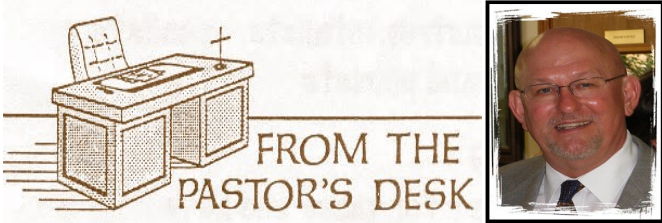


# ECHOES *from the Valley*

August 2020

Volume 46, No. 8



Well, things at Valley Brook right now are quite different, but our 'different' circumstances are also quite gratifying. I'm talking, of course, about our re-gathering for worship that has been in effect since Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. To worship again in our sanctuary, and with our people, has been the high point of the summer for me, and from your remarks I know many of you feel the same way. Each Sunday the excitement grows.

Your positive comments are appreciated as is your demonstrated commitment to gather in a safe manner, following recommended guidelines with a big application of common sense. You are simply the best!

Since we've not had a church conference or business meeting since March 11 of this year, I'll bring you up to date on several items of common interest.

- First, I commend you for the continuing and faithful financial support towards the ministry of the church. That alone has made a difficult time much easier to navigate. The bills have been paid without worry and our year-to-date income vs. budget is at a satisfactory level. We appreciate our financial team for their tireless work in

managing these affairs and keeping our records current. Each of you who are so faithful are appreciated as well. Biblical stewardship is at the heart of discipleship.

- There's been very little to report with regard to committee activity, but our nominating committee has been at work remotely to set the organizational structure for the 2020-2021 church year. The approach was aimed at simplicity, especially with so little activity taking place. Those serving currently were asked to remain in place until our activities resume a more normal level. Most have agreed. We appreciate our nominating team.
- Our deacon fellowship is also working toward establishing positions, leadership assignments, and areas of service. Again, the approach is a bit different because of our unusual circumstances. More information on deacon activity will follow as planning is finalized. We appreciate our deacons.

Please continue in faithfulness and in prayer. Both make a real difference. I've mentioned before that I often reflect on how God has worked in our church over the years and in the lives of so many for whom we have prayed. Now in this unusual time we can still stop and take account of the things that God has done and is doing all around us and in us. It is always time to thank the Lord and rejoice.

(continued on next page)

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

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Yes, times can be tough, but right in the middle of our difficulty God is doing things we have no knowledge of. He is working a divine plan according to his own schedule. And because we trust Him, we can still declare, Praise the Lord!

*"Let everything that has breath  
praise the Lord."  
- Psalm 150:6*

*"I will praise the LORD all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."  
- Psalm 146:2*

I'm glad to be part of the Valley Brook family,

-- *Paster Mike*



### With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the  
family and friends of  
Lew Royals  
(brother-in-law of Terry Markert)

### Welcome to Valley Brook!

Ms. Cindy Clark  
2822 Hollywood Drive  
Decatur, GA 30033

404-292-2650



"Love your neighbor  
as yourself."

Matthew 22:39

## Five Reasons You Need to Get Back in the Habit of Church Attendance

by Thom Rainer, *Christian Index*, July 23, 2020

Though this statement is admittedly not theologically precise, it is time to "return to church." Why is it important to get back in the habit of regular and faithful attendance? Why should those connected to a local congregation make a new commitment to attend as regularly as possible? Here are five reasons:

- 1. The Bible mandates we gather for worship.** Look at Hebrews 10:25
- 2. The Bible emphasizes the importance of the local church.** Think about it. After the four gospels, almost all of the New Testament is about the local church or directed to the local church.
- 3. When we gather together, we encourage each other.** Look at Hebrews 10:25 again. The act of gathering is an act of encouragement.
- 4. When we gather together, we encourage our pastors.** The stress and responsibilities pastors have had during the pandemic have been especially challenging. There are plenty of critics and discouragers for pastors. I pray that many people will return to the in-person gatherings with new levels of commitment. Our pastors will be greatly encouraged.
- 5. We grow spiritually when we commit to faithful attendance.** Attendance is a spiritual discipline. It is a vital and necessary act toward greater spiritual maturity.

The pandemic and quarantine have been transformational moments for our world and our churches. We now have the incredible opportunity to hit the reset button in our own lives. For many Christians, committed church attendance was waning before the pandemic. God has reminded us, perhaps even given us a major wake-up call, how really important the gathered church is.


Get ready to return to the gathered church. But do so this time with a new enthusiasm and faithful commitment every week.

**It's a habit we cannot and should not neglect.**



# VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Social Issues Sunday Worship at 11:00	3	4	5 - BDAY	6- BDAY	7- BDAY	8
9 Worship at 11:00	10 Election Set-up 5 pm	11 Election Run-off 7 am—7 pm	12	13	14	15
16- BDAY Worship at 11:00 Worship Music Week	17- BDAY	18- BDAY	19	20	21 Senior Citizen's Day	22
23 Worship at 11:00	24	25	26	27	28 GBMB's SPARK On-line Conference	29
30 Worship at 11:00	31	<b>Birthdays:</b> Pastor Mike 8/5 Jim Phillips 8/16 Betty Creech 8/6 Ann Lord 8/17 David Johnson 8/7 Cindy Phillips 8/18				

## Steps for an Open Heart towards Racial Healing

By Sue Schlesman, crosswalk.com, July 7, 2020

Those who want to bring peace, who are interested in facilitating justice, must learn how to hear from people they don't agree with or understand. Here are steps towards this understanding so you can be a true ally:

1. Pray. - Psalm 139:23
2. Assume you don't know all sides and try to learn other perspectives. - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13
3. Listen to personal stories. - Proverbs 4:5
4. Forgive and ask forgiveness. - James 5:16
5. Empathize with other people's perspective and pain. - Romans 12:9-11
6. Set aside party policies. - James 1:27
7. Read about justice in scripture. - Luke 4:18-19
8. Educate yourself. - Proverbs 1:5
9. Elevate people over policy. - James 4:1-2
10. Be careful with your words, whether written or spoken. - Psalm 19:14



### Ways to Live Longer & Healthier

AJC, June 21, 2020

How long will you live? It's never too late to start snatching back some good years. Here are some of the suggestions on which longevity experts agree:

1. Keep the faith.
2. Eat less.
3. Avoid loneliness.
4. Cultivate close friendships.
5. Get social time.
6. Be of good cheer.
7. Stimulate your brain.
8. Exercise 45 minutes a day.
9. Have a purpose.

"I will give you back your health..."  
- Jeremiah 30:17 (NLT)

### Contact Us

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### Monthly Financial Report

(as of July 2020)

Receipts - \$16,069.00