it would be great if that message included a detailed agenda for the current day, week and month. You see the thing is, I really want to accomplish God's will and it would simplify matters if I could only get that daily email message.

My guess is that most Christians are like me . . . they really want to please God, to understand and follow His will, yet sometimes we have difficulty in knowing just what course of action to take. Does God communicate His will to us? If so, how?

The answer to the first question is, 'absolutely yes.' God does communicate and you *can* know God's will for your life. Ephesians 5:17 (NLT) tells us, "*Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what God wants you to do.*" There are many opportunities for involvement in life and in the church. God enables us to accomplish the tasks He has for us. What is He asking of you? God isn't going ask us to do something we cannot do.

So, God does communicate. How does this communication take place? A primary means is through the Bible. It is God's Word and as we give diligent attention to its contents the Holy Spirit will aid our understanding. Our minds are divinely illuminated as we carefully reflect and give serious consideration to Scripture. Clear guidance is available in most areas of our life. Careful study combined with earnest prayer

are important keys to discovering what God wants you to do. As a believer, never forget that we can live continually "under the influence," that is the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Direct, divine guidance is available.

You've noticed by now that we have a responsibility in the process. We are involved in the process of understanding God's plan in our life. We must develop the desire to please God while exercising discipline, commitment and obedience. You will discover that God gently guides our steps as we choose to walk with Him. God wants to make His presence known in our lives and in our ministries.

And, no He isn't going to accomplish this through an email message.

Walk with God . . . Be sensitive . . . . Be willing. ... Be blessed!

*Pastor Mike*

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I am only one;  
but still I am one.  
I cannot do everything,  
but still I can do  
something; I will not  
refuse to do the  
something I can do.

*Under his (Christ's) direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts...*

*Ephesians 4:16 (TLB)*



**Keenagers** to visit nationally acclaimed restaurant in **Tucker, Georgia!**

Matthew's restaurant, a landmark on historic Main Street, was recently featured on "Diners, Drive ins, and Dives." The program was produced by **cable TV's Food Network** and broadcast all over the world. Matthews is no secret to Valley Brooks' "**Over the Hill Gang.**" This local eatery has long been on their list of favorite breakfast locations. Take advantage of an opportunity to enjoy lunch there with the **Keenagers** on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the church at 11:15 or at Matthews at 11:30. You will have a great time and enjoy good food at a world famous restaurant!

See Delores Guthrie for additional details!.

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**Ridgecrest Recap** on Sunday evening, June 29th, was a great time of celebration and worship! Several from our music department recently attended **Music Week** at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Black Mountain, North Carolina. The week featured worship services, conferences, workshops, close fellowship and of course great music! The enthusiasm and excitement of our group was evident as they sang, recalled and reported highlights' of the week they enjoyed so much with about eight-hundred others. Thanks for giving us a "taste" of Ridgecrest!

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Every man's work,  
whether it be literature,  
or music, or pictures,  
or architecture, or  
anything else, is always  
a portrait of himself.

*As in water face reflects face, so the heart  
of man reflects man. Proverbs 27:19*



A **new hymnal** is being made available featuring enhanced worship resources and some new material while retaining the great hymns of the faith that are so familiar to us. The last edition of the **Baptist Hymnal** was published in 1991. Historically, Valley Brook has purchased new hymnals when they are released. During the last conference, we elected to proceed with the purchase of 225 new hymnals. A designated fund has been established for contributions toward purchase. The cost is \$12 per book. You may make purchases in memory of, or in honor of someone special. A label will be placed inside the front cover indicating your designation.

Please consider helping with the **purchase of several books**. It will take much more than each member being responsible for just one hymnal if we are to reach our goal. As you are able, please give attention to this request.

Order forms are available or you may call the church office for details. In order to take advantage of special pricing and free shipping, we must place the order by August 1<sup>st</sup>. We need you to respond quickly.

Thanks for your support!

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He who buries his talent is  
making a *grave* mistake.

*Neglect not the gift that is in thee.  
1 Timothy 4:14*

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*A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church*  
1198 N. Valley Brook Road - Decatur, Georgia 30033  
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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.

Sometimes “ordinary” people are tapped to do extraordinary things. Such was the case when talented Philadelphia seamstress, Betsy Ross, as legend has it, was approached by a small delegation headed by George Washington and asked to sew a flag for the fledgling nation. Working with the ideas presented to her, she patiently crafted a banner incorporating stars and stripes. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted that design, and the United States of America had it’s own official flag.

### **Youth on Wednesday**

Beginning Wednesday July 2 and each Wednesday after that, the youth will be meeting at the church at 6:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. “Youth On Wednesday” will be enjoyed indoors or out, featuring devotional information, games and good times.

***Volunteers* ARE THE HEART OF THE CHURCH!**

*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

*Psalms 100: 2*

*And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap.....*

*Galations 6:9*