

EchoEs from the Valley

September 15, 2008

Volume 35, No. 14

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Michael D. Roper

Music Director

Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist

Mr. Thom Martin

Organist

Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant

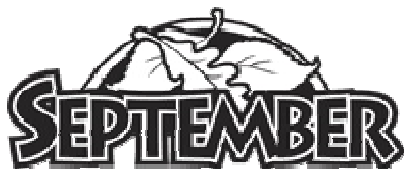
Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

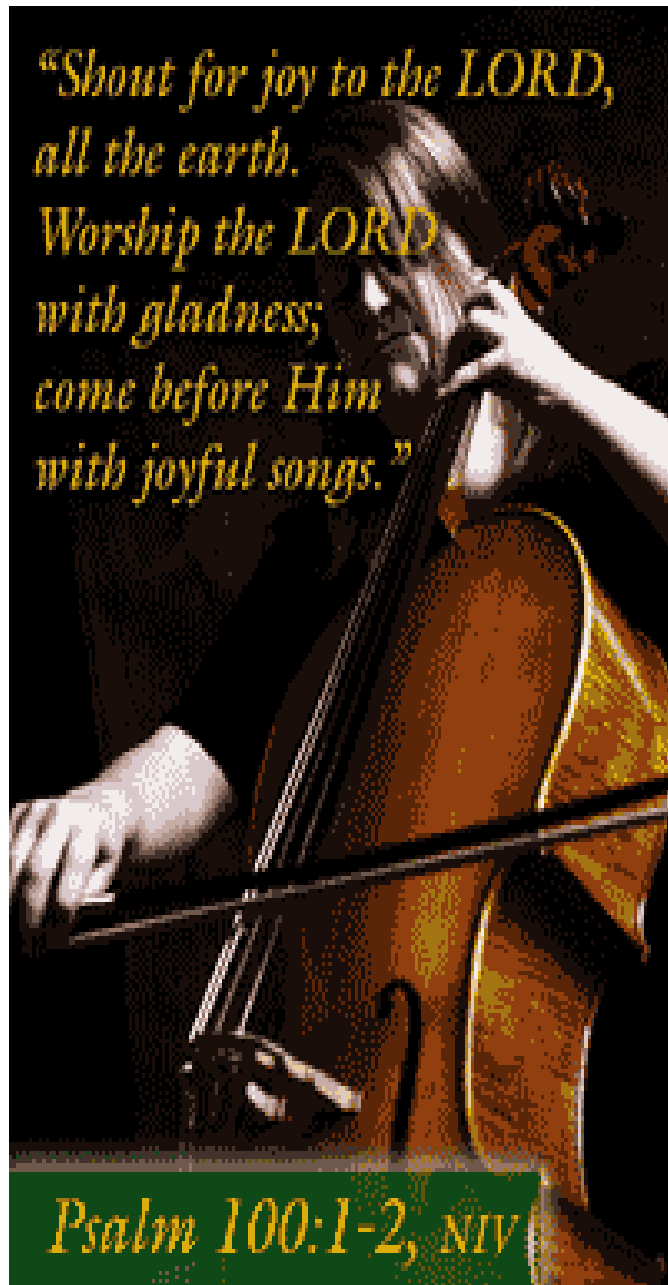
Mrs. Sheila Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



SEPTEMBER



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 ▪ Email: valleybrook@vbbchurch.com

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



Most of us have a growing collection of “things” that we no longer need; yet they occupy space in our homes and garages.

We think, maybe I’ll have a yard sale “someday.” Maybe “somebody” will need them “someday.” Maybe I’ll find a use for that extra sofa “someday.” Well for many “somebody’s” today is the day.” These “things” we accumulate may be put to good use through one of several organizations that I have been in contact with recently. These groups include World Relief and several local churches or groups of churches that provide clothing and home furnishings to those in need. The objective of each of these relief organizations is basically the same: “To demonstrate compassion and provide assistance in the name of Jesus Christ.” The Valley Brook church can be a part of that most worthy endeavor.

