



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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Stewardship Banquet

Stewardship is LORDship -

- Time
- Talents
- Treasures



Everyone is invited to our annual **Stewardship Banquet** to be held on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Sign up on the church's bulletin board to bring a side-dish, salad or dessert, based on the last name of your family.

Gratitude is the Heart of Stewardship. Seek God's will as He challenges us to pray and consider how we can be good stewards with our time, talents and treasures to carry out the Great Commission.

From Our Pastor

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We know this is God’s instructions to the follower of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we wonder how we can give thanks when the “every things” of life overwhelm us. What do we do when the culprit of disillusionment, disappointment, discouragement, and despair try to steal the joy of gratitude? Often believers need to be reminded that there are some things that only God gives and they can not be taken away from them. The apostle Paul mentioned these qualities in 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 as he prayed for the Thessalonian believers.

First, God gives unconditional love. Remember that God loves you with agape love. Human love comes with regulations, restrictions, and reciprocations, but God’s love is unconditional. Second, God gives unmerited grace. We are accepted into God’s family by grace through faith, not by the appearance of our moral goodness. Grace comes from God. His grace is sufficient to sustain and empower the believer in Christ Jesus. The only appropriate response to God’s grace is great gratitude and God’s kind of grace extended to others who need it. Third, God gives inward encouragement. All kinds of threats come to modern Christians. Their minds are troubled, and they need an inward encouragement that only God can give through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Finally, God gives an unbelievable hope. God gave us “good hope”. Secularistic thinking can come up with wishful thinking, but only God can give a confident certainty. No one holds the future but God. The death and resurrection of Jesus give certainty about the future. Because He lives, we who abide in Christ, will live, too.

Where can you get love, grace, encouragement, and hope? You can get those things only from God who enables us to have a heart of gratitude. So, we can truly give thanks in the “every things” of life when we focus on the love, grace, encouragement, and hope that God gives.

I look forward to seeing you in our worship service as we give praise and thanks to God.

Your Pastor,

Brother Donald

From Our Minister of Music & Education

November is the thankful month! We can be thankful for all we have. We can be thankful for cooler weather! The Thanksgiving Day celebrations are wonderful times to be with family and friends. Beautiful hymns have been written to help us express our thankfulness.

“We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing...”

“Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home...”

“Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices...”

“As men of old their first-fruits brought, of orchard, flock, and field...”

“Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise...”

“Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise...”

“For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God...”

“...Count your many blessings, name them one by one...”

“For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies...”

Use these in your private or family devotions to help you find the words to express your thanks.

Lively Oaks, our luncheon this month is at Salsalito’s Cantina Mexican Restaurant on Nacogdoches. Meet us at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool on Thursday, November 8.

Paul

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Jim Scott | 22 Anna Stulas |
| 6 Elizabeth Orozco | 23 Richard Filleman |
| 9 Diane Soliz | 23 John Davison |
| 12 Donald Valenta | 24 Becky Willetts |
| 14 Henrietta Glowacz | 25 Pete Mathenia |
| 16 Amanda Wilson | 28 Becky Stewart |
| 19 Roberta Fountain | 30 Margie Bates |

Holiday Food Baskets



Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP) is collecting donations of food for their holiday meal baskets. Non-perishable food donations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are needed by November 6th. Call RACAP for food list. Donated funds will be used to purchase turkeys and perishable items for the baskets. RACAP is accepting applications from families who need assistance. For the deadline to sign up and for more information, please call RACAP office at 210-658-1613.

Lively Oaks Meeting

November 8
11:30 am

Salsalito's Mexican Rest.
Nacodoches Road
For ages 50+



Join us for a lunch and fellowship at Salsalito's Mexican restaurant for Mexican classics served in a roomy setting with a warm atmosphere. We will carpool from the church at 11:30 a.m.

Women's Ministry Meeting

Thursday,
November 15
6:30 pm,
Fellowship Hall



Know God More—
Know His Plan

What is a piece of bad news you've received? What is some good news you've received? God's plan is that all would have an opportunity to know Him. Pray for those who are still waiting for someone to share the truth of Jesus with them in such a way that they can understand.

Join us for Bible study, dinner, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Check in the foyer for the menu of the meal.



Remember our veterans on November 11th for their service and sacrifices to preserve our heritage of freedom. Pray for the men, women, and their families serving us now.

Deacon of the Week

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|-------------|--------------|
| November 4 | Donnie Cox |
| November 11 | Danny O'Neil |
| November 18 | Ken Bean |
| November 25 | Mario Ward |