

# The Branch NewsLETTER

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

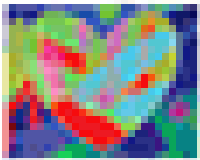
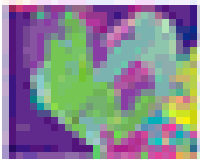
A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church  
Phone # 210-656-8200 FAX # 210-656-0848  
Web Site: <http://www.liveoakfbc.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/LiveOakFirstBaptistChurch>

Donald Valenta, Pastor  
Paul Reavis, Minister of Music & Education

Volume 25

February 2019

Number 2



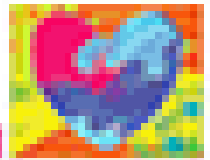
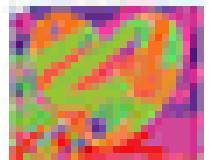
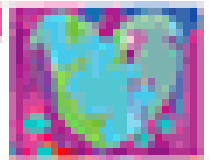
Youth sponsored  
*Valentine Dinner*

Saturday, February 16

5:30 pm

*All proceeds will go toward camp fees*

*Please sign up in the foyer*



---

## Deacon Training

Saturday, February 9

8:00 am to noon

Mark Spain, NC Baptist Hospital Chaplain will equip deacons to make hospital visits 8:30 - 9:45 am  
Will Bearden, BGCT Chaplaincy Relations Specialist, will facilitate a session on death, dying and the grief process beginning at 10 am which is open to everyone.

## From Our Pastor

I've been exploring the subject of the "spirit-filled life" and the implications it has for the believer in Christ Jesus. Paul instructs the Ephesus believers to "be not drunk with wine wherein is excess but be filled with the spirit." "Spirit-filled", in this case, is about being under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Who or what is influencing or controlling your life? Is it people, circumstances, emotions or the living God working on the inside of you?

Let's examine what one must do to enjoy the fruits of a "spirit-filled life". Total dependence on God is absolutely necessary to experience a spirit-controlled life. The "spirit-filled life" begins once we are thoroughly convinced that we can do nothing apart from the indwelling strength of the Holy Spirit. Total surrender is the other ingredient that leads to a "spirit-filled life". Until we give up or surrender our life to God, we aren't really in a position to be helped.

Once a believer totally depends and surrenders to God then the fruit of the "spirit-filled life" is manifested in their life. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23). Is the fruit of the spirit being produced in your life? Does the Holy Spirit have total control and influence on your life? Will you depend on God and fully surrender it all to Him? I pray that you live the "spirit-filled life" because this is the will of God.

Your Pastor,  
*Brother Donald*

## From Our Minister of Music & Education

February is known for love in all shapes and forms. Valentine's Day is popular at school and sweethearts share flowers, candy and nice dinners. Several local choruses sell singing valentines as a fund-raiser. We are bombarded from Hollywood with secular, physical love themes.

We, as Christians, know the true meaning of love, because God showed it to us through His Son and the sacrifice He made for us. There must be hundreds of scripture verses dealing with the subject of love. "Love your neighbor as yourself," "Let us love one another," "Greater love has no man..." are a few.

We also have access to great hymns on the subject. "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Jesus Loves Me," "O How He Loves You and Me," and "Love is the Theme" to name a few. I am a proponent of using the hymns in private, personal devotions because they help us put our feelings into words.

February is also Black History Month. What better way to show true love than to love people of every race and creed? Let God love others through you. Another chorus written says "I Love You With the Love of the Lord". Let's practice what we preach and sing!

*Paul*

# february

BIRTHDAYS

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Sandy Daeschler | 13 Misty Cox    |
| 3 Stacey Hartness | 17 Jim Kennis   |
| 5 Clyde Smith     | 22 Sam Mitchell |
| 11 Irma Salas     | 27 Paula Emmons |



## Lively Oaks Meeting

February 14<sup>th</sup>  
 11:30 a.m. at  
 Chester's.  
 For ages 50+

We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and carpool to the restaurant.



## Church Library

Open Sundays  
 10:30–10:50 am

Books, DVDs, CDs, & More!  
 We have resources for teachers, Bible study helps, videos, fiction and non-fiction books. We also have a children's section with videos and books.

### Deacon of the Week

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 3  | Ken Bean         |
| February 10 | Danny O'Neil     |
| February 17 | Mario Ward       |
| February 24 | Richard Filleman |

# Women's Ministry Meeting

*Sometimes God wants us to do the hard things*



Women's ministry will meet at 6:30, Thursday night February 21<sup>st</sup>. Food, fellowship, Bible study, prayer and information about our missionaries around the world are all part of the program. We will discuss ways we can trust God fully even when we doubt. Come and join us!

*Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> the Berean Class will host a wedding shower for Erica Valenta. Plan to attend the shower immediately after the morning worship*