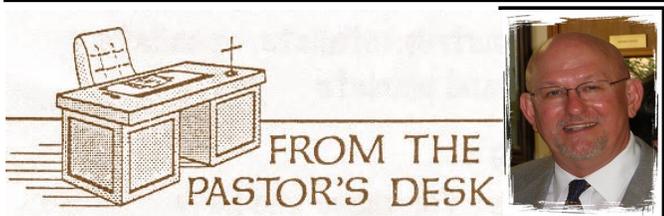


# ECHOES *from the Valley*

May 2020

Volume 47, No. 5



Greetings Valley Brook Family and Friends,

As you can imagine, I am longing for the day when I can once again greet you as an assembly, right here in our sanctuary, sharing space with you personally. Many are wondering just when that will be.

The truth is, we are not exactly sure, but that does not mean that we are not planning for that day and all that it involves. Yes, there is a lot of preparation as we prayerfully look to the Lord for direction. We are considering necessary logistics and our ability to adhere to the instructions issued by the governor's office and health care officials.

As you may know, I have been meeting with a team consisting of seven church leaders who are presently serving, or who have served, in the capacity of deacon at Valley Brook. They are Dan Warnock, Luther Lord, Terry Markert, Dennis Jackson, Jim Phillips, Charley Scott, and Marcia McBride.

Together we are discussing issues relating to budget concerns and how to remain connected with one another, as well as the details involved as we consider re-gathering. At this time, we have not reached a decision about meeting once again. We have, though, established a tentative "Dream Date" of June 7, 2020, which is quite appropriately, "Homecoming Day." If that should happen it will be a worship service only. It is sad, but necessary, that we will have to miss the pure enjoyment of "dinner on the grounds" in our Fellowship Hall.

In the meantime, we are watching closely re-opening trends and related issues. Of course, foremost in our planning is the well-being of the congregation. Additionally, and perhaps unfortunately, we also must consider perception. All these factors are important, and your opinions are welcomed. So, please give me a call with any questions or concerns.

Let me remind you again that although we are not gathering that does not mean that the church is closed or that ministry is suspended. The church office remains open. We are reaching out to help us remain united. Our doors are not closed.

We have a calling team in place that is a great help to me. Thanks to these faithful workers who reach out and touch by telephone. Theirs is a valuable part of the ministry. They are Cathy Jenkins, Jeannine Peavy, Janet Roper, Carolyn Scott, Beverly Tarleton and also Dan Warnock.

Finally, it is extremely exciting to witness the faithfulness of God's people in action. I see this each week by the faithful and continual support of so many. Offerings are being brought by the office or sent in by mail. Your faithfulness to God's church have enabled us to remain stable and meet expenses.

Please continue to prayerfully remember the leadership team and the task before them. Pray for those who are reaching out, staying connected, and accomplishing acts of service. Continue, as I know you are doing, to pray for one another and for our wonderful church.

I thank God for you!

*Pastor Mike*

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

The **National Day of Prayer** is on Thursday, May 7, with this year's theme being "Pray God's Glory Across the Earth" based upon the words found in Habakkuk 2:14. This event calls for people of all faiths in the United States to pray. While prayer is a critical spiritual discipline for each of us on a continual basis, it is significant that believers across our nation unite in prayer on this designated day. The following is the National Prayer for America for this year from Kathy Branzell, President, National Day of Prayer Task Force:

*Lord, we exist to give You glory. We exist because of Your glory, and in Your glory, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We give you thanks and praise for every breath and moment You have given to us. We repent of our sin; for the shameful things we have done against You and for our silence when we did not speak up to proclaim Your Name, profess Your Word, or protect and practice Your will.*

*We ask Your forgiveness.*

*We pray that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will spread across our nation and the entire earth as we seek Your Kingdom and righteousness; as we walk in obedience to You, and in humble unity, love one another. Jesus, the Bible says that You are "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." You have taught us to pray, commanded us to love, and commissioned us to share Your gospel of grace. Your glory fills our hearts and families, it overflows into our neighborhoods, workplaces, campuses, churches, in our entertainment and media. We give thanks for our military and ask that Your glory would spread to, and through them as they preserve freedom around the world. We pray for our government, that all of our leaders and laws would be filled with Your glory, that they would magnify Your Holy Word and honor Your will and ways. We pray that Your grace and glory would spread to bring hope to the hopeless, and love where there is hurt and hate. God, use us as we pray your promise, that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." In Jesus Name, Amen!*

For more information, you can visit this website - <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

**Mother's Day** is Sunday, May 10. This special time offers an opportunity to honor and remember our mothers in a variety of meaningful ways. For most of us at Valley Brook we cherish the memories of our moms. One that is vivid for me, and one I've mentioned before is that growing up, my brother and I were often reminded that every day was "Mother's Day" in our home.

