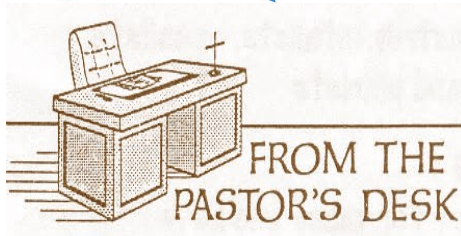


ECHOES *from the Valley*

January 2020

Volume 47, No. 1



At Valley Brook we have a group of caring individuals within the congregation who function primarily as servants and representatives. They offer support, encouragement and prayers of intercession. Collectively they are our deacon fellowship. For the church year 2019-2020 the fellowship consists of five elected individuals. They are:

Luther Lord – Chairman
Dennis Jackson - Vice Chairman
Terry Markert – Secretary
Tom Barnett
Jim Phillips

In addition to the responsibilities of their office, each of these men are involved in other areas of service within the church. They plan, lead, teach, coordinate and help with other essential activities. They deserve our appreciation and prayerful support.

But just what are deacons and what do they do? Let's take a look:

According to the Valley Brook Constitution and By-Laws (your church):

Deacons: In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacon is to serve

with the pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministries tasks; care for church members and other persons in the community; and lead the church to achieve its mission.

Expectations: The church expects that deacons shall serve cooperatively with the pastor and other church leaders and be responsible for preserving the harmony and unity of the church. They shall support the services and programs of the church with faithful attendance and practice good stewardship of their monetary resources, time and talents in service to the church and the Kingdom of God. They shall take care that their personal conduct is exemplary and above reproach and thus serve as examples of Christian living to the congregation.

According to the Deacon Fellowship:

A Valley Brook deacon is one who demonstrates reliance upon God while caring for and serving others. They are motivated by compassion based upon love for God and people. These individuals set a godly example by exhibiting and encouraging faithfulness and unity. Our deacons are committed to a consecrated prayer life, regular study of God's word and support of the pastor. These goals are accomplished as follows:

1. Be actively involved through attendance of services and support of activities.
2. Be supportive of the pastor.

(continued on next page)

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

3. Be a good steward through tithes and offerings.
4. Be available and offer encouragement to the entire church body.
5. Be cautious in personal behavior and conversation.
6. Be a student of the Word.
7. Be faithful in prayer.
8. Be sensitive.
9. Be focused on what God expects beyond what people expect.
10. Be an imitator of Christ.

According to Philippians 1:5-8 (our source of truth):

"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

These are all worthy objectives and can be quite challenging to achieve consistently. That means we all should pray for our deacons and encourage them regularly. Also, remember this: Each of these objectives is actually the reasonable expectation for everyone who is in the body of Christ.

I am glad to serve alongside this group as we strive, along with you, to honor God, to know Him better, and bring glory to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Paster Mike

2020 Church Budget

The Stewardship Committee presented their proposed budget for the 2020 church year at the December church conference. Those in attendance voted on and approved the proposal that reflected an overall reduction from the previous year. The following is a summary of our budget for the coming year:

Total Budget for 2020	\$184,165.00
Monthly Requirements	\$15,347.08
Weekly Requirements	\$ 3,541.63

Remember, we have no parent organization, annuities, or endowments that provide funds. Meeting the expenses of the church is the collective responsibility of the membership.

We ask each family or person to pray about what God is asking you to contribute this coming year, and that you give faithfully and sacrificially so that Valley Brook may fulfill its mission and ministry.



The Gospel Resounds

The W.M.U. would like to thank everyone who gave to the 2019 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We know that God will use our gifts of \$355 to send and sustain our international missionaries as they share the gospel around the world. May God richly bless each of you for your contribution!



Thank You!

We appreciate your kind expressions of love extended to us during the Christmas season. The many cards, well wishes, and tangible expressions of appreciation helped to make the season even brighter. We thank you for all of these delightful gifts. You are a most wonderful group of friends.

VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2	3	4
5 4:30 Deacon's Mtg. 6:00 Family Night Potluck Supper (soup & cornbread)	6 Epiphany 8:00 A.I.F.D.	8 10:00 Prayer Warriors 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	9	10	11
12 5:00 Finance Mtg. 5:30 Council Mtg.	13 8:00 A.I.F.D.	15 10:00 Prayer Warriors 6:00 Conference	16 12:00 Keenagers	17	18 8:00 Men's Breakfast @ Galaxy Diner
19	20 MLK, Jr. Day 8:00 A.I.F.D.	22 10:00 Prayer Warriors 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	23	24	25 Chinese New Year
26	27 8:00 A.I.F.D.	29 10:00 Prayer Warriors 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 Druid Woods	30	31 7:00 Movie Night	

Birthdays: Lynn Eddy 1/4 Lee McCool 1/6 Helen Morgan 1/22 Fred Guthrie 1/23

VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

1198 North Valley Brook Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033



1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off when you finish.
3. If you unlock it, lock it as soon as you can.
4. If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
5. If it belongs to somebody and you want to use it, get permission first.
6. If you borrow it, return it as soon as you finish with it.
7. If you use it, take care of it.
8. If you make a mess, clean it up.
9. If you move it, put it back when you finish.
10. If you break it, repair it. And, if you can't repair it, call someone who can.

In the case of winter weather that would make attendance at a church event questionable, please use good sense in making the decision as to whether or not to get out. We do not want anyone to risk having an accident at any time. If you have not signed up for DeKalb County's CODE RED emergency notification system which has the ability to deliver voice, email, and text messages during emergency situations or disasters, we encourage you to do so by calling **770-270-0413**.



PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A
year of favor
FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.
May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...
PSALM 90:17a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Attendance in December

Date	Sunday School	Sunday A.M.	Sunday P.M.	Wed. P.M.
Dec. 1	22	45	41*	21
Dec. 8	20	44	37	28**
Dec. 15	22	48	29	20
Dec. 22	19	46	23	n/a

*Family Night Supper

**Conference

n/a = not applicable

Financial Report

(as of November 2019)



Nov. Receipts - \$17,084

Nov. Expenses - \$19,401

YTD Receipts - \$164,885

YTD Expenses - \$187,003