



## The Living Branch Newsletter Logan Elm Baptist Church



August, 2020

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart”

Philippians 1:3-7, NJKV

In his letters to the churches that he had helped establish the apostle Paul expressed his sincere love and appreciation for his fellow believers. He also commended other believers for their faithfulness that he had heard about, though he had not yet had the opportunity to meet them. (See Romans 1:8-12) Of course, we know that the Lord is the One who is called *Faithful and True* (Revelation 19:11), therefore, He is the One who enables believers to be faithful. All glory to Him. But it is entirely appropriate to acknowledge and express sincere appreciation for the faithfulness that others demonstrate in their service for our truly faithful God.

I probably know the LEBC family as well as anyone else – except the all-knowing One. We are like other churches: we are saved sinners who have not yet been perfectly sanctified (Philippians 3:12-14). We have our shortcomings, weaknesses and flaws. For example, we are weak (rather anemic) in the area of evangelism. Based on baptisms over the past several years, it has been a long time since we have seen anyone converted (saved) who was not from within our fellowship (i.e., children of our attendees). The purpose for this article is not to point out our weaknesses, but I do acknowledge them.

Having acknowledged our shortcomings, I’ve recently been thinking about your faithfulness. Some of you may be familiar with the term *summer slump*. It refers to the three months when school is out and churches usually experience a downturn in service attendance, activities, and giving. Some churches will even suspend some of their usual activities during the school break because of the number of families who go on vacation or take a break from regular church attendance. Consequently, some churches experience a decrease in offerings. However, LEBC has “flattened the curve” (to borrow a phrase that has been in the news a lot recently). You have flattened the typical downward curve that churches experience.

We are now two-thirds of the way through the usual summer school break. (I say “usual” because of this year’s “unusual” school year.) Your attendance at our services, including involvement in this year’s VBS, has been almost what it was before the pandemic. In light of the fact that several of our regular attendees have still not resumed regular church attendance, and in spite of the fact that several have been absent for vacation (and others still plan to go on vacation), your faithful attendance has been quite remarkable. Sunday night attendance on one recent Sunday was considerably higher than even before the pandemic!

If your attendance has been remarkable, your giving has been even more remarkable. I’ve heard reports about churches and ministries (e.g., *Elizabeth’s Hope*) that have suffered a serious drop in contributions since March. Your faithful giving to LEBC, even during the 8 weeks when we did not gather, exceeded our budget requirements. Our financial secretary reported at our church business session that giving was up 5% over the budget. This has also occurred when there has been an interruption in the regular giving of some of our attendees. And the faithful giving of many has continued through the summer weeks. In addition to that, I reported in the last newsletter that the VBS and church had collected \$1100.47

in a special offering for *Elizabeth's Hope*, which was a generous response to their current need. But you weren't done. By the time we presented the offering to Kelly Pruitt, the center assistant manager, the grand total had grown to \$3304.47!

I mention these things, not to give glory to you, but to say that your faithfulness is to the glory of God – who deserves all the glory, honor, and praise. May the Lord abundantly supply you with His grace to keep on keeping on!

Joyfully serving our Lord together with you,

Pastor Dave

[pastor.david@lebc.org](mailto:pastor.david@lebc.org)

740-601-8047



[Sunday activities: prayer meeting, 8:00-8:30AM; Bible study for all ages, 8:45-9:45AM;

Morning service, 10:00; evening service, 5:45. Wednesday activities, 6:45PM]

August 2 Wayne Rossiter will be speaking in both the morning and evening services

August 9 *Singspiration*, 5:45PM

August 16 Men's Breakfast and study, 7:30AM

August 29 Church Council Meeting, 8:00AM

August 30 Lord's Supper during the 10:00AM service; final summer social

### LEBC Orientation Course

Requirements for membership at Logan Elm Baptist are few but firm. A person must:

- Have a clear testimony of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.
- Have been baptized (immersed in water) by the authority of a church that teaches that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and is *eternal*. Once a person is born again, he is forever a child of God and can never be separated from the love of God in Christ.
- Attend and complete LEBC's orientation course and sign the Church Covenant.

The next Orientation Course will be conducted on Saturday mornings, August 15 & 22 from 9:00AM till noon (a total of 6 hours). If you plan to attend the course please notify Kim [secretary@lebc.org](mailto:secretary@lebc.org) or call the church office, 740-474-1614, in order for us to have an adequate supply of materials. This course is also open to those who are interested in learning more about LEBC's history, doctrine, and organization, the Southern Baptist Convention, and more.



## Operation Christmas Child

We do not know what OCC will look like this year but have received word it is still available to us. So, keep your donations coming in and we will keep you posted.

Blessings to all of you.



We have a very special need beginning in September. We need a couple, or 1 adult with a teen helper, to teach the 1 and 2-year olds. Please be in prayer for this very important teaching position. Contact Karen at 740-412-2819 if interested.

We would like to set a goal of increasing our attendance in Sunday School. We have 120 names on our rosters, but even before the pandemic, averages had been around 75-80 per Sunday. Please make an effort to attend on a regular basis and to arrive by 8:45 so the teacher can start on time. Small groups, like Sunday School, is a good place to do an in-depth study of the Bible.

Help your teacher by following up with those who have missed to see if there are special needs and to let them know they are missed. Reach out to your neighbors, friends, family who do not attend church or Sunday School. We live in a broken world and their eternity is at stake.

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6.

Our teachers do a great job of preparing the lesson each week and their dedication to share the Good News through the Gospel Project.

We are coming up on our final year of the chronological study of the Bible through the Gospel Project. Thinking ahead - if you have any recommendations on what the next curriculum might be, let us know so we can review.

Karen Clark, Co-director Sunday School



BIRTHDAYS

DANIEL MITCHELL-AUGUST 4  
JOSIE DELONG-AUGUST 5  
CARL AMSPAUGH-AUGUST 10  
JEANINE MCDOWELL-AUGUST 11  
DUSTIN STEINHAUSSER-AUGUST 11  
REBECCA KARST-AUGUST 12  
BROOKLYN HERRON-AUGUST 18  
JAMES HARBER-AUGUST 19  
ADAM LOVE-AUGUST 20  
IDA KUHLEWEIN-AUGUST 26  
LUKE VANDETTE-AUGUST 27  
GLADYS STOWERS-AUGUST 28  
ERIC WILSON-AUGUST 28  
ETHAN DELONG-AUGUST 29  
GERALD VOSS-AUGUST 31

ANNIVERSARIES

BOB & KAREN CLARK-AUGUST 1  
CARL & JODY AMSPAUGH-AUGUST 27

