

ECHOES *from the Valley*

May 2018

Volume 45, No. 5

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

May 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Special Days This Month:

May 03 - National Day of Prayer

May 06 - Senior Adult Day

Nurses Day/Week

May 13 - Mother's Day

Christian Home Week

May 19 - Armed Forces Day

May 20 - Pentecost Sunday

GA Baptist Children's
Home Offering

May 28 - Memorial Day

Valley Brook Baptist Church

1198 N. Valley Brook Road • Decatur, Georgia 30033

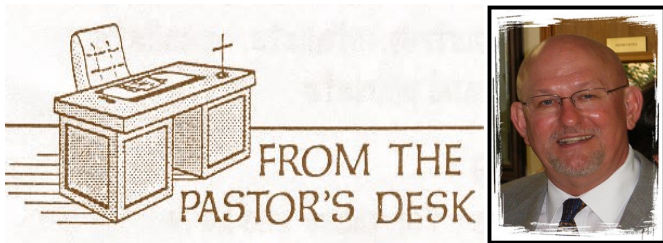
Voice: 404-292-0212 • Fax: 404-292-8459

Website: www.vbbchurch.com

Email: valleybrook@vbbchurch.com

Facebook: fb.me/VbbcDecatur

Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.



We as Christians are living a life that is often described as “walking with God.” I like that image! It is at once a tremendous privilege and a significant challenge. Yet things don't necessarily happen on our timetable. You pray, seek, ask, and nothing seems to be happening. You listen intently and for the life of you, you can't hear a word He is saying.

You read the Bible and it seems a bit distant from the challenges you are facing. At times you wonder if your faith is really connected to your everyday life and struggle. It is all a part of the grand scheme of things where God stretches us and blesses us again and again. It seems to be the way we grow spiritually.

Personally, I like the time of blessing much more than the stretching. It seems the stretching comes on before you know you are in it. It happens! Not so with the times of blessing. It comes with fanfare and bright lights. The opportunity you have wanted and perhaps given up becomes a reality; or the child you have prayed for that is so rebellious begins to ask questions about life, God, and the future. You sit there praying silently, "God please don't let me mess this up."

You open the Bible and suddenly a Scripture jumps off the page that not only describes right where you are but offers specific direction that you need this very second. You begin to contact your closest friends and share what God just said to you. At that moment you can't help declaring, "It was worth the wait. The time of stretching was long, but this was well worth it." God has come through in ways better than you had hoped for.

I've experienced this pattern in my own life, but do I like those stretching periods? No. No. No. I like blessings. But one thing remains the

same in every experience of life; **God is faithful, and He loves us so much.**

I often look over our congregation, noting the many individuals for whom we have prayed and realized that God heard and answered those prayers for healing and restoration. Sometimes progress seems so slow that we tend to take these “answers” of prayer for granted. We credit “coincidence.” Well, I've heard it said that “Coincidence is just God's way of getting things done without calling undue attention to Himself.”

I wonder just what God is doing in your life that you have failed to recognize as an answer to long standing prayers. Now is the time to stop and take account of the things that God is doing all around us and in us. It is time to thank the Lord and rejoice.

Yes, times can be tough, but right in the middle of our difficulty God is doing things we have desired for years. Praise the Lord! *“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”*

May you each experience an abundance of God's blessings this month. Remember, you are loved!

Pastor Mike

Thank You!

Thank you to each of you who gave to the 2018 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Our goal was \$800. You gave \$850. A job well done Valley Brook Baptist Church!



In Our Prayers



Valley Brook extends our deepest sympathy to the following families in the loss of a loved one:

Tom Barnett - Nell Barnett, sister-in-law

Jeff Craig - Ida Craig, mother

Lynn Eddy - Glenn Hirsch, brother-in-law

May - Dates to Remember

- 1 7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds
9:30 am - Water Colors Class
- 2 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- 3 *National Day of Prayer*
- 5 11:30 a.m. - Drennan Funeral
2:00 pm - Ladies' Tea
-
- 6 4:30 pm - Deacons' Meeting
6:00 pm - Family Night Supper
- 7 6:30 pm - Annual AMBA Assoc. Mtg.
@ Buckhead Baptist Church
- 8 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles
9:30 am - Water Colors Class
- 9 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
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- 13 *Mother's Day* - no evening activities
- 15 7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds (Tucker)
9:30 am - Water Colors Class
- 16 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- 17 12:00 noon - Keenagers
- 19 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
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- 20 GA Baptist Children's Home Offering
5:00 p.m. - Finance Meeting
5:30 p.m. - Church Council
- 22 7:55 am - OTH - Chick-fil-A
9:30 am - Water Colors Class
12:00 noon - W.M.U.
- 23 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Conference

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- 25 7:00 pm - Movie Night
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- 28 *Memorial Day* - church office closed
- 29 7:55 a.m. - OTH - Bojangles w/ ladies
- 30 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
-

May Birthdays



- 05/03 Steven Stewart
(LCC Worship Pastor)
- 05/16 Ann Blake
- 05/19 Delores Guthrie
- 05/24 Michael Walsh
- 05/27 Michael Phillips
- 05/28 Carolyn Scott
- 05/30 Sarah Ingram
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A Special Prayer for Mothers

Dear Lord,

Thank you for filling the Earth with mothers.

Help us not to take them for granted but to appreciate them beyond the national day of recognition.

Father, we ask that You continue to grant mothers strength, and enable them to rely on You for everything.

May you also fill them with joy, peace, and restoration as they pour into the lives of others.

Lord, we also pray a special prayer for those whose mothers have passed on.

May the memories of their mothers forever remain in their hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

1198 North Valley Brook Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033

Return Service Requested



Help for Memorizing Scripture

1. Write the verse and reference on an index card.
2. Read the verse in its context and try to understand what it means.
3. Read the verse aloud several times.
4. Divide the verse into short and meaningful phrases. Learn to quote the first phrase and then build on it. Continue until you are able to quote the entire verse.
5. Repeat the verse to another person and ask him/her to check your accuracy.
6. Review the memorized verse regularly using the card you made in step #1. Do it daily for the first six weeks, then weekly for the next six weeks, and monthly after than.

"Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You."

Worship with Us

Sunday Morning/Evening

Sunday School Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Night

Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00 P.M.

Attendance in March/April

Date	Sunday School	Sunday A.M.	Sunday P.M.	Wed. P.M.
Mar. 25	21	52	25	23
Apr. 1*	24	30/88	—	21
Apr. 8	24	52	54**	28***
Apr. 15	24	45	27	18
Apr. 22	26	52	30	23

*Easter **Family Night Supper *** Conference

GA Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Offering

We can make a difference as we join other churches to ignite hope in the lives of children and families who have walked in darkness.



Pray about what you will give to our special offering on Sunday, May 20, as we shine HIS light of hope on those in need.



Financial Report

(as of March 2018)

March Receipts - \$26,512
March Expenses - \$16,451

Quarterly Receipts - \$61,492
Quarterly Expenses - \$48,467