



# 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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Web Site: <http://www.liveoakfbc.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LiveOakFirstBaptistChurch>

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**Sunday–Thursday**  
**July 8–12 at 6 to 9 pm**  
**Kick-Off is Sunday, July 8 @ 5 pm**

It's time to gear up for the big game! Grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, and tune up your instruments. It's go time! As kids get ready for the big game, they will learn that the goal is not competing in their own strength because God has already equipped them everything they need.

Join us at 5 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> for hot dogs, drinks, chips, and games as you get registered.

VBS is open to kids ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and is FREE—whether you attend Live Oak First Baptist or not.

You can pre-register at [www.liveoakfbc.org](http://www.liveoakfbc.org) or call 210-656-8200.

## From Our Pastor

Jesus longs for us to have a religion that is life-giving and liberating which hinges on a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus says, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). For Jesus, faith was meant to be life-giving, sincere, and personal. He found the very opposite of such a faith embodied in the Pharisees (Matthew 23). The Pharisees' religion was characterized by pride, hypocrisy, heavy burdens, and performance for show. How can we make certain our faith is what Jesus wants it to be? How can we make sure we're not victims of bad religion?

First, true faith must be received personally. God is personal and our faith in him must be personal. We cannot rely on the faith of our spouse, parents or friends. They can lead, encourage, and guide us; but ultimately, faith must be personal if it is to be meaningful. Furthermore, rituals, traditions, and even church attendance are no substitute for personal faith. Jesus confronts the disciples as well as us with the important question "who do you say I am" (Matthew 16:14)? Jesus is interested in personal faith, not hearsay or rumor.

Secondly, genuine faith must be prayerfully nurtured. Prayer is communication with God. Like all other relationships, it depends on active, open communications. Prayer is not just talking to God; it is also listening to Him. Prayer enables us to better understand God and His will for our lives. Let's nurture our faith through continual prayer to God.

Finally, true faith must be practically demonstrated. James put it best: "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:17). Faith that is never practiced results in an undeveloped, immature spiritual life. Our world and our churches

do not need more religion. We need faith that is healthy, empowering, and genuine. Faith in the Lord Jesus allows us to experience the abundant life here and hereafter. A spiritual life that is personal, prayerful, and practical can enable us to achieve that goal.

Let's strive for the religion and faith that pleases God.

Your Pastor,  
*Brother Donald*

## From Our Minister of Music & Education

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!! That pretty well sums up my article! Please keep praying for our VBS faculty and administration as final preparations are made and the school begins. Pray every day from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> as we lead the children in Bible Study, music, crafts and games. Also, pray that God will work in the hearts of families in our neighborhood that they will trust us with their children.

Hats off and bouquets to Linda Bean for an amazing amount of work preparing and planning for VBS and leading our workers through their training. Things are a little different this year and will be even more different next year.

I am thankful for our choir for being faithful through the start of Summer. If you would like to sing with us for Christmas, I will let you know when it is time.

Lively Oaks will enjoy some home-style seafood this month at Bayseas Seafood Restaurant. Meet us on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. VBS workers, this will be a nice break from our work through the week.

*Paul*



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Elsie Cureton     | 11 Aiden Sawyer    |
| 6 Blake Belardo     | 19 Cole Stewart    |
| 7 Nasemary Brantley | 20 Paulette Visser |
| 8 Shirley Hetzer    | 31 Jerry Atkinson  |
| 11 Aaliyah Mace     | 31 Nikki Sawyer    |

## Deacon of the Week

- |         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| July 1  | Donnie Cox       |
| July 8  | Danny O'Neil     |
| July 15 | Ken Bean         |
| July 22 | Mario Ward       |
| July 29 | Richard Filleman |

## Lively Oaks Meeting

July 12  
at 11:30 am  
Bay Seas Rest.  
For ages 50+



Join us for lunch at Bay Seas Restaurant for home-style seafood. We will carpool from the church at 11:30 a.m.



BEGINS Sunday, July 15, 5:15 p.m.

### Ten Questions Christians are Asking

By Dr. David Jeremiah

Led by Richard Filleman

Looking for answers to some of the most difficult challenges for the Christian today? Where there are question marks in our minds and spirits, we need the truths and promises of Scripture. God has the answers to the questions people are asking! Dr. Jeremiah provides answers to **ten questions Christians are asking today**. Let God turn your questions marks into exclamation points of praise.

1. How Can I Be Sure of My Salvation?
2. How Can I Overcome Temptation?
3. How Can I Get Victory Over Worry?
4. How Can I Find Forgiveness?
5. Is There Only One Way to God?
6. Why Do Christians Have So Many Problems?
7. Why Don't My Prayers Get Answered?
8. Is There a Sin God Cannot Forgive?
9. What Is Faith?
10. What Is the Greatest Commandment?

## Beginning July to September



RACAP (Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program) will need donations of basic school supplies, packed in JUMBO zip lock bags starting in July. Please collect the following items and fill a bag or two as follows:

### Elementary School

#2 pencils, washable markers, rulers, crayons, wide rule spiral notebooks, paper and composition books, scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks, and pens.

### High School/Jr High School

#2 pencils, pens, college rule paper, spiral notebooks and composition books.