

EchoEs from the Valley

December 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

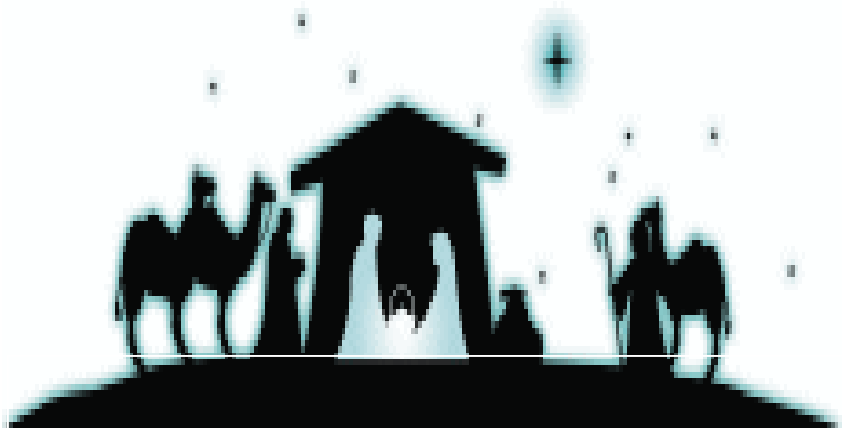
Ms. Louise LePortier

Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters



Wishing you the best
this Christmas
Season!

December

Pastor Mike

and

The Valley Brook Staff

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



The common expectation from the world of merchandising is to experience increased revenues during the Christmas season.

That expectation will likely not be met this year. Americans are wisely controlling their spending habits. Many are feeling the effects of a damaged economy. How did we get into this situation? Certainly many factors have contributed to the downward spiral. And while I am not an economic expert I can say with a bit of certainty that the current financial mess we are in is due to a wide spread **lack of prudence**. You see, while I am not an authority, God is. He is the source of all truth, knowledge and wisdom....economic and otherwise. Consider His wise words recorded in scripture:

“A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions.

The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.”

Proverbs 22:3

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”

Proverbs 22:7

A major factor in our current economic melt-down is a lack of prudence, or unwise spending, and the over use of credit. There has been an epidemic of spending more than saving, and not living within our means. According to one national magazine the average American has NINE credit cards carrying \$17,000 in combined debt. The typical American family now spends a whopping 20 percent of its income merely “servicing debt.” Millions of Americans are living in homes and driving cars they cannot afford that were purchased through

“easy credit.” People have the false notion that their identity is wrapped up in what they buy and possess.

Here’s the worst news: Many Americans have become addicted to getting what they want, when they want it—racking up more debt for the sake of instant gratification. They want now what it took years for their parents to acquire. Easy credit made that possible and now has come back to “bite us.”

Here’s the good news: These hard economic times are forcing people to become more **prudent** in their spending habits and consider what they really need and really value. Hopefully, tighter money will make us appreciate the most important things—Things like family, friends, and our faith. People are learning the lesson taught by their parents and grandparents: “Don’t borrow what you cannot pay back!” People are rediscovering the peace that **prudence** brings.

My wish is that you all are enjoying the peace, wonder, excitement and spiritual significance of the Christmas season. Indeed there is much to celebrate, even during these troubling times. With less emphasis on spending the opportunity presents itself to refocus on those elements of celebration that are truly meaningful and have lasting value.

Janet and I thank you for your continuing support, encouragement and tangible expressions of love. How grateful we are that God has led us to the Valley Brook Church! Our wish is that each of you will experience a most wonderful Christmas season and Happy New Year!

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” - 2 Corinthians 9:15

Pastor Mike

The 7 Ups!

1. Wake Up!!

Decide to have a good day.

"This is the day the Lord hath made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

2. Dress Up!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. I Samuel 16:7

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up!!

.....for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..." Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up!!

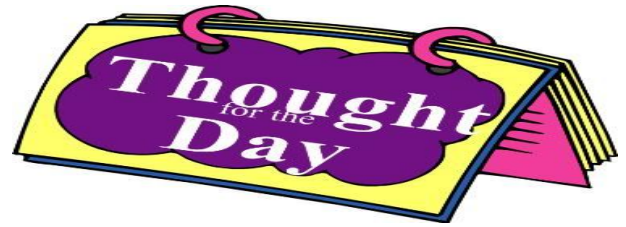
.....to the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

6. Reach Up!!

.....for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.." Proverbs 4:6

7. Lift Up!!

.....our Prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."
Philippians 4:6



If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary.

Face it, He's crazy about you.



A GRANDPA FOR CHRISTMAS



Starring Ernest Borgnine

Friday, December 26

7:00 p.m.

Free Popcorn & Drinks

Bert is an old-time movie-star singer/hoofer, who's retired from showbiz and estranged from his daughter and 9-year-old granddaughter, Becca. Bert, about to sell his house and move into a retirement home, suddenly finds himself caring for Becca when her mom is hospitalized—and the bond between the two of them grows (Bert takes Becca to school every-day; she meets his old show-biz friends).



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Birthday: 11/29

Trisha Bennett
Welcome to Our Church

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Decatur, GA 30030

VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH
A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church
1198 N. Valley Brook Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033
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80th Birthday Party

The children of former Valley Brook pastor, Dr. D. Perry Ginn, Sr., invite the members of Valley Brook Baptist Church to join us in celebrating the 80th birthday of our father at a luncheon in his honor on Sunday afternoon, December 21, 2008, immediately following the morning worship service. The luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Valley Brook Baptist Church. The meat and beverages will be provided. If you wish, you may bring a covered dish. No gifts please, your presence is your gift. We hope you can join us.



You do not want to miss the upcoming events in celebrating the Lord's birthday and bringing in the New Year:

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m.

The Valley Brook Choir presents the Christmas musical, "Bethlehem's Child."

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Service

December 31, 10:30 p.m. (Fellowship)

11:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

We will enjoy a time of fellowship, remembrance and worship bringing in the New Year with the observance of the Lord's Supper.