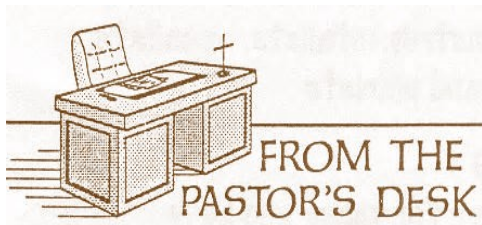


ECHOES *from the Valley*

March 2021

Volume 47, No. 3



With the arrival of March, we approach the anniversary of an event that turned our world upside down . . . Pandemic 2020. Incredible changes, that we would never have imagined, are now a daily reality. It was in March of last year that we made the difficult decision, as did most churches, to suspend our services for a period of time. At that time, we were being led in a “shut down” mode. Shut down and isolate.

I remember the confusion and conflicting reports. Together, that made decision-making quite difficult. I thought, or I believed, quite naively, that if we stopped our meetings and gatherings for a few weeks we would “flatten the curve” and quickly return to normal. So, while we are still wondering what happened to ‘the curve’, we understand this reality . . . we remain nowhere near normal.

During this challenging time, I’m encouraged and glad to report our church has

remained stable. God continues to bless our congregation. Our people and other friends of the church have been faithful and supportive enabling the ministry to continue.

We worship, communicate, and stay in touch. We are existing, but the church is not called to merely exist. Our purpose is greater than that. It’s difficult to imagine how to get to the next level from here . . . for me it is a matter of continual prayer.

I do not know what the future holds for us, but I know who holds the future, not only for this church but for the universal church. That is a source of great comfort and encouragement. In the meantime, let us pray for God’s presence to be felt and for His plan to unfold before us.

By now you should have received an email, or regular mailout, containing a very brief explanation of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season. This is just for your information. While we do not formally observe the Lenten season, it is a good time to reflect, pray and remember the sufferings of Christ, leading to the grand conclusion, Resurrection Sunday. (continued)

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

In that mailing there is a prayer suggestion, thought, or activity for you for each of the 47 days of the Lenten season. This is a great tool for spiritual discipline intended to lead you through a specific prayer, give you something to read, to think about, or to do. It should be a supplement to your normal devotion. Please take this opportunity for spiritual renewal, reflection, and prayer.

Let's eagerly move forward together. I am excited to see what God has planned for us to accomplish. We have some wonderful people in our fellowship. Each one is gifted in a unique way to help this church to honor our Lord in the days ahead.

*"But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind
and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 3:13b-14

I love you and love being your pastor,

Pastor Mike



With Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Shirley Lynch

DON'T FORGET!



The second Sunday in March is when Daylight Saving Time **begins** in most areas of the U.S., so we'll "spring forward" one hour on **Sunday, March 14, 2021, at 2 a.m.**

Be sure to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before bed on Saturday night!

WE'VE MISSED YOU!



"We mustn't do what some people have got into the habit of doing, neglecting to meet together. Instead, we must encourage one another, and all the more as you can see the great day coming closer."

- Hebrews 10:25 NTE



Attendance in Jan. & Feb.

	A.M. Worship
Jan. 31	31
Feb. 7	31
Feb. 14	33
Feb. 21	33



VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Counters - Jim Phillips Charley Scott	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dennis Jackson Ben. - Becky Markert	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME - SPRING AHEAD Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Dan Warnock Ben. - Terry Markert	15	16	17 	18	19	20 
21 Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Luther Lord Ben. - Jeannine Peevy	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY PASSOVER Worship at 11:00 Inv. - Tom Gibbs Ben. - Tom Barnett	29	30	31	NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS EMPHASIS MONTH		

Birthdays: Vickie Edwards 3/1 Edith Kennedy 3/22 Joe Brown 3/6 Tommy Shockley 3/22 Barry Vinson 3/8 Jane Harrell 3/23 Dennis Jackson 3/17

5 Easy Ways to Live Your Faith

by Jordan W. for Dayspring

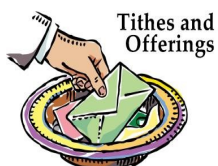
Living your faith is not something that is only confined to the four walls of the church. Instead, it's an everyday, outward expression of your love for God and what He is doing in your life. It's a choice that we must make, and it's one that impacts everyone around us. Below are five ways to intentionally live your faith in simple, everyday actions. You're probably already doing some of these things in your own life, and you didn't even realize that you were ministering to those around you!

1. Be a friend. *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves."* - Philippians 2:3 CSB
2. Use your gifts. *"Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God."* - 1 Peter 4:10-11 CSB
3. Radiate positivity. *"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones."* - Proverbs 17:22 CSB
4. Show your gratitude. *"Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 CSB
5. Do your best. *"Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people."* - Colossians 3:23 CSB

Quote of the Month

"Junkyard wrecks and showroom models
share equal space in God's garage."

- Max Lucado



Monthly Financial Report

(February 2021)

Receipts - \$10,165.00
(as of Feb. 21, 2021)

(February 2020)

Receipts - \$14,086.01
Expenses - \$12,574.00

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There have been a few hints of possible winter weather in the forecast in recent days. So far, it has not happened. But, it does provide a good reminder to communicate our plans in the event of winter precipitation on a Sunday morning. 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.