Our dad honored his wife, and we honored that instruction, always maintaining great respect for mom; however, we also managed to make the "annual day" a special time to treat our mother with a bit of extra attention. My guess is that many of you agree with my dad's declaration. Moms are indeed wonderful. The connection between mother and child is beyond description. The role that a mother assumes in the life of her children can have meaningful and eternal significance. Someone has said "that mothers often have less, so that their child can have more."

*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching."*

*- Proverbs 1:7-8*

### **Special Prayer for Mothers**

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for filling the earth with mothers. Help us to not 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.*



## Christian Home Week May 10, 2020 - May 17, 2020.

This week is designed as Christian Home Week to recognize and encourage families in the church. It is a time to share what families are doing in the life and ministry of the church and other opportunities available for families.

### SO WHAT, THEN, MAKES A HOME CHRISTIAN OR RATHER HOW TO BUILD A CHRISTIAN HOME?

By Clay Clarkson, [WholeHeart.org](http://WholeHeart.org)

A Christian home, in uncomplicated terms, is one in which God is alive and present in the lives of the parents. It is Christian not just in name, but in reality—Christ is present through His Spirit in the lives of His followers who live there. It is worth noting that the common Greek word in the New Testament for family is *oikos*, which means “house.” Family is the people who live within the house.

A physical house built without a foundation is destined to fall. Only a firm foundation creates a real and lasting home. In the same way, Christ is the foundation of a Christian home. Just because Christians live inside a house does not mean that Christ is that home’s foundation. Jesus ended his sermon on the mount with the parable of “a wise man who built his house on the rock” - Matthew 7:24-27. His house stood against the wind and flood, but the house built on sand fell. As a parent, you must choose to build your own house, your family, on the rock of Christ and His word if you want to build a Christian home that will stand for God, both literally and figuratively.

But how do you do that? Paul admonished parents concerning children that we are to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” We are to *ektrepho* our children “in the Lord.” That Greek term literally means to “feed from,” or to nurture. We are to feed

our children from the life of God that is already in our own lives, to nurture their hearts in the life of the Lord who already lives in our own hearts.

Paul explains what that nurture looks like—it is helping your children understand the ways (training) and words (instruction) of life with Christ. Paul’s admonition to parents is not just a formula for what to do, but rather a description of the spiritual, relational, and life-giving priorities that should characterize our parenting. That is what will lay a strong foundation for a Christian home.

If we try to create a Christian home only by immersing our children in American Christian culture, we will “labor in vain.” We even run the risk of building on a sandy foundation that could leave our house, our family, in danger in a storm of life. When we let the life of God flow through us and into our children through our intentional, purposeful, life-giving relationship with them, that is how “the Lord builds the house.”

When the people of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses charged them as parents, “*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children*” - Deuteronomy 6:6-7a. In essence, Moses was saying, “You cannot impress upon your children’s hearts truth that is not first impressed upon your own heart.”

And that is how you build a Christian home. It all starts with your heart.



# VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

1198 N. Valley Brook Road , Decatur, GA 30033

## Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day is a day which is always celebrated on the third Saturday in May and this year it is on May 16, 2020. The purpose of this holiday is to honor the men and women who currently serve in the armed forces of the United States which include: the Coast Guard, the Air Force, the Navy, the Army and the Marine Corps, as well as members of the Department of Defense. In 1950, President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and to honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

Ways to celebrate:

- Wear red, white and blue
- Fly the American flag
- Thank a man or woman who serves
- Talk with or write to a military member
- Donate to veteran or military-based organizations
- Send care packages for those serving overseas
- Volunteer through the VA or a [veterans service organization](#)



### Monthly Financial Report

(as of April 2020)

Receipts - \$15,971

**Thank You!**

### Contact Us

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### In Honor of Those Who Served

the church office  
will be closed on

**Memorial Day,  
Monday, May 25**

*Greater love has no one than  
this, that one lay down his life  
for his friends. - John 15: 13*



Humbly accept the  
word planted  
in you,

which can  
save you.

James 1:21, NIV