Let me encourage you to take a look around. What is it that you do not need that might benefit someone else? The items for you to consider include furniture, household items and clothing. Anything we donate should be in reasonably good condition. You may bring items to the church office, or if you need assistance with pick-up just call Pastor Mike.

Through the combined efforts of the 2007-2008 and the 2008-2009 Deacon groups we all enjoyed a wonderful evening on August 31. It is always a lot of fun when the church family gets together to laugh, love and enjoy camaraderie over good food. This is what we call fellowship and that is important; it is biblical, and as we

bond through fellowship we are better equipped to serve together in the various ministries of the church. Thanks deacons!!

Speaking of deacons, on Sunday night September 14 two of our men were ordained to the deacon ministry. Be sure to let Robert Morris and Charlie Harkleroad know you appreciate them and also pray for them as they assume active roles as servants of the church at Valley Brook.

As you pray for them, also pray for the new committee structure and individual teams that begin functioning this month for the 2008-2009 year. We are excited that many of our newer members have been selected to serve coming alongside our “seasoned” veterans for whom we are very thankful. We expect that this blending of experience, freshness and enthusiasm will bring about Kingdom results through the effective functioning of each group. I appreciate our volunteer work force and am optimistic that great things will be accomplished for the Lord through their efforts.

I love being your pastor,

Pastor Mike

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.

Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit

was in him.

Daniel 6:3



Our Wednesday evening “losers”, the First Place group, recently completed their second semester of meetings. The emphasis of First Place is awareness and practice of proper diet and nutrition combined with Bible study. The goal is increased spiritual and physical health. The two certainly complement one another. The thirteen week study followed the theme of “Thankfulness.” The eleven participants benefited according to their personal commitment to the program.

Congratulations to the three biggest “losers”, in order of achievement:

Fay Howard

Mike Hardie

Tresia Epps

The next semester begins in November. This is the time for new participants to join. Watch for the orientation date. See Janet Roper for details.



The new issue of the “*The Word For You Today*” (Sept-Nov) is available for all that would like to have a copy. For those of you who haven’t been getting the book, please let me know so that we will have enough for everyone or let the church office know that you would like one.

Terry Markert

Sunday School Director



Dear Friends:

We are blessed and so very thankful to be part of the family of God at Valley Brook. You have all been thoughtful and caring with your many visits, phone calls, cards, food and especially your prayers. We thank you with all our hearts. Mary Nell continues to have trouble breathing and needs around the clock oxygen. Not being able to go to church leaves a void in her heart. We are thankful that Wes has recovered enough from some of his ailments to attend church again and that is truly a blessing. It has been said that we give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart and spirit—love, kindness, understanding, prayers and faith. You have all demonstrated the truth of these words.

We love all of you,
Wes and Mary Nell Green



Our Keenagers will venture out to Tucker on September 18 to enjoy lunch at Matthews Cafeteria. Good food and good friends make for a great day. All are invited, come join us. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. or at Matthews at 11:15 a.m.

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A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church
1198 N. Valley Brook Road - Decatur, Georgia 30033
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WMU will be meeting at the church on September 23 at high noon. All women are invited to join. As you are able, please bring something to go along with sandwiches: side salads, sandwich fixings, desserts, etc. We look forward to seeing you.

MUSIC Department

Harry Cooksey will be our featured guest on Sunday evening, September 28 at 6:00 p.m. Come, enjoy an evening of music, humor and testimony as we worship and celebrate together!



Our Publications/Network team is busily working on the 2008-2009 Church Directory. Each year a lot of effort goes into this high quality and very useful tool. Most of us rely heavily on the directory as a contact resource; accuracy is essential. You can help. If any of your personal contact information has changed we need to know; otherwise the directory will be flawed. Please take a moment to review your own information and /or other family members that may be included in the directory. Our team has set a publication date of September 30, therefore we need update information no later than September 26. You may call the church office to report changes. Would you like a CD copy of the new directory? If so, please contact Terry Markert.