



The Branch NewsLETTER

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

A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church
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*"I am the resurrection
and the life. The one
who believes in me,
even if he dies,
will live."*



John 11:25 CSB

From Our Pastor

Most people are familiar with the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:45–50). The young shepherd boy with only a sling and a few stones defeated the Philistine giant. This amazing victory and incredible story reveals what happens when God is on our side and we put our faith in Him. The great truths of this story apply to our Christian lives. The victory of faith and the power of God at work in our world inspire us as we face the Goliaths of our lives.

We face all kinds of Goliaths today that can be defeated as we respond in Christ to gain the victory. For example, the Goliath of doubt is out to defeat you. What are some things you have doubts about? Friends, family, finances, relationships, your salvation, the future? The Bible says faith in God overcomes doubt. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). Let's respond with faith in Christ to overcome our doubts.

Another Goliath we face is despair. The Israelites despaired that no one was willing to face Goliath. What are some things that frustrate you? Have you failed at something? Are you in trouble? Are you upset and angry about something beyond your control? The Goliath of despair wants you to give up, but hope in God overcomes despair. Remember the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ will give you hope. Christ in you is the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). Let's respond with hope in Christ to overcome our despair.

Finally, sometimes we face the Goliath of fear. The Goliath of fear attempts to mold you into a miserable coward who is paralyzed to the point that you can do nothing. What is it that makes you afraid? People, places, situations? Whatever makes you afraid, remember that love overcomes fear. The scripture declares that love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). Let's respond with a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline to overcome our fears (2 Timothy 1:7).

Yes, we have giants in our lives, Goliaths that seek to defeat us. But if we are believers in Christ, He is present with us and His presence makes the difference. Romans 8:31 asks, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Just as the Lord was with David, so He wants to be with you, to enable you to defeat the giants that seek to crush you. Put your faith in Jesus. Our victory is through Him! Let your hope be in Him. Allow His love to make the difference. I hope to see you in worship and Bible Study as we seek the one true God who empowers us to be victorious over our giants.

Your Pastor,

Brother Donald

From Our Minister of Music & Education

Although Easter has passed when you read this, we need to keep the excitement of the risen Christ in our hearts. When Jesus defeated death, He provided a way for us to be with Him for eternity. He also provides leadership of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Be careful to thank Him every day for His salvation and leadership.

I am grateful for all the leaders who contribute to my ministry. The Sunday School teachers, choir members, committee members and deacons bring joy as they serve their Master. Nerissa and Rachel are so faithful as they help lead in worship every week.

Lively Oaks will be going to GG's Corner Café in Marion on Thursday, April 12. We will meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. to car-pool to Marion. Come join us!

Be praying for our VBS staff as they prepare for VBS in July. Thanks to Linda Bean for being our director this year.

To quote the angel at the tomb: "He is not here. He is risen!"

Hallelujah!

Paul



Lively Oaks Meeting

April 12
11:15 am
GG's Corner Café
For Ages 50+



- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Juanita Bunn | 16 Tracy Ballard |
| 6 Bob Matthews | 19 Bubba Stewart |
| 8 Marie Carr | 21 Dot Peacock |
| 13 Jimmy Fay Davison | 24 Carol Carr |
| 14 David Carter | 27 Jamie Alexander |
| 15 Steven Hartness | 30 Sheila Filleman |

Join us for lunch at GG's Corner Café located in the heart of Marion on the corner of Hwy 78 and LaVernia St. Enjoy charming dining and friendly service in the historic 100-year-old building.

Meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. and carpool to the restaurant.

Women's Ministry Meeting

April 19
Thursday
6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall



What does kite flying have to do with mission? Can we make missions engaging, meaningful, and fun? How do we invest in others, reach beyond church walls, and enjoy the journey? Let's celebrate National Kite Month and discover ways to answer these questions.

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Hosted by Boy Scouts



April 14th
8 to 9 am

The Boy Scout Troop 239 is hosting a **FREE Men's Breakfast** in the church fellowship hall on April 14th at 8 am. Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer so we will know how much food to prepare.

Deacon Ordination Service

April 22, 2018
Sunday at 6:30 pm

You are cordially invited to the ordination of Richard Filleman to serve as a deacon in Live Oak First Baptist Church.

Deacon of the Week

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|----------|--------------|
| April 1 | Ken Bean |
| April 8 | Danny O'Neil |
| April 15 | Lalo Peña |
| April 22 | Donnie Cox |
| April 29 | Mario Ward |