

SMALL GROUPS | A DROP FROM THE ALTAR | MIGHTY MOMS | EVENTS

the messenger

● LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / FEBRUARY 2025

**STATE OF
THE CHURCH
UPDATE**

**STRENGTHENING
FAMILY
TIES**

**WHAT'S GOING
ON AROUND
CAMPUS?**

**WHY HEALTHY
MARRIAGES
MATTER
TO THE NEXT
GENERATION**

**FIVE THOUGHTS ON
GODLY RELATIONSHIPS:
A CHRIST-CENTERED
GUIDE FOR
YOUNG ADULTS**

**UNDERSTANDING
OUR RESPONSE
TO CHRIST'S
LOVE FOR US**



CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Patricia Alderson
Kim Bass
Louise Bass
Sun Bass
Jennifer Bauman
Sean Bauman
H.B. "Cookie" Billingsley
Shelia Billingsley
Brian Childers
Chrissy Childers
Joshua Cole
Tiffany Cole
Kevin Cowan
Megan Day
Steven Day
Brayden DeBacco
Cody DeSoto
Jessica Desoto
Veronica Ezelle
Hayley Felter
Steve Forman
Terri Forman
Allan Futral
Deonna Futral
Baerbel Hannemann
Holly Hernandez

Shane Hernandez
Deborah Holsomback
Danny Holsomback
Chad Jenkins
Amanda Lane
Gerald Mann
Marlene Mock
ReeAnn Noble
Richard Noble
Larry Offner
Sandi Orges
Missy Pace
Joan Poston
Gerard Ramirez
Sandra Ramirez
Jeremy Saltaformaggio
Marree Saltaformaggio
Paula Saltaformaggio
Austin Shaffett
Shannon Simpson
Leigh Slack
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A time and a place for everyone

For more information about groups and events visit www.liveoak.church or call (225) 664-4801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service

8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School
Sherri Gardner: 1st-4th Grade - Room #214
Jodi Rushing: 5th-6th - Room #213

8:45 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
Dawn Lott - Upstairs in FLC

8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:
See Page 5 for Full List

9:30 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC

9:30 AM Preteen - Chapel

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC

11:00 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC

11:00 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

11:00 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Young Adults Worship Service (1st Sundays)

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC

9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

6:30 - 7:20 | Preschool | Pre-K3 to Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:15 | Kingdom Kidz | 1st-4th Grade

6:00 - 7:30 | Preteen | 5th-6th Grade

6:00 - 7:30 | Student Ministry | 7th-12th Grade

6:30 - 7:20 | Worship & Study | Adults

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Young Adult Worship Service - Feb. 2 at 6 pm
- Ladies King Cake Night - Feb. 7 at 6:30 pm
- Senior Adults at Casa La Vida - Feb. 14
- Mother Daughter Retreat - Feb. 21-22
- Nursing Home Sing (Monthly) - Feb. 23 at 2 pm
- Graduate Dinner - Mar. 16 at 6 pm
- Wesley Huff - Mar. 30
- Graduate Recognition - Apr. 27 at 9:30 am & 11 am



HELLO
February

Download the App



Church Map



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

small group | large group

Sunday 8:45 AM

Young Adults & Couples Class // **The Apostles' Creed** // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #201

Young & Median Adult Class // **Faith for the Curious** // David & Summer Orges - FLC Upstairs

Median Adult Class // **Book of Revelation** // Dickie Davis - Room #202

Senior Adult Class // **Focusing on Worship** // Layne Hutchinson - Room #212

Pastor's Class // **Gospel of Luke** // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room

New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

Monday

9:30 AM // Women's Study // **1 & 2 Corinthians: Living Out Our Faith** // Mallory Williams - Chapel

6:00 PM // Men's Discipleship Group // **Topical** // Robert Poole's Home

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Men // **Explore the Bible** // David Tate - Room #201

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Women // **Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight** // Jan Tate - Chapel

Tuesday

6:30 PM // **Discovering Daniel** (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

6:30 PM // **Grief Support Group** (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Co-ed Home Group // **The Book of Acts** // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home

Worship & Study // Pastor Mark - Sanctuary

Sunday 9:30 AM

Co-ed Class // **Topical** // Robert Poole - Room #211

Couple's Class // **Gospel of John** // Todd & Sealy Pettavino - Room #202

Sunday Evenings

4:00 PM // **Doctrinal Study** // Layne Hutchinson & Jon Williams - Room #202

4:00 PM // Women's Study // **Open Your Bible** // Faith Storck - Chapel

6:00 PM // Young Adult Group // **The Church** // Nathan Lott & Krist Norsworthy - FLC

Thursday

6:00 PM // **Men's Play & Pray Basketball** // Jim Otken - FLC

7:00 PM // **REFUGE Addiction Recovery** // Sam LoBello - Room #201

7:00 PM (1st & 3rd Thursdays) // **Lifeline: Parents of Addicted Youth & Adults** // Summer Babin - Counseling Hall

Friday

5:30 AM // Men's Group // **Book of Acts** // Jim Otken - Room #202

6:00 PM // Co-ed // **Book of Acts** // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM // Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study // **What Happen's Next?** // Sam LoBello - Room #202





Support. Instruction. Accountability.

