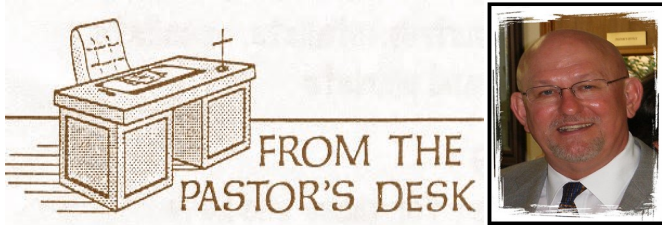


# ECHOES *from the Valley*

October 2020

Volume 46, No. 10



Although we are meeting regularly and safely, our overall experience is quite different than what we have been accustomed to. Other than Sunday morning worship, our activity and interaction is severely limited. Additionally, many of you who were active and functioning in various areas of service and ministry are “on hold.” This is frustrating and even painful for all of us, but it does not change who we are and what we are ... We are still the church.

It's important during this time of 'Sunday morning only' to reflect on our purpose and identity ... Who are we? That is a great question and one that we should consider occasionally.

So, who are we? What do we do? What is our purpose? What do we believe? Let me begin with an extremely brief summary:

We are a people who declare that Jesus is Lord

We are a people who embrace the Bible as our guide for life and living

We are a people who meet for worship and equipping for ministry

We come together to meet head-on the questions and challenges of life; to share our joys and our heartbreaks; to grow in faith and to share the message and love of Christ. . . .

A good summary statement for us is found in these words of Christ:

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength’. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

It is important to point out that the foundation for all we are, all we believe, and all we do, is the Bible. Think about it . . . this book, the Holy Scripture, is the only source of our belief and our rule of faith.

Yes, we have preachers, teachers, commentators, theologians, and writers. Many of them are excellent, but the source material is all the same, the Bible ... We believe this so strongly that our position on scripture is written into our Constitution and Core Values:

From our constitution and by-laws:

“We believe the Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction, that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error, for its matter; and therefore is and shall remain, the true basis of all Christian union, faith, practice and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinion should be tried. The criterion by which the scriptures are to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

From our core values:

“We honor and accept the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the standard for all human conduct, doctrine (teaching) and religious opinions.”

(continued)

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

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Two statements I recall from childhood are appropriate concerning this position:

“Where the Bible speaks, we speak, and where the Bible is silent, we are silent.”

Concerning the Bible: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty.”

The Bible is the Word of God. It is our guide and basis for faith and living. Make it priority reading; glean from its pages on a regular and systematic basis.

*“All Scripture is inspired by God, and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.” - 2 Tim 2 3:16*

That’s a big part of “who we are.”

*Paster Mike*

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### **An Autumn Blessing For Your Family**

Before this busy fall season begins, we ask that you join us as we lift up our families (in all their messiness) to our heavenly Father, who loves us all and is the author of our peace.

*Dear Father, in Your beautiful book of Psalms, chapter 103 and verse 17, You give us this wonderful promise, “From everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.” What better promise could we receive from You in the autumn of our lives than to see our children and children’s children blessed with Your love and righteousness? We ask for Your hand of blessing on us as well. Bless us with strength to be there for those we love, and wisdom to know what to say to bring comfort, encouragement, and sometimes difficult truth. We will need Your patience as we wait for Your perfect will and way in each of our loved one’s lives. We are so grateful, Lord God. Amen.*

By Rebecca of Dayspring, 9-14-2020

### **“I Need Thee Every Hour”**

Let the words of this great hymn be your prayer as you commit to grow closer and more steadfast in your relationship with the Father—hour by hour , day by day.

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

*Refrain:*

I need thee, oh, I need thee,  
Every hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now my Savior,  
I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their pow’r  
When Thou art nigh.

*Refrain*

I need Thee every hour in joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide or life is in vain

*Refrain*

I need Thee every hour; teach my Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

*Refrain*

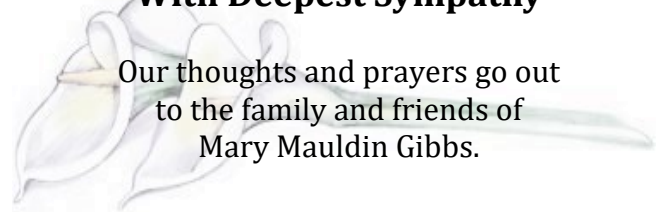
I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;  
Oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.

Lyrics: Annie S. Hawks (1836-1918); Chorus by  
Robert Lowry (1826-1899)  
Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

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### **With Deepest Sympathy**

Our thoughts and prayers go out  
to the family and friends of  
Mary Mauldin Gibbs.



# Valley Brook Baptist Church

# October 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3 - BDAY
	 Co-operative Program Emphasis					
4 World Communion Day Worship at 11:00	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Global Hunger Sunday Worship at 11:00	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16- BDAYS	17
18 Worship at 11:00	19 AMBA Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22- BDAYS	23	24
		← Week of Prayer for Baptist Associations →				
25 Worship at 11:00	26- BDAY	27	28	29- BDAY	30	31 Halloween

**Birthdays:** Steven Compton 10/03  
Jane Johnson 10/26

Margie Adams 10/16  
Dean Lewis 10/29

Jeannine Peevy 10/16

Sandra Huntsinger 10/22

Doug Morgan 10/22

# What God Says About Getting Older

Aug 25, 2020 by Paige of Dayspring

How can we lean into God as we age trusting that everyday matters, from our first to our last?

**Claim His Promises** - Sit with a journal and your Bible, and interview yourself about growing older. *Am I afraid of aging? And if so, why?* Once you've recorded your thoughts, find specific promises in God's Word that will help bring you peace and assurance.

**Make Healthy Choices** - While the human body is not intended to live forever, we can still honor our Creator by making choices that bring us health and strength each day. We are here at this time for a reason – let's not miss the opportunities to help guide and encourage those around us!

**Celebrate Life Every Day** - Remember that *every* day in *every* life matters. Don't wait for a milestone to make it extra special. Look in the mirror and cherish your laugh lines; remember how they are created.

**Smile at the grays; God says they are splendid. Laugh at the future; remember Who's holding it all.**

*I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray.  
I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4 CSB)*

## Quote of the Month

"Church is a congregation of embarrassingly ordinary people in and through whom God chooses to be present in the world."

- Eugene Peterson



## Monthly Financial Report

(as of September 2020)

Receipts - \$15,657.11

Our ministry is dependent on the tithes and offerings of our church members and regular attendees, to support our local ministries. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving, even through this time of pandemic, and the eternal investment you are making in God's work.

## Contact Us

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Instagram: [vbbchurch](https://www.instagram.com/vbbchurch)



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV