

EchoEs from the Valley

November 15, 2008

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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. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters

Thanksgiving



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



The most wonderful and exciting time of the year is upon us, the holiday season, beginning with Thanksgiving celebrations, followed by Christmas activities and the beginning of a New Year. For most of us these are very happy times. Why is that, I wonder, or what is the source of that happiness?.

For many people happiness correlates to acquisition, or getting what we want. We are bombarded with merchandising schemes based upon this idea. If we want to be really happy, we need a flashier car, a faster computer, the latest fragrance or any of an endless array of “things” that are improved, enhanced, faster or easier to use than what we already have. We watch the commercials, read the ads, and go after all the latest and greatest. Being misinformed, we are convinced that we are not really happy until we get what we want.

A proper balance of possessions and happiness is summed up in a simple proverb: *“Happy is the man who wants what he has.”* Think about it. If you continually focus on what you don't have, you'll be unhappy. Instead learn to appreciate what you already have and you will find it to be therapeutic. Hear Paul's words to Timothy: *“Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that”* (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

With the holidays pending, understand that you already have everything you

need. You have Christ. You have abundant/eternal life. You are loved by a God who has promised to supply all your needs. We see why the Bible instructs us over and over to be thankful. If you really want to be happy, learn to be thankful for what you have and not fret about what you don't have.

Pastor Mike



THANKS for the software!

If left up to me, I would do away with “Pastor Appreciation Month” observed in October of each year. Too much fuss and fanfare; besides the folks at Valley Brook make me feel pretty special every month of the year. Yet, I have to say that I have really enjoyed your particular expressions of appreciation; and in particular, I am having a great time learning to use the LOGOS Software presented to me by the church. It is a package I have wanted for several years and is a great study tool. I appreciate each of you and as I often say, “I love being your pastor!”

Prayer of the Aged

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it at all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pain but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so. Amen.
Author Unknown

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure.....

Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)



Starring:
Dolly Parton
Brian Kerwin
Roddy McDowell
Allison Mack

Country Superstar, DOLLY PARTON, stars in this heartwarming tale of a brassy and sassy lounge singer who is killed in a car crash, but denied entrance into heaven because of the selfish way she lived her life. Her penance: to reunite a family by finding a mother for two children and their recently widowed father before her Christmas deadline

Two ORIGINAL SONGS by Dolly Parton

“Unlikely Angel” &
“Whatcha Tryin’ To Do To Me?”.

Friday Night, November 21
7:00 p.m.

Free Popcorn & Drinks

We regret that the church stove has been removed from the kitchen for the time being, due to an excessive and on-going charge assessed by DeKalb County concerning fat, oil and grease disposal into the sewer. This action was necessary even though we rarely cook and only occasionally warm foods. We are subject to the assessment because we have a “sink” and a “stove”, therefore, this unfortunate action has been taken. All utensils used in connection with the serving of food must be wiped before being washed. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.



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Valley Brook is celebrating the holiday season with the following programs:

Hanging of the Christmas Greens

The decorating of the church sanctuary and grounds takes place on November 30 at 6:00 p.m., the first Sunday of Advent. That evening we will enjoy our annual Hanging of the Christmas Greens service.

Week of Prayer for Missions

November 30—December 7

Adult Christmas Party

Sunday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m..

Christmas Cantata

December 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Watch Night Service

December 31 at 10:30 p.m.

Valley Brook is hosting three birthday celebrations in the Fellowship Hall for three special people:

November 30, 2-5 p.m.- Shirley Smith

December 13, 2-4 p.m.- Lorraine Barnard

December 21, after Worship—Dr. Perry Ginn

Salute to Veterans

Sunday evening, November 9, we enjoyed a festive service of celebration in honor of Veterans. “Faith of our Fathers—A Salute to Veterans” featured patriotic readings, hymns and recollections from four of Valley Brook’s own veterans. The service concluded powerfully with a video presentation of an essay written by Shelia Harkleroad narrated by Ruth Buzzi. Special thanks to:

Shelia Harkleroad. Bob Whaley, Jim Lewis,
Pat Thomas and Almond Mote.