



# The Branch NewsLETTER

*"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5*

A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church  
Phone # 210-656-8200 FAX # 210-656-0848  
Web Site: <http://www.liveoakfbc.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LiveOakFirstBaptistChurch>

*Donald Valenta, Pastor*  
*Paul Reavis, Minister of Music & Education*  
*Rachel Dorchester, Secretary*

Volume 23

June 2017

Number 6

## Happy Father's Day

For the LORD disciplines  
the one He loves, just as a  
father disciplines the son  
in whom He delights.

Proverbs 3:12 CSB

## From Our Pastor

Worship is a personal encounter with a Holy God and our response to Him which results in a change in the individual worshipper. Do you have worship that transforms?

Moses had a worship experience in his encounter with God at the burning bush in Exodus 3 that revealed God's mission for him and changed his life. Isaiah experienced a cleansing from sin in his worship that resulted in him being changed and willing to be God's servant on mission for Him.

Worship that transforms must be personal. You must listen for your name and respond to God and allow Him to deal with you personally. Do you come to worship expecting just to hear songs and a sermon, or do you come expecting God to address you? When we encounter God in worship, we should recognize that we are in the presence of a Holy God, slow down for a little while to hear Him, and think more about God than about our comfort. We must also know that God cares and loves us deeply as we experience His transforming work of grace in worship.

Finally, let your worship experience make a difference. Moses didn't just enjoy God for a few moments and go about his business. His encounter with God made a difference in his life. Let's personally commit to strive for transformational worship that continually addresses God in prayer with reverence, awe, praise, thanksgiving, humble submission and obedience.

I hope to see you in Bible study and worship seeking to be transformed by God through your growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Your Pastor,  
*Brother Donald*

## From Our Minister of Music & Education

My father dropped out of school after the eighth grade to work on the family farm. He left the farm at 16 to work in the oil fields. He boarded in my mom's home in East Texas, married her, got baptized and had four children. He supported mom as she went back to college after I was in elementary school. She finished her degree and taught elementary school until she retired. All four children earned bachelor's and master's degrees and entered various types of ministry.

I always felt that, though "uneducated", dad was the smartest of all of us. He was faithful, worked hard at the refinery, taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, was a deacon and went out on weekly visitation. As Father's Day comes, I miss him and his support.

Lively Oaks, we take a road trip this month on the 8<sup>th</sup> to the Little Red Barn Steak House. We will meet at 11:00 am and carpool across town.

The bells will ring this month. We welcome Kathy Rigsby to the group, but we are losing four ringers: Betty Blomberg, who is moving; Abby Valenta, who is going off to college; and of course, Collye Washington and Marguerite Reavis. As I said last month, if you would like to give ringing a try and can read basic music, let me know.

Have a safe and happy summer! As you go on vacation and worship elsewhere, bring me a worship bulletin.

*Paul*



# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Karen Childs       | 22 Marga Ward      |
| 9 Jo Wangerow        | 22 Jennifer Miller |
| 14 Faith White       | 23 Joseph Taylor   |
| 16 Donna Vickers     | 23 Sharon Mitchell |
| 19 Bernard De Vaughn |                    |

\*\*\*\*\*

## Women's Ministry Meeting



**June 15, Thursday  
6:30 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Cultivate Relationships:  
Dare to Be Authentic**

One of the best ways to cultivate relationships is to be authentic. People can sense when others mask the truth or live by wearing an exterior facade. Dare to be authentic with us as we cultivate relationships!

Join us for Bible study, dinner, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Check the menu on the bulletin board in the foyer.

The Women's Ministry will be doing a special project for Operation Christmas Child and will need donations of material in bright colors. Please, no prints.

### Deacon of the Week

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| June 4  | Mario Ward |
| June 11 | Ken Bean   |
| June 18 | Lalo Peña  |
| June 25 | Donnie Cox |



**Lessons  
From the  
Life of Jesus  
Sundays at  
5:30 pm**

**June 25 thru October 8, 2017**

Have you ever wished you could study the life of Jesus at a relaxed pace, in chronological order, with plenty of opportunity to voice questions? Join us for this 13-week series, which will take us through the early days of Jesus. By examining the details of the stories, we will discover truths often missed in casual reading.

This series will be led by Sam Mitchell, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute and LeTourneau University. Sam has spent thousands of hours researching the life of Jesus with a view to determining its chronology and meaning, and has been leading Bible studies since 1970.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Lively Oaks Meeting



**June 8  
11:00 am  
Little Red Barn  
For ages 50+**

Join us for a delicious lunch and a time of fellowship at the Little Red Barn Steakhouse, a San Antonio landmark since 1963. We will carpool from the church at 11:00 a.m.