Our Church Staff

Pastor
Rev. Mike Roper

Music Director
Ms. Marcia McBride

Pianist
Mr. Thom Martin

Organist
Ms. Sandy Mize

Ministry Assistant
Mrs. Candy Rogers

Nursery Assistant
Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

Housekeeper
Mrs. Brenda Waters

April 2019

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Valley Brook Baptist Church
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Voice: 404-292-0212 • Fax: 404-292-8459

Website: www.vbbchurch.com  Email: valleybrook@vbbchurch.com
Facebook: fb.me/VbbcDecatur

Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.
Suddenly . . . Easter is upon us! It may seem as though the Christmas season is still lingering yet in just two weeks Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on the fourteenth of April. We always look forward to this most special time in the Christian year. Certainly, there is continual cause for celebration in the lives of Christians; yet there is special emphasis and meaning associated with the Easter season, the climax of which is Resurrection Sunday.

During Holy Week, Christians remember and reflect on the Passion of Christ, who died on Good Friday and rose on Easter Sunday to give new life to all who believe.

So, while Holy Week is solemn and sorrowful, it also anticipates the joy of Easter as we recognize God’s goodness and love expressed by sending His Son to die in order to secure our salvation.

On Thursday of Holy Week, Christians throughout the world gather to tell the story of Jesus washing His disciples’ feet and the story of His final meal—the Last Supper.

Because the meal had to be eaten that same evening within Jerusalem’s walls, Jesus had prepared a room where He and His disciples would meet and celebrate together.

His final meal is significant and symbolic. There Christ instituted the Lord’s Supper. This same evening, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, and they were shocked. Although foot washing was a common practice—it was one that was always done by a servant.

By His action, Jesus clearly demonstrated a model of how His followers are to live; loving, caring, and humbly serving one another. After washing their feet, He said: “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15)

We call this Thursday "Maundy" because on that night in the upper room Jesus gave the disciples a “mandate” or command. "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34).

The word Maundy comes from the Latin “mandatum,” which means “commandment.” A new commandment, a mandate, therefore the shortened form, "Maundy", signifying the evening when our Lord gave a new mandate . . . "that you love one another . . . as I have loved you."

Upon issuing the mandate novum Jesus reminds us, "By this everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another." That’s the measuring stick, the standard by which we demonstrate the quality of our life together in the church. Love one another! It’s not about committees or programs, although these are important.

It’s not whether we observe a particular Ordinance in just the right order. It’s not whether we agree in every point or have our bulletin in perfect order, or everybody is excited about all the same things. It’s whether we can love each other . . . even, perhaps, when it is difficult to do so. Jesus said, “By this (love for one another) all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

“And now abide Faith – Hope – and Love, but the greatest of these is Love.”

With Sympathy

- Joan Walsh (Michael Walsh’s mother)
- Pam Lanza (Lynn Eddy’s sister)
- Harriett Fortner (relative of Barry Vinson)
- Lucile Shirley (Tom Gibbs)
**W.M.U. Project**

The Valley Brook W.M.U. is currently collecting toiletries for homeless veterans who often go without the basics. Your donation can help provide them with the personal care items that they need. Why not pick up one of the following the next time you go to the store? All items should be new, and are due by April 21. Suggested items include, but are not limited to:

- Brushes and combs
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Washcloths
- Soaps or bodywashes
- Deodorants
- Shampoos
- Powder
- Other items??

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**April Birthdays**

- 04/04 Samantha Walker
- 04/10 Paulette Howard
- 04/16 Sandy Mize
- 04/16 Nancy Warnock
- 04/21 Susan Wooten
- 04/23 Geneva Compton
- 04/25 Thom Martin
- 04/26 Cathy Jenkins

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**April Dates to Remember**

2

- 7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds @ North DeKalb
- 9:30 am - Water Colors Class

3

- 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
- 6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

7

- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11:00 am - Morning Worship
- 4:30 pm - Deacons' Meeting
- 6:00 pm - Family Night Potluck Supper

9

- 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles
- 9:30 am - Water Colors Class

10

- 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
- 6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

14

- **Palm Sunday**
  - 9:45 am - Sunday School
  - 11:00 am - Morning Worship

16

- 7:55 am - OTH - Hardees
- 9:30 am - Water Colors Class

17

- 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
- 6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Conference

18

- **Maundy Thursday**
  - 12:00 noon - Keenagers

19

- **Good Friday**

20

- 8:00 am - Men’s’ Breakfast

21

- **Easter Sunday**
  - 7:00 Sunrise Service & Breakfast
  - 9:45 am - Sunday School
  - 11:00 am - Morning Worship
  - NO evening service

23

- 7:55 am - OTH - Chick-fil-A
- 9:30 am - Water Colors Class
- 12:00 noon - W.M.U.

24

- 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
- 6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

26

- 7:00 pm - Movie Night

28

- 9:45 am - Sunday School
- 11:00 am - Morning Worship
- 6:00 pm - Sunday Night Celebration

30

- 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles (ladies too!)
- 9:30 am - Water Colors Class
EASTER FACTS

The word "Easter" is derived from Eastra, the name of the ancient German Goddess of Spring. Her festival occurred at the vernal equinox. The French word for Easter, Pâques, comes from the Greek word for Passover, which is the Jewish holiday celebrated at about the same time of the year.

For Christians, the origin of Easter is simply the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago. According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus Christ, the true Messiah promised in the Old Testament, was crucified and resurrected at the time of the Jewish Passover.

Easter, also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

Easter is not a pagan (non-Christian) holiday, and the billions of Christians who annually celebrate it should be proof of that. Easter is (and always has been) the feast of the resurrection of Jesus, falling on the first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Family Night Potluck Supper
Sunday, April 7, at 6 p.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a variety of dishes made with tender care for our monthly Family Night Supper! If you can, please bring your favorite main dish, vegetable, salad, bread, and/or dessert to share.

Attendance in February & March

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*Family Night Supper ** Conference
We are saving a seat for you!

April 21
7 a.m. - Sunrise Service & Breakfast

Monthly Financial Report
(as of February 2019)

Receipts - $13,301
Expenses - $17,936