*"Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed
is the one who takes refuge in Him."
Psalm 34:8*

Thursdays at 7 PM

Struggling with addiction? **We are here for you.**
We meet in Room #201. **Come join us!**

REFUGE



Honoring

Graduates

★★★★★
Senior Dinner - March 16th @ 6:00pm - FLC
Senior Recognition - April 27th @ 9:30 and 11am Services
★★★★★

register on the app



from the PASTOR'S DESK



I am sitting here thawing out after experiencing the worst winter storm in this area in over 100 years. The temperature in Watson hit 7 degrees one night. The snow was “fun” at first, but after being “snowed in,” schedules altered, and pipes frozen, this winter storm turned into a real challenge.

So, I will say goodbye to January 2025 after being sick, snowed in, and schedules restructured with a sense of relief, and I look forward to a more structured routine (if there is really such a thing). In February, we have a constant theme of preaching and teaching on love, marriage, and relationships. Many have loved this series (some have dreaded it) and have been blessed by it over the years.

I enjoy preaching this series because the Bible reveals so many wonderful principles about love, marriage, and

relationships. When applied, I believe these principles can create an amazing marriage, overcome some of the most common challenges, and give each family a foundation that seeks to know God, follow His Word, and enjoy His blessings.

Marriage is not an easy relationship. It requires knowledge, patience, adjustments, and lots of grace and love. However, it can be a slice of heaven on earth if done well. So come and join us in February for our Love, Relationships, and Marriage series. It will be a series that will hopefully bless you as you love, live, and share life with others.



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor

*MARRIAGE IS
NOT AN EASY
RELATIONSHIP.
HOWEVER, IT
CAN BE A SLICE
OF HEAVEN
ON EARTH.*

Why Healthy Marriages Matter to the Next Generation

by Faith Storck, *Director of Children's Ministry*

When I told my husband Chris the topic for this month's newsletter, he was laughing hysterically at the fact that I was assigned this article. He questioned what in the world I could possibly share on this topic. You see, while we're by no means "experts" in marriage, we do have a combined 24 years of marriage under our belts—and, as of today, I haven't killed him yet! I do not have any education in this area, however we both have parents that modeled many characteristics of a long and healthy marriage with God at the center of it all.

Our marriage has been a journey full of growth, laughter, and plenty of learning, and I'm so thankful that Lauren gets to witness the real, unpolished side of marriage—the kind that's built on grace, patience, and a whole lot of prayer. After all, if we've made it this far, there's hope for everyone, right?

I still remember when Chris and I got married, and we decided to go all-in with a covenant marriage license. For those who aren't familiar, this license requires premarital counseling and has some pretty strict divorce restrictions. Why? Because we wanted to make sure there was no easy way out. We were determined to work through the ups and downs. No one gets married expecting divorce, but for us, it was just not an option. We made a covenant with each other to walk through life together, come what may.

Fast forward a couple of decades, and now that Lauren is dating, I'm more aware than ever of the importance of modeling a healthy marriage. How we love, support, and grow together as a couple will directly impact the way she views relationships in the future. And when it comes to marriage, the Bible gives us some pretty powerful reasons why modeling a healthy one matters—both for us and for the next generation.

Let's dive into some of the key biblical reasons why healthy marriages are worth the effort:

1. THEY REFLECT GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Marriage wasn't just a good idea that humans came up with—it was God's idea. And when we do it His way, it reflects His love, commitment, and faithfulness. Healthy marriages show children what a covenant relationship looks like—where love is unconditional and lasting, not based on convenience.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” – Genesis 1:27; 2:24

When we model a healthy marriage, we're giving our kids a snapshot of God's own love for His people. That's a pretty powerful legacy to leave behind

2. THEY PROVIDE A STABLE FOUNDATION FOR THE FAMILY

Marriage is the anchor of a stable family. Kids raised in a home where their parents are committed to each other experience a foundation of love, stability, and support. They grow up understanding that love isn't just a feeling—it's a commitment, and that commitment has long-lasting effects. And boy, it really takes commitment some days.... Anyone else remember year seven of marriage? It was one of the toughest years, am I right?

"Marriage wasn't just a good idea that humans came up with—it was God's idea."

When parents are committed to each other and to the Lord, they provide their children with the security and stability they need. A strong marriage offers a secure foundation for kids to grow, knowing that love is steadfast and committed, even during the tough seasons—like that unforgettable year seven!

As Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion." This is the essence of marriage—being there for one another, lifting each other up when times are tough, and sharing the weight of life's challenges together. A strong marriage doesn't just benefit the couple; it creates a safe, steady environment for children to thrive in. When parents are united, their children experience the security of knowing that love is not just a fleeting emotion, but a choice, a commitment—one that holds steady even through the storms.

3. THEY TEACH BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, RESPECT, AND SACRIFICE

It's one thing to tell your kids about love and respect. It's another to show them. When children see their parents loving each other sacrificially and respecting each other even when things get tough, they're learning the real meaning of love. Marriage is like the living, breathing classroom for teaching these important virtues.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies." – Ephesians 5:25-28

When they see us loving sacrificially, kids pick up the lesson that true love requires patience, service, and sometimes—let's be real—putting someone else's needs before your own.

4. THEY DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF COVENANT AND COMMITMENT

Marriage is a covenant, not a contract. A contract says, "I'll stick with you as long as it benefits me." But a covenant says, "No matter what, I'm here for you." This commitment is the backbone of a healthy marriage—and it's a powerful lesson for kids. When they see their parents working through challenges and choosing commitment over convenience, they learn that real love isn't about running away when things get hard.

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." – Mark 10:9

A healthy marriage shows kids that God's plan for relationships isn't just about a fleeting moment of happiness—it's about long-lasting commitment that reflects God's unbreakable covenant with us.

5. THEY BREAK GENERATIONAL PATTERNS OF BROKENNESS

Healthy marriages have the power to break cycles of dysfunction, divorce, and brokenness. For children who have witnessed unhealthy relationships in their families, seeing their parents work through challenges in a loving, committed way shows them that it doesn't have to be this way. By God's grace, they can build healthier relationships in the future.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." – Galatians 5:22-23

When we choose to honor our marriage vows and work through our differences, we give our kids a blueprint for healthier relationships of their own, and the chance to rewrite their family's legacy. By reflecting the qualities of love, peace, kindness, and faithfulness, we not only nurture our

own marriage but also demonstrate to our children how to build relationships that are grounded in God's grace. These virtues form the foundation for lasting, healthy connections that can break generational cycles of dysfunction and create a new legacy for future generations.

6. THEY TEACH THE VALUE OF FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

Let's be real—no marriage is perfect. And when conflicts arise (and they *will*), healthy marriages show kids the importance of forgiveness and grace. When they see parents reconcile, apologize, and extend grace to each other, they learn how to do the same in their own relationships.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32

If your kids see you apologize after a spat (even when you don't *really* want to), you're teaching them that humility and forgiveness are key ingredients to healthy relationships. And let's face it—there are no perfect spouses, but there's always room for grace.

Healthy marriages matter—not just for the couple, but for the future generation. They reflect God's love, provide a stable foundation for kids, teach important lessons about sacrifice and commitment, break generational cycles of dysfunction, and model forgiveness and grace. When we prioritize and nurture our marriages, we're not just strengthening our own relationship—we're setting a powerful example for our kids and teaching them what it means to love, honor, and commit, just as God designed.

So, here's to 24 years of learning and growing (and still having plenty to learn!). We may not be perfect, but by God's grace, we're showing our daughter what a healthy, grace-filled marriage can look like. And if we can do it, there's hope for all of us! 🍀

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND CAMPUS?

by Trish Graves, *Business Administrator*

At Live Oak Church, we are blessed with a beautiful campus that serves as the foundation for ministry and outreach. As stewards of this space, we take seriously the responsibility to care for and improve the facilities God has entrusted to us. Over the past few months, you may have noticed several updates happening around the campus, and we're excited to share some of what you will see in 2025.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

Some of the completed projects include:

- A **renovated preteen area**, creating an updated, fresh and welcoming environment for our 5th and 6th graders.
- **Parking lot repairs**, addressing areas of concern to improve safety and accessibility, and extending the life of the lot as well.
- **Soft washing the buildings**, restoring the exterior to its best condition and ensuring longevity.

UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2025

We have several major improvements planned for 2025 to enhance and protect our campus:

- Installing a **new roof** and **exterior paint** on the education building, which will provide protection and a renewed look for this space.
- Improving **drainage** and adding new **landscaping**, addressing issues caused by slow drainage and beautifying the campus.
- Replacing and repairing the **exterior shutters**, ensuring the buildings remain well-maintained and inviting.
- Upgrading the **camera system** in the sanctuary, which will enhance

our ability to record and stream services, allowing us to reach more people within our congregation and beyond.

WHY MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Regular maintenance is essential for a campus of our size and scope. It ensures that our buildings and grounds remain safe, functional, and welcoming to everyone who walks through our doors. Beyond the practical benefits, maintaining our campus demonstrates good stewardship of the resources God has given us and supports the work of ministry by creating spaces that inspire worship, fellowship, and service. Preventative maintenance, in particular, helps us avoid costly repairs down the road and allows us to focus on the mission God has called us to.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

None of these projects would be possible without the faithful giving of our congregation. Your contributions not only support our ongoing ministry efforts but also allow us to maintain and improve our campus to meet the needs of our congregation and community. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to Live Oak Church.

We invite you to join us in praying over these projects as we seek to care for our campus in a way that honors God and serves His people. Together, we are building a foundation for ministry that will last for generations to come! 🌿

STATE OF THE CHURCH UPDATE

We met on Sunday, January 26, for a wonderful time of information and glorifying God. Here's a summary of the slides. You can see the whole presentation on the church app.

2024 RECAP & MINISTRY IMPACT

- Spiritual Growth:** In 2024, we welcomed **127 new members**, celebrated **77 baptisms**, and graduated **27 students** from our Faith Formation class. We also dedicated **27 babies** to the Lord, committing to support families in raising them in faith.
- Children & Preteen Ministry:** Staff changes included **Brayden Lott** as Preteen Ministry Leader and **Madison Cody** as Children's Minister. Attendance continued to grow, and special events like **Connect Camp (419 campers)** and **Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Bible studies** impacted many families.
- Student Ministry:** Weekly attendance averaged **100 students**, with **81 attending Fuge Camp** and **104 at the Back-to-School Retreat**. **111 students completed a 5-week Purity Class**, and student-led mission work impacted local communities and beyond.
- Worship Ministry:** The team expanded with new volunteers and students. Worship events included **Summer Music Camp (77 participants)** and outreach worship at **Connect Camp, SYATP Rally, and FCA meetings**.
- Pastoral Care & Outreach:** Over **175 home visits**, **45+ hospital visits**, and **133 surgeries supported**. The **prayer chain had 270 intercessors** responding to about **50 requests monthly**.
- Disaster Relief:** Relief teams mobilized for **Hurricanes Beryl and Helene**, delivering food, water, and supplies to Texas and North Carolina.

- Adult Ministries:** **650 people participated** in Bible studies and groups, and the **Men's Ministry launched a 3-layer discipleship model**. Outreach supported pastors in New England, nursing homes, and the Gideon Ministry.
- Counseling Center:** **8 counselors and 7 pastors** provided counseling services, including grief support, premarital counseling, and substance abuse recovery.

FINANCES & LOOKING FORWARD

- 2024 Giving & Budget:** The church spent less than we took in, bringing in **\$2.27 million** while keeping expenses at **\$1.85 million**.
- 2025 Budget:** Set at **\$2.13 million**, with continued financial stability supporting future growth.

FUTURE VISION FOR 2025

- Excellence:** Strengthening ministries and ensuring every member has opportunities to grow.
- Education:** Expanding discipleship with new **Ministry Classes, a Young Adults Service, Bible study resources, and multiple podcasts**.
- Expansion:** Preparing for a **major building project**, increasing missionary support, and enhancing our campus to serve future generations.

Acts 2 reminds us, "The Lord added to their number daily." Let us continue to serve with excellence, pursue education for spiritual growth, and expand our reach—all for God's glory. 🌿

Five Thoughts on Godly Relationships: A Christ-Centered Guide for Young Adults

by Krist Norsworthy, *Young Adults Pastor & Communications*

COME ON!

After walking nearly 1,800 miles over 190 days, Frodo and Sam are nearing the end of their grueling journey. They stand mere moments away from completing their task... or failing completely. The One Ring's immense weight and the unrelenting hardships of the journey have taken their toll on Frodo. He can no longer recognize himself in the mirror, recall the taste of good food, or remember the warmth of sunlight. Exhausted and overwhelmed, he collapses as they ascend Mount Doom.

Frodo is not failing for lack of effort—he has given everything he has. But even in this darkest moment, his loyal companion, Samwise Gamgee, refuses to leave his side. With tears in his eyes and resolve in his heart, Sam exclaims, “Come on, Mr. Frodo. I can’t carry *it* for you, but I can carry *you*!” Hoisting Frodo onto his back, Sam yells the words of encouragement, “Come on!” one more time. Pushing forward up the treacherous path, Samwise is determined to see his friend fulfill the mission entrusted to him.

This powerful scene from *The Lord of the Rings* illustrates the power of sacrificial love, unwavering loyalty, and a willingness to bear one another's burdens. Galatians 6:2 says “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Just as Sam exemplifies strength and encouragement, godly relationships are meant to lift us up and point us toward our ultimate purpose in Christ.

Navigating relationships as a young adult can be both exciting and challenging. Whether it's friendships, dating, or preparing for marriage, how we relate to others has a spiritual impact. As followers of Christ, we are called to approach relationships differently than the world. God should be at the center.

In this guide, we will explore five steps to cultivating godly relationships rooted in Scripture and guided by Christ-like love.

1. START WITH THE FOUNDATION

Before you can build healthy relationships with others, your relationship with God must be your foundation. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38). A heart that is fully devoted to God will overflow with His love, equipping you to love others well. As pastor and theologian Charles Spurgeon once said, “Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else.” When God is your ultimate source of joy and purpose, you won't look to others to fill a void only He can satisfy.

Application: Dedicate time each day to prayer and Bible study. Strengthen your personal relationship with Christ so that He becomes the foundation of every other relationship in your life.

2. SEEK FRIENDSHIPS THAT SHARPEN YOU

All friendships have a significant positive or negative impact on your walk with Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in *Life Together*, “The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged.” Surround yourself with friends who speak truth into your life and point you back to Christ in both joyous and difficult seasons. We are all familiar with Proverbs 27:17, which says, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” True godly friends challenge you to grow in holiness, hold you accountable, and encourage you in the faith.

Application: Evaluate your friendships. Are the people in your inner circle helping you draw closer to Christ? If not, pray for wisdom and seek out a community of believers who can strengthen your faith.



3. DATING WITH PURPOSE & PURITY

For young adults navigating the world of dating, it's essential to approach romantic relationships with purpose and purity. Scripture calls us to honor God with our bodies and our hearts: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4). Dating should ultimately be aimed at discerning God's will for a lifelong partnership in marriage. A Christ-centered relationship seeks to glorify God and build each other up in faith—marriage is, after all, a reflection of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:32).

Application: Put steps one and two into action, and step three can be a natural outflow. Set clear boundaries in dating relationships and seek accountability from trusted mentors or friends. Pray for discernment and wisdom as you consider whether any relationship aligns with God's purpose for your life.

4. HONOR GOD IN YOUR WORDS & ACTIONS

Relationships thrive when they are marked by humility, kindness, and grace. Ephesians 4:29 encourages us, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." Your words have the power to build others up or tear them down. Similarly, your actions should reflect the love of Christ by demonstrating patience, forgiveness, and selflessness. When your heart rests in Christ, it transforms the way you interact with others. One fruit that is produced (Galatians 5) is His love shining through your words and deeds.

Application: Practice actively speaking words of encouragement and showing acts of kindness. It might be


natural to some of us, but it's a muscle we can all strengthen. Be intentional in how you reflect Christ's love in every interaction.

5. TRUST GOD'S TIMING & PLAN

Finally, trust that God's timing and plan for your relationships are perfect. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." Whether you are single, dating, or married, God is working in your life for your good and His glory. Even when you cannot see it, God is at work, preparing you and your relationships for His purposes.

Application: It's okay to ask God for good friends and a godly spouse. Surrender your relationships to Him in prayer. Take some time to reflect on how He has guided you in the past. Trust Him to lead you in His perfect timing and remain faithful in seeking His will.

SPOILERS AHEAD

Consider again Sam from *The Lord of the Rings*. He was not even the hero of the story, yet (*spoilers*) he made it to the end with Frodo, the protagonist, in tow. Personally, I hope that I can reflect the biblical call to put myself *lower* than others (Philippians 2:3), and I pray that God will empower you to do that same. If you want to build godly relationships, it requires intentionality, prayer, and a commitment to keep Christ at the center. Prioritize your relationship with God, seek friendships that sharpen you, date with purpose and purity, honor God in your words and actions, and trust His timing. By following these five steps (*spoilers*), you will develop relationships that glorify Him and reflect His love to the world. 



SENIOR ADULTS

By Landra Reed

WE ARE CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY AT CASA LA VIDA

Join us at Casa La Vida's on Coursey Blvd in Baton Rouge for Valentine's Day. Make sure you sign up at the Information Desk. The cutoff Date is February 7th. The cost is your meal.

WANT TO HEAR SOME GREAT HYMNS?

We're taking a trip to Hattiesburg, Mississippi for a Gospel Music Hymn Sing. We will experience a Worship Service, not a concert, like never before. Come join us as we worship together using old hymnal songs with Hymn Sing Foundation. Dates are March 28-29. We will also enjoy a delicious dining experience with Patio 44 .The cost of this trip is \$120 per person which covers our transportation, tickets to Hymn Sing

Foundations and your dinner. Sign up at the Information Desk or text Landra. We have 30 spaces available. The cutoff for sign up is March 15th.

We're Heading to St. Louis!

I'm really excited to share this trip with you as we are heading to my hometown of St Louis, Missouri! This is a six day and five night trip. We will explore places like the St. Louis Arch, the Botanical Gardens, the fourth largest zoo in America, Busch Stadium where the St. Louis Cardinals play and much more. The cost is \$680 per person. Please sign up immediately. The last day of sign up is March 10th. You can sign up at the Information Desk. Trip dates are April 2-7.

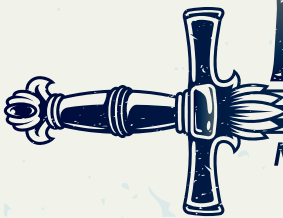


LIVE OAK CHURCH

QUILTING MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 AM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
COME JOIN US!

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY BY WRITING QUILTERS IN THE "OTHER SECTION" OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU SUPPORTING US AS WE REPLENISH OUR INVENTORY AFTER SENDING 220 QUILTS TO NORTH CAROLINA WITH OUR DISASTER RELIEF!



MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN HELPING MEN BE MEN



Top Golf

On January 4th we went to Top Golf in Baton Rouge



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 8th at 7:30 AM
in the Conference Room

Topic: *What Happens Next? A Travelers Guide Through the End of This Age*



Brad Whitt



Benny Tate



Herb Reavis



Jeff Foxworthy



George Foreman



Phil Waldrep

GRIDIRON Men's Conference

June 13-14, Huntsville, AL.

Transportation by Dixieland Tours

Sign up at Information Desk.

Cost \$175.

UNDERSTANDING OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US



by Trent Barnett, *Worship Pastor*

When Christians worship, we place our highest value and worth on God alone. But why is “worship” the reaction that follows? Why are people throughout Scripture singing, raising hands and bowing before the Lord? We have to first understand that “worship starts with seeing, not with singing,” as Matt Redman has written. Our response to Christ’s love begins with drawing closer to Christ, seeing a brighter and clearer picture of His love for us. As we see Christ’s love more clearly, our hearts are drawn to ascribe all our worth to Him. Brandon Lake’s song “Gratitude” states, “I’ve got one response, I’ve got just one move.” Our only response to God’s love is to surrender our lives to Him. He is the One who is “worthy to receive all glory, honor, and power, for You created all things, and by You will they were created and have their being” (Rev. 4:11). The only fitting response to the glory of God is to proclaim His greatness above our circumstances, to surrender our lives to His purposes, and to lift our voices and hearts in song.


The writer of Hebrews shows that worship on earth is “a copy and a shadow of what is in heaven” (Heb. 8:5). Our worship on earth is a mirror of the ongoing, never-ceasing worship of heaven. There, the angels and elders are in the presence of God day and night, yet they never stop singing His praises. Sean Curran captures this imagery in his song, “Another Glimpse” when he

writes: “with every lap around the throne, I catch another glimpse, You’re holy, holy, so holy! The longer I behold You, I can’t help but sing again, You’re holy, holy, so holy!”

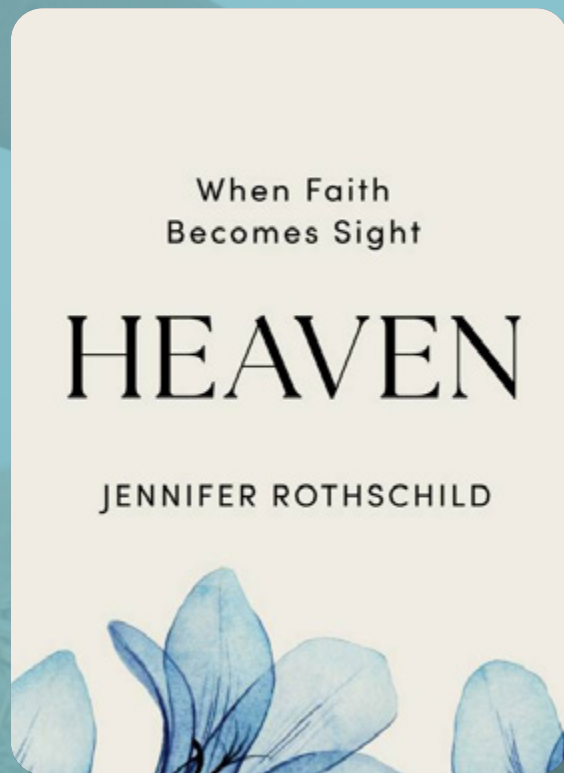
When God was first calling me into vocational ministry, I remember one moment quite vividly. God pressed on me the idea that, if we’re going to be worshipping Him for eternity, why not start now? Why not lead others to do the same - right here and now? When we lead others to the throne of God, whether through teaching, preaching, or playing music, we’re not doing so because we are good. As one of my seminary professors stated, it’s because “you’ve been given this opportunity by God because He is good. His grace allows you to represent Him in spite of your imperfections.” What an incredibly humbling thought! The God who created all things chose people like me and you carry His message.

Our salvation is made possible only through the great love the Father has lavished on us (1 John 3). Worship then, is the regular outflowing of seeing and experiencing the love of God in our lives. Chris Burns writes, “To see Him is the catalyst of all true worship.” As we see God more clearly, our lives should be rooted around one response: the worship of Christ alone. David writes in the Psalms, “let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation say continually, ‘The Lord be

magnified” (Psa. 40:16; 70:4). The closer we draw to the Lord in study, in prayer, and in singing, the clearer and brighter of a picture we get of His love for us. Chris Burns continues, “To see Him is to rightly inspire worship. We will become 24-7 worshipers when we see Him in every part of life. Not just the ‘worship time’ in church, but in the hills and valleys of the human life.”

For the Christian, worship is a life lived in full submission and surrender to Christ - the one who gave His life for us, provides salvation for all who will believe, and “sustains all things by His very Word” (Heb. 1:3). Worship doesn’t begin or end with singing; instead, it ends in holy obedience. Richard Foster writes, “If worship does not propel us into greater obedience, it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change.” As we encounter God’s character in worship, it should affect the way we live and respond to those around us. Our morals - the “why” behind the decisions we make - are formed by our response to Christ’s love for us. More than just a few minutes each Sunday, our Sunday worship spills over into our Monday through Saturday actions, leading us deeper into worship throughout the week. Our entire lives are to be lived in submission and surrender to the One who is worthy of all praise and glory. It’s the only fitting response to the glory of God! 

GOING DEEPER?



DEEPER LIFE FOR WOMEN

HEAVEN:
*When Faith
Becomes Sight*

**Mondays
at 6:30 PM**

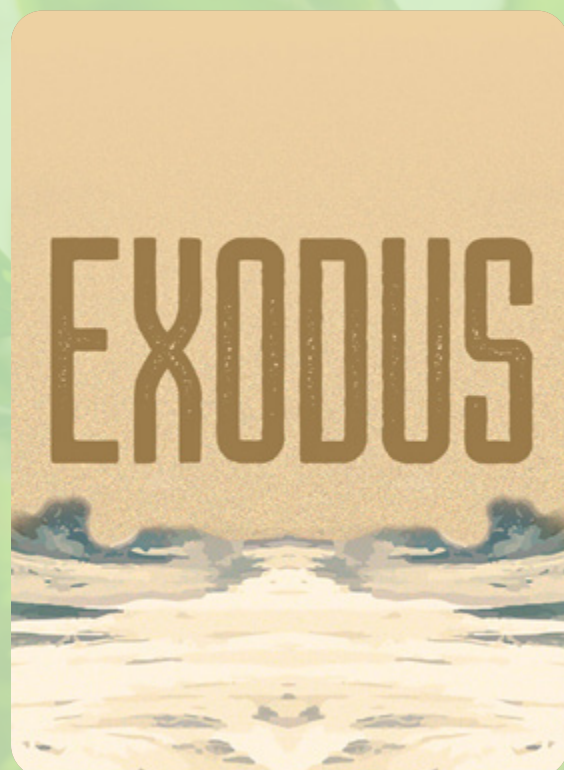
**In the Chapel.
Led by Jan Tate**

DEEPER LIFE FOR MEN

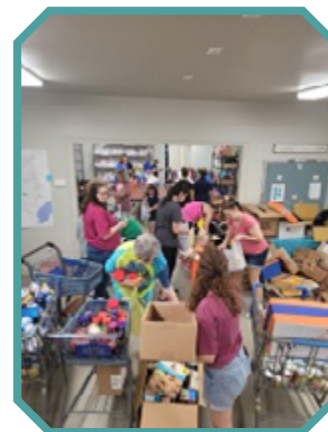
The Book of Exodus
*THE GREAT ESCAPE:
How God Delivers His
People From Bondage*

**Mondays at 6:30 PM
In Room #202.**

Led by David Tate



**IF YOU'RE
HAPPY AND
YOU KNOW
IT, HELP A
FRIEND!!**



by Jeanie Achord



The Live Oak missions community outreach this month is "MIGHTY MOMS." This ministry has been around for many years, serving the community with food items. We will partner with them this month and collect MAC and CHEESE, everybody's favorite food all the time. There will be boxes in the foyer and at the other entrances of the church to put your mac and cheese donations. The ministry supports schools around our parish by sending food home with students to help out over the weekend. Soooo, your best donation will be the "Easy Mac" brand mac and cheese that students can prepare by themselves. Live Oak Church has always shown up and showed out for the good of the less fortunate. I am looking forward to seeing what the Lord will do in supporting Mighty Moms. God Bless! God LOVES a cheerful giver! We are blessed to be a blessing to others! 🍃

*If you would rather donate cash to this mission-just mark it on your donation envelope, and we will purchase your items for you!

A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

by sam lobello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, "This is a drop from the altar." He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test.

As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me "Drops from the Altar" from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

"Faith is only as good as its object."

Daniel Pickard

STRENGTHENING FAMILY TIES THROUGH FAITH

by Madison Cody, *Children's Minister*

Growing up, I remember my dad waking up early each morning with his Bible in hand, quietly studying God's word at the kitchen table. At the time, I didn't fully understand it, but those moments stayed with me. They taught me the importance of individual faith and how it strengthens family bonds. Our family wasn't just built on shared experiences, but on each of us having our own personal connection with God. This simple example shaped how I view faith, my family, and church.

In today's world, it's easy to let busy schedules distract us...I know because we are right there with you. With work, school, and endless activities, it can feel like there's little time for anything else. However, we know that faith is important. As parents, we are called to model and nurture faith in our children. Deuteronomy 6: 6-7 emphasizes this responsibility, instructing parents to "impress on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This shows that faith should be woven into the everyday moments of life. As parents, we have the privilege and responsibility to create a spiritual foundation for our children, one that is rooted in daily examples and intentional teaching. When a family embraces faith together, it provides a common ground that offers purpose, direction, and support in times of need.

Practical ways to nurture faith in a busy family life:

1. **Set a Daily Rhythm:** Set aside a few minutes each day to pray or share a Bible story, making it part of your morning or bedtime routine.
2. **Use Technology:** Bible apps and podcasts can help keep the Word in your life, whether during a car ride or while doing chores.
3. **Practice Spontaneous Worship:** Play worship music or take a moment to pray or sing together, even during a busy day.

As we juggle the demands of daily life, it's easy to feel like there's just not enough time. But when we intentionally make space for God in the middle of it all, we create a foundation that will carry our families through anything. Faith becomes something more than just a Sunday routine—it becomes woven into our everyday moments. Just like my dad's quiet Bible study at the kitchen table left a lasting impact on me, we have the chance to do the same for our kids. So, let's keep it simple—whether through a quick prayer, a song on the way to school, or a moment of stillness before bed. Those little moments matter, and they add up to something big. Let's invest in making our homes a place where faith is alive, real, and part of every day. 🌿

36 hours could change your life

DISCOVERY
WEEKENDS

MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKENDS: 4/25-27, 7/20-22, 8/8-10

WOMEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND: 10/17-19

QUESTIONS ABOUT DISCOVERY WEEKENDS?
CONTACT TODD PETTAVINO AT 229-3963

Trent Barnett

Team highlights



In 2005, Trent began volunteering to lead worship for Live Oak Church's Student Ministry. After graduating from LSU in 2008, he pursued his calling further by earning a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2011. In 2012, he officially joined the Live Oak staff as Worship Pastor, where his heart for ministry continues to shine.

Trent seeks to oversee the Worship Ministry with a clear vision: to inspire people to actively engage in worship and encounter the Lord in a meaningful way. He leads and mentors teams for 8 worship services each week, ranging from Sunday morning gatherings for Adults and Preteens to Midweek services for Adults, Students, and Preteens. His focus is not only on creating excellent worship experiences, but also on recruiting, developing, and empowering volunteers to grow as worship leaders and shepherds. With Trent's leadership, the Worship Ministry cultivates an environment where hearts are drawn closer to the Savior and lives are transformed through authentic worship.

Trent is a native of Denham Springs, Louisiana, where he was born and raised. He and his wife, Brittany, have been happily married since 2013 and are the proud parents of Caroline, who brings so much joy to their lives. They share their home with their dog, Millie, who adds an extra dose of fun, love, and chaos to their lives.

Q&A

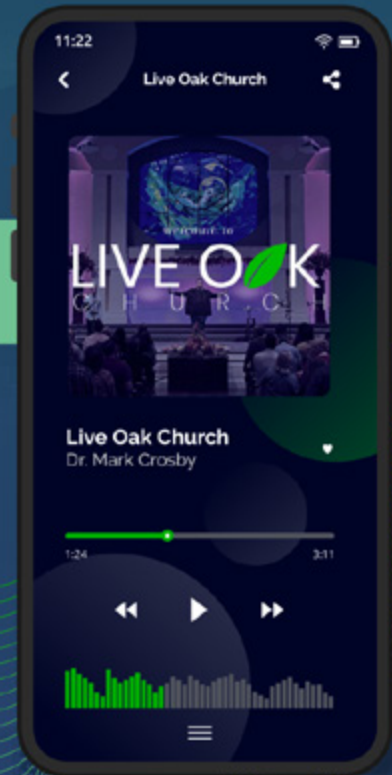
- **If you could have any superpower, what would it be?:**
The ability to fly, so I can travel more easily.
- **What's the most random talent you have?:**
It's not random, but it isn't widely known - I'm a black belt in Taekwondo. It's not as cool as Professor Nathan's Jiu-Jitsu empire, but it'll do.
- **If you could instantly become an expert at something, what would it be?:**
Piano. I dabble at it, but becoming an instant expert would be great!
- **What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?:**
Horse meat in Ecuador.
- **If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, what would it be?:**
This is a tough one. I don't know that I could pick just one song. My favorite worship song currently is "Holy Forever."
- **Do you have any pets? Tell us about them!:**
Millie is our dog we rescued during COVID. Her DNA test says she's a Pitbull Chihuahua, but... we have our doubts.
- **If you were stuck on a deserted island, what three things would you bring?:**
A lighter, a hatchet, and a pot for cooking

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LIVE OAK
CHURCH



JOURNEYING *Through* GRIEF

AT LIVE OAK CHURCH

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
6:30 pm in the Chapel

For More Information Contact:
Pastor Stephen | Stephen@liveoak.church

meet our team

Reach Us at info@liveoak.church



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Trish Graves
Business
Administrator



Rev. Trent Barnett
Worship Pastor



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care



Rev. Nathan Lott
Young Adults &
Student Pastor



Faith Storck
Director of
Children's Ministry



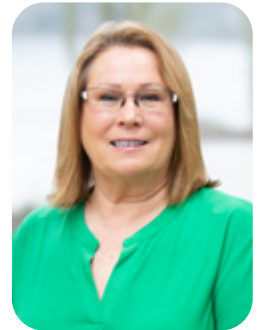
Madison Cody
Children's
Minister



Rev. Krist Norsworthy
Young Adults Pastor
& Communications



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



Jim Otken
Treasurer



Liz White
Office
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Mark Herbst
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6 pm in the Chapel
The First Sunday of Every Month

<https://www.liveoakchurch/young-adults>

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at Live Oak Church

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Anna Wilkins
MA, MS, PLPC



Danielle Hatch
PLPC, CGP, NCC



Summer Renee Babin
Counseling Intern



Jason Cooper
Counseling Intern



Melissa Benton-Hebert
Counseling Intern



Alyssa Lott Osborne
Counseling Intern



Destiny Sadler
Counseling Intern

LIFELINE

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF ADDICTED YOUTH AND ADULTS

Parents of addicted youth and adults often feel isolated because of the stigma and shame surrounding substance abuse. However, addiction does not discriminate. Addiction affects families from all walks of life, all classes, and all communities. Lifeline is a support group where parents can gather to share resources, offer encouragement, and break the stigma. If you are a parent or loved one of a person experiencing addiction, let us be your lifeline of hope.

LIVE OAK CHURCH
1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Group Leader: Summer Babin