

# ECHOES *from the Valley*

July 2018

Volume 45, No. 7

## 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

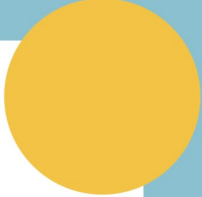
### Nursery Assistant

Mrs. Shelia Harkleroad

### Housekeeper

Mrs. Brenda Waters

July 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				



*“You (God) are  
mightier than  
all the breakers  
pounding on the  
seashores of the  
world!”*

*-Psalm 93:4  
(TLB)*



*“The Lord rules! He is robed in majesty - the Lord is robed, clothed with strength.  
Yes, he set the world firmly in place; it won't be shaken.” - Psalm 93:1 (CEB)*

## Valley Brook Baptist Church

1198 N. Valley Brook Road • Decatur, Georgia 30033

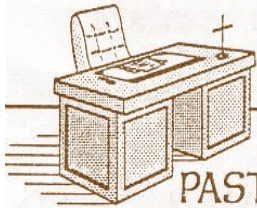
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Website: [www.vbbchurch.com](http://www.vbbchurch.com)

Email: [valleybrook@vbbchurch.com](mailto:valleybrook@vbbchurch.com)

Facebook: [fb.me/VbbcDecatur](https://fb.me/VbbcDecatur)

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



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Homecoming Day on June 3rd was a wonderful time of celebration! So many positive remarks have made their way to me and I always find those especially encouraging. Thanks to all who worked hard to make this special day a success.

The following Sunday was another great day at Valley Brook, as we all enjoyed our first ever "joint worship service" with the Lamp City congregation. The singing was worshipful, the message challenging and the feedback was encouraging. It is good to be in a partnership with this young church plant. I look forward to seeing what lies ahead for their ministry.

We are approaching Independence Day, a time of great celebration for the citizens of our wonderful nation. I am truly glad that I live in the "land of the free." At the same time, I believe it's true that many today don't understand the true nature of freedom.

You see, for many freedom means only personal independence — the ability to make our own decisions; develop our own rules; choose our own direction in life; to do whatever we want, whenever we want. And, it's true that our national freedom does include some of this type of independence.

But, this is not the kind of freedom that Jesus promised us. When Jesus stepped out of Heaven and began His ministry, He made the declaration that He had come to Earth to "proclaim freedom" (Luke 4:18). And on another occasion, He said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Jesus was not setting us free to do whatever we wanted; to make our own rules and chart our own path. Instead, He was giving us the freedom to do what we ought to do. Christ has liberated us to have a relationship with God and to live our lives according His plan.

We are free to obey God and choose His will for our lives.

In Christ, we have freedom from the penalty and power of sin. And one day we will be free from the very presence of Sin! Live in, enjoy, and be led by this liberty.

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:30-36)

In John 8:32 we find - "...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Galatians 5:1 tells us - *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*

Finally, in Galatians 5:13 we read - "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

That's true freedom!




*Pastor Mike*



*Blessed is the  
Nation whose God  
is the Lord.*

*Psalms 33:12*

## July - Dates to Remember

- 1 11:00 am Worship Service  
Brad Cone of LCC preaching  
4:30 pm - Deacon's Meeting  
6:00 pm - Family Night Supper
- 3 7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds
- 4 **FOURTH OF JULY**  
Church office closed  
No activities 
- 
- 8 11:00 am -Worship Service  
Rusty Couch preaching  
5:00 pm - Finance Meeting  
5:30 pm - Church Council
- 10 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles 
- 11 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Conference
- 12 2:00 noon - Keenagers Lunch/Program
- 14 2-4:00 Tom Barnett's 90th birthday party
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- 17 7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds (Tucker)  
12:00 noon - W.M.U. Lunch/Meeting
- 18 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- 21 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
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- 22 VBS team arrives - LCC event
- 23 - 27 VBS/LCC 9 am - 12 pm 
- 24 7am - 7 pm - Run-off election  
7:55 am - OTH - Chick-fil-A
- 25 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- 27 7:00 pm - Movie Night

(continued at top of next column)



(July dates continued)

- 29 6:00 pm - Sunday Night Sing
- 31 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles



## July Birthdays

- 07/01 Tony Peevy
- 07/06 Judy Smith
- 07/06 Luther Lord
- 07/09 David Smith
- 07/12 Tom Barnett
- 07/15 Millie Whaley
- 07/22 Aubrey Eddy
- 07/23 Charley Scott
- 07/26 Anita Reissiger-Alexander
- 07/28 Carl Jenkins
- 07/29 Al Hartley
- 07/30 Brenda Waters
- 07/31 Bud Ward



## **Discover New Faces for Whom to Pray**

How can you easily find out about the many new faces in your neighborhood and community? Use the non-profit Christian prayer ministry called Pray 4 Every Home which can be found at this link: ([pray4everyhome.org](http://pray4everyhome.org))

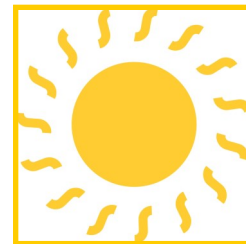
This free prayer tool is available to every Christian and every church. The founders' simple desire is for people to pray for their neighbors.

It's very easy to find out who your closest (location-wise) 100 neighbors are. Once you have your information, you pray for 5 neighbors a day for 20 days; then start again.

This is only one suggestion. Grocery store customers, students on a college campus, people who do services for you, may be another avenue for you to pray for those in your neighborhood and community. The main thing is to pray!

# VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

1198 North Valley Brook Road  
Decatur, Georgia 30033



## 10 Ways To Get Involved In Church

by Beth Ann Baus, a crosswalk.com contributor

1. Be present - show up and join in corporate worship in order to encourage others.
2. Be a greeter - talk with people you don't know and make them feel welcome.
3. Be aware and available - live life together and be accessible to one another.
4. Be hospitable - invite people into your home, or, eat out with someone.
5. Attend extra activities - to learn and build relationships which offer opportunities to serve.
6. Help with V.B.S. - invest in the future leaders of the church.
7. Help with funeral meals - these offer physical and spiritual nourishment.
8. Send notes of encouragement - try to handwrite these and use the U.S. Mail.
9. Visit shut-ins - both you and the person you visit will receive a blessing.
10. Pray - sit quietly before the Lord and pray for each individual in the church directory.

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### 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 May/June

Date	Sunday School	Sunday A.M.	Sunday P.M.	Wed. P.M.
May 27	19	49	23	21
June 3	n/a	77*	n/a	21
June 10	22	95**	24	25+1***
June 17	22	56	n/a	21

\*Homecoming

\*\*Joint Service

\*\*\* Conference

We hope you have a great summer!



But, please don't take a vacation from church!

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We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill