

# ECHOES *from the Valley*

December 2018

Volume 45, No. 12

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
from the Valley Brook  
Baptist Church  
Staff!

*Pastor Mike,  
Marcia,  
Thom,  
Sandy,  
Shelia,  
Brenda,  
Candy*

December 2018							
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## Valley Brook Baptist Church

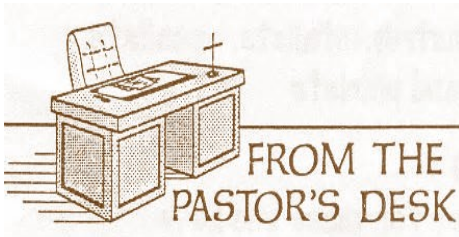
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*Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.*



Several years back we published a Christmas memory from my own childhood. Upon your request we are sharing it once more.

### **“The Short Life and Sudden Demise of a Flexie Flyer”**

*(A Short Story by Pastor Mike – Written December, 2002)*

As Christmas approached in my seventh year, I became captivated by the desire to own a most wonderful wheeled machine . . . the legendary Flexie Flyer. That was my Christmas wish, *not to be fulfilled* for quite sometime. Mom managed to delay the Christmas arrival of my Flexie Flyer for three years. She offered logical reasoning for the postponement. Her reasons distressed me. I was too young, it was a dangerous toy, lots of kids got hurt with them, and the clincher; I needed to become more responsible. Of course, she was right. She always was.

Following those three years of intense longing, nights spent lingering over the Sears Roebuck catalogue, fantasizing about downhill runs on that marvelous machine, it finally arrived on the Christmas morning of my 10<sup>th</sup> year. It was sleek, swift and silent, a thing of beauty; wheels of hard rubber, the hubs bright red. The wood that formed the riding surface was aerodynamically shaped, glistening with a thick coating of varnish. Deep within the clear coating was positioned a most wonderful decal with bold lettering and wings of red, blue and gold symbolizing speed, power, freedom and adventure.

I was ecstatic, exhilarated, triumphant! My joy was brief. A neighbor, Mrs. Lamb, killed the Flexie Flyer. She utterly destroyed it with her rumbling, bumbling, repulsive station wagon. My beautiful machine was sitting innocently in her driveway and I never forgave her. The tragedy occurred very early in the spring following that wonderful Christmas morning.

Mom secretly rejoiced I'm sure, and with good reason. The Flexie Flyer was everything that Mom knew it would be.

Just two days following Christmas it claimed the glass door of the family bookcase. "Mike, don't be riding that thing in the house." "OK, mom, sure." *Crash!* Then came the predictable lumps, bumps, bruises, dares, fights and arguments over who was "next."

Billy McClendon ran home in tears once or twice a week. Skip Thompson learned well the art of bribery. Frank Owen lost two layers of skin, from ankle to hipbone, as we rode double, spilling onto the asphalt of the steep downhill section on Cloverdale Drive. "Mike, don't be riding double on that thing." "OK, mom, sure." *Ouch!* "Mike, don't be riding that thing on Cloverdale Drive." "OK, mom, sure." *Ouch!*

The Flexie Flyer was a menace to the community; its' demise a mystery. I was never sure just how my lovely machine found its' way to Mrs. Lamb's driveway. That event broke my heart; it answered Mom's prayer!



Sunday, December 2nd, begins the Week of Prayer for International Missions; then, on December 9th we will have the opportunity to bring special offerings in support of the annual Lottie Moon emphasis. Our Lottie Moon goal for 2018 is \$600.00 Please give prayerful consideration to your own participation.

You will once again notice a "Christmas Card Mail Box" in the vestibule of our sanctuary. There you may "send" and "receive" Christmas cards to and from church members. The advantage is that no postage is necessary!

December is filled with many opportunities for fellowship and worship at Valley Brook. Pay attention to our church calendar and take full advantage of the many special events. I know you will also enjoy the holiday times with family and friends.

In all of the "busyness" of the season, take the time to appreciate the source of the celebration: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Immanuel (God with us.)

I thank God for each of you,

*Paster Mike*

### **December Dates to Remember**

#### *WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS*

- 2 11:00 am - Morning Worship  
4:30 pm - Deacons' Meeting  
6:00 pm - Family Night Potluck Supper
  - 4 7am - 7pm - Voting Precinct  
7:55 am - OTH - McDonalds  
9:30 am -Water Colors
  - 5 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
  - 8 1:00 pm - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- 
- 9 *LOTTIE MOON MISSIONS OFFERING*  
11:00 am - Morning Worship  
5:00 pm - Finance Meeting  
5:30 pm - Church Council  
6:00 pm - Sunday Night Celebration
  - 11 7:55 am - OTH - Bojangles  
9:30 am - Water Colors class

- 12 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Conference
  - 13 12:00 pm - Keenagers/W.M.U. lunch
  - 15 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
- 
- 16 11:00 am - Morning Worship  
6:00 pm - Sunday Night Celebration
  - 18 7:55 am - OTH - Hardees  
9:30 am - Water Colors class
  - 19 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
- 
- 23 11:00 am - Morning Worship  
6:00 pm - Sunday Night Celebration
  - 24 *CHRISTMAS EVE*  
Church Office Closed
  - 25 *CHRISTMAS DAY*  
Church Office Closed
  - 26 10:00 am - Prayer Warriors  
6:00 pm - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
  - 28 7:00 pm - Movie Night
- 
- 30 11:00 am - Morning Worship  
6:00 pm - Sunday Night Celebration
  - 31 *NEW YEAR'S EVE*

### **December Birthdays**

- 12/08 Dan Warnock
- 12/12 Shelia Harkleroad
- 12/15 Ann McCollum-Wilson
- 12/25 Martha Perry
- 12/29 Kathi Hartley
- 12/30 Catherine Reeves
- 12/31 Jeff Craig



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS SONG?

"Away in a Manger," also known as Luther's Cradle Hymn, is a Christmas Carol that is taught to children at an early age. It explains the manger scene in a simple and easy to remember story. While the actual author/writer of the song has been lost to history, the song with its simple and easy to remember verses has survived. The original form of the song was a two-stanza version and appeared to originate among German Lutherans in Pennsylvania in the early to mid 1880's. The first known publishing of the song was in May 1884 in the publication, "The Myrtle". (from www.Christmas carols.com)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven, to live with you there.



You are invited  
to our  
**Christmas Cookie Exchange**  
on Saturday, December 8, 2018,  
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
in the VBBC Fellowship Hall.

Please bring three dozen  
of your favorite homemade  
Christmas Cookies  
to share,  
and an empty container  
so that you can take home  
an assortment  
of wonderful cookies.

Please RSVP to  
Kathi Hartley 770.934.8595  
or Maggi Clark 678.429.1160



## Attendance in November

Date	Sunday School	Sunday A.M.	Sunday P.M.	Wed. P.M.
Nov. 4	24	57	76*	18
Nov. 11	16	46	27	25**
Nov. 18	20	50	30	0
Nov. 25	19	52	50	n/a

\*Family Night Supper

\*\*Conference

n/a = not available

## Financial Report

(as of October 2018)



Oct. Receipts - \$13,395

Oct. Expenses - \$15,932

YTD Receipts - \$180,297

YTD Expenses - \$166,639