

SMALL GROUPS | DROPS FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

# *the messenger*

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / AUGUST 2023

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR'S  
DESK

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HAVE YOU  
EVER  
NOTICED?

---

HELPING  
THE HELPLESS  
AMONG US

---

KIDS: FROM IDENTIFY  
LOST TO IDENTITY  
FOUND

NOT YOUR  
AVERAGE  
SUMMER CAMP

# CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER OF LIVE OAK CHURCH?

It begins right here!

## CONNECT CARD

IF YOU ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU! BE SURE TO FILL OUT THIS CARD AND BRING IT TO THE CONNECTION CENTER. WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

TODAY'S DATE:

NAME:  BIRTHDATE:

STREET ADDRESS:  CITY:

EMAIL:

PRIMARY PHONE:   HOME  MOBILE  
 WORK  OTHER

FIRST TIME GUEST  RETURNING GUEST

MEMBER OF LIVE OAK CHURCH

### FAMILY INFORMATION

SPOUSE (IF APPLICABLE):  BIRTHDATE:

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE):  BIRTHDATE:

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE):  BIRTHDATE:

CHILDREN (IF APPLICABLE):  BIRTHDATE:

I HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST  I WANT TO JOIN LIVE OAK

I AM INTERESTED IN BAPTISM  I WANT TO UPDATE MY INFORMATION

I AM INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY GROUPS

TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY SAVIOR

# LIVE OAK

Located at the Information Desk

## GET CONNECTED TODAY!



## articles & devotions

### 07 from the pastor's desk

"When you see these things, look up your redemption draws nigh (Luke 21:28)."

### 08 have you ever noticed?

God loves you and has sovereign oversight of your life. He wants to help you and not harm you.

### 10 kids: from identity lost to identity found

As a parent, you are the first line of defense. It is up to you to talk with your child and have real conversations every day.

*identity found pg. 10*



## newsletter & updates

### 12 not your average summer camp

Last month, we held our annual Children's Choir Summer Music Camp - and it was another great year!

### 16 helping the most helpless

On Thursday, June 29th, our Church hosted a lunch and learn for our pastors, our counselors and our laity that have shared a desire to take part in this new ministry.



- 5 MONTHLY EVENTS
- 6 SMALL GROUPS
- 14 SENIOR ADULTS
- 22 MEET OUR TEAM



# CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Peggy Babin

Linda Barker

Tobin Barker

Blake Bassett

Tori Bassett

Martin Blacklock, Sr.

Janice Blount

Jesse Blount

Sarah Briscoe

Tammy Briscoe

Wesley Briscoe

Cheryl Cashio

Heather Duplessis

Jada Duplessis

Tommy Foster, Jr

James Guillaume

Lisa Guillaume

Tommy Foster, Jr.

Coby Hebert

Lucy Hebert

Tiffany James

Raymond Johnson

Jeanne Keretz

Jacob Langston

Lou Ann Langston

Kathryn Maust

Michelle McAllister

Collin McClure

Mary Medlock

Gary Olson

Chris Pertuis

Robert Sanders

Brett Savant

Candice Savant

Brad Smith

Lindsey Smith

Ashley Stark

Keith Stark

Rachel Taylor

Shane Taylor

Glen Tetrick

Dallas Turner

Jessica Turner

Jason Wells

Patricia Wells

Dana Ydarraga

Mark Ydarraga

# AUGUST 2023 | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## a time and a place for everyone

For more information about groups and events visit [www.liveoak.church](http://www.liveoak.church) or call (225) 664-4801

### - WEEKLY CALENDAR -

#### SUNDAY

- 8:00 AM Worship Service
- 8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School  
Sherri Gardner: K-3rd - Room #214  
Jodi Rushing: 4th - 6th - Room #213
- 8:45 AM Student Ministry:  
Linda Johnson: 7-11th Grade - Upstairs in FLC  
Nathan Lott: 12th Grade - Age 25 - Upstairs in FLC
- 8:45 AM Adult Co-ed Sunday School Classes:  
Pastor Mark Crosby - Choir Room  
Dickie Davis - Room #202  
Sam LoBello - New Members Class - Room #102
- 8:45 AM Senior Adults Sunday School Class:  
Layne Hutchinson - Room #201
- 9:30 AM Co-ed Sunday School Class:  
Robert Poole - Room #211
- 9:30 AM Children's Church
- 9:30 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
- 9:30 AM Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:  
Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC
- 11:00 AM Kid's Sunday School - Room 213
- 11:00 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
- 11:00 AM Worship Service

#### MONDAY

- 6:30 PM Women's Deeper Life - Chapel
- 6:30 PM Men's Deeper Life - Room #201
- 6:30 PM Men's Home Bible Study - Robert Poole's House

#### TUESDAY

- 6:30 PM - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month - Chapel  
Stephen Hebert - Bible Prophecy: The Essentials

#### WEDNESDAY

- 8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC
- 9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online
- 6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: Completed K - 3rd Grade
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM Axis 456: 4th, 5th and 6th Grade
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM Student Ministry: 7th - 12th Grade
- 6:30 - 7:20 PM Dr. Mark's Class - Adults
- 6:30 - 7:20 PM Bible Recap - Ladies - Room #202

#### THURSDAY

- 6:00 PM Men's Play and Pray Basketball - FLC
- 7:00 PM Refuge - Room #201

#### FRIDAY

- 5:30 AM Iron Man Study - Room #202
- 6:00 PM Adult Co-ed Bible Study - Room #202

### - EVENTS -

#### NEW MEMBERS CLASS

- 8:45am in Room #102
- 4 Week class that restarts the first Sunday of every month.
- Email Sam LoBello at [sam@liveoak.church](mailto:sam@liveoak.church)

#### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

- 6:30pm in the Chapel
- Second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
- For more information email Stephen Hebert at [stephen@liveoak.church](mailto:stephen@liveoak.church)

#### MEN'S MINISTRY

- Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Second Saturday of each month at 7:30AM in Room #202.





# SMALL GROUPS

## **SUNDAYS**

### **Starting at 8:45 AM**

Pastor's Coed Class - 2nd Timothy - Choir Room  
Dickie's Coed Class - The Book of Revelation - Room #202  
Bro. Sam's - New Member Class - Room #102  
Wesley Senior Adult Class - Explore the Bible - Room #201

### **Starting at 9:30 AM**

Robert's Coed Class - Book of Romans - Room #211  
Todd & Sealy Couple's Class - Book of James - Room #202

### **Starting at 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM**

5:00 PM - Nathan Lott - Young Adult Group - FLC  
6:00 PM - Layne Hutchinson's Doctrinal Study (Coed) - Room #202

## **WEEKDAYS**

### **Monday - 6:30 PM**

Deeper Life Women - Isaiah: Striving Less & Trusting More - Jan Tate - Chapel  
Deeper Life Men: Explore the Bible - David Tate - Room #201  
Men's Discipleship Group - Topical - Robert Poole's Home

### **Tuesday - 6:30 PM**

Grief Support Group - (2nd & 4th Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel  
Bible Prophecy: The Essentials - (1st & 3rd Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel

### **Wednesday 6:30 PM**

Worship & Study - Reasons to Believe - Pastor Mark - Sanctuary  
Coed Home Group - 2 Peter - Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home  
Ladies Bible Recap - Room #202 - Jeanette Clark

### **Thursday**

6:00 PM - Men's Play & Pray Basketball and Lesson - Jim Otken - FLC  
7:00 PM - REFUGE Addiction Recovery - Sam LoBello - Room #201

### **Friday**

5:30 AM - Gospel of John - Men's Group - Jim Otken - Room #202  
6:00 PM - Book of James - Coed - Robert Poole - Room #202

### **Second Saturday of Each Month**

7:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study - Daniel: Faithful in the Fire - Sam LoBello - Room #202

Many remember the devastating flood of 2016 seven years ago, and its impact on our community. The “Great Flood of 2016” impacted our community economically, logistically, and psychologically. Many have asked over the years, “Is this a sign of things to come; what does God want to tell us; or is this a part of the many weather pattern changes we have been experiencing for years?”



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*MOST WILL AGREE  
THAT THERE ARE  
EVENTS MAKING  
HEADLINES DAILY THAT  
HAVE PROPHETIC  
UNDERTONES*

Many agree that there have been a plethora of prophetic scenarios in the past seven years as we have experienced devastating hurricanes, record temperatures, social/moral corruption, and a global pandemic. For some, the question seems to be, are these just natural occurrences, or is God fulfilling His word in bringing about changing weather, pestilence, social/moral decline, wars, and the roaring of the seas?

Most will agree that there are events making headlines daily that have prophetic undertones that Jesus warned us to pay close attention to. Jesus declared,

“When you see these things, look up your redemption draws nigh (Luke 21:28).”

Therefore, in August, we will be looking at “Prophecy in the News” (Part 2). We will study the current events and what the Bible declared, predicted, and warned us about as we begin a new month and face some interesting events in our world.

Hope to see you Sunday!

Dr. Mark Crosby  
Senior Pastor

# HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?

by Sam LoBello

As a young man I was caught in the Performance Trap. I was pushing myself to an extreme to accomplish, achieve and produce. My goal was to get to manage the largest volume store in the chain. I accomplished that goal in my early 20's, but lost my family in the process. It was then, in my store in New Orleans that I realized... *You lose sucker!* You see, I had accomplished my goal and produced great results, but to the neglect of the people closest to me. To the neglect of relationships.

At that point I turned my heart toward God and began to seek how I could make this right with Him. I began to attend churches on St. Charles Street, but encountered missionaries sharing their story about their mission's trip to Africa or India. I never heard the Gospel.

I am convinced that God knows our heart. He knew I was seeking Him. He sent someone (Sandy Sherman) to come work in my crew that was a Christian. He walked the walk for three months. He had a joy and a peace and a contentment that I didn't have. I wondered what the difference was with him?

One Saturday afternoon he asked if we could talk after work. I agreed. After we locked up, we went to the stockroom to talk. He shared with me the Roman Road to Salvation...how the Apostle in the book of Romans had written that we all are sinners (3:23), that the wages of our sin is death, but that God offers eternal life to all who will put their faith in Jesus (6:23). He went on to say that God loves sinners (5:8). Then he explained that Jesus is the Savior to all who believe in Him as Lord of all. Having explained that Lord means King, Ruler, Master; he then asked me this question. "Mr. LoBello, what are you going to do with Jesus?"

That night, in all sincerity I ask God to forgive me my sin and accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I placed my faith in Jesus to save me. I was casting myself on the mercy of God, accepting His grace gift of salvation found in Jesus, God's Son. Immediately I felt the weight of my sins removed from me. I was filled with gratitude for Jesus who shed His blood and gave His life for my salvation.

What am I saying? *I was seeking God and He sent someone into*

*my path to point me to Him.* I knew I had done wrong and wanted to make it right before God and He brought some into my life to show me how to be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son.

At that point I am a newborn Christian who needs to grow spiritually. Sandy encouraged me to come to church with him. I did. *It was then that God brought a Bible preaching pastor and a Bible teaching Sunday School teacher into my path.* God brought Bro. Martin and Darryl Burt, to teach me God's Word to help facilitate spiritual growth in my life!

Fast forward. Betty and I remarry each other (see my article in the June edition of *The Messenger*) and become active in church. I found myself teaching Sunday School, working in Bus Ministry and visiting in homes to tell others about Jesus. I also entered seminary and accepted a call to pastor a rural church in Springfield, LA. There were family responsibilities along with seminary classes and a church field to serve. You see, I had transferred my workaholicism to my Christianity. Soon I got burned out. I became aggravated and frustrated.

*It was then that God brought someone into my path* that was a fellow pastor (Marvin Collins). He had a joy and a peace and a contentment about him. He was loving and kind and gentle in his relationships. I thought to myself, "This guy is a fake. He's a counterfeit. There is no way he can be that loving and kind and gentle!"

Do you see what's happening? God is doing it AGAIN! At a time in my life when I needed a greater vision...a better understanding of who God was calling me to be as a Christian...God brought someone in my path to show me what it looks like.

Have you ever noticed that God brings people into your path to help you, too? God loves you and has sovereign oversight of your life. He wants to help you and not harm you. Have you ever noticed? 🍀

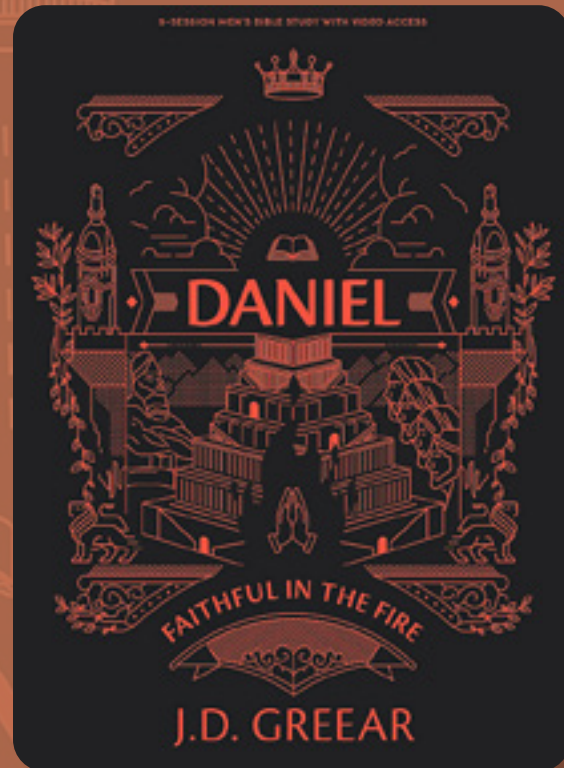


**COMING TO MEN'S  
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**Daniel: Faithful in the  
Fire...Navigating a  
Corrupt Culture**

**Launching Saturday,  
August 12 at 7:30 AM  
In Room #202.**

**Led by Bro. Sam**



**COMING TO DEEPER  
LIFE FOR WOMEN**

**Isaiah: Striving Less  
and Trusting More**

**Launching Monday,  
August 14, 6:30 PM  
In the Chapel.**

**Led by Jan Tate**

## KIDS: FROM IDENTIFY LOST TO IDENTITY FOUND

Trish Graves

It seems like summer flew by, and now your kids are getting ready to head back to school. They will be reconnecting with friends, meeting new teachers, creating new relationships, and quite possibly for them, experiencing new things, things we aren't ready for.

It only takes a few minutes of watching the headlines to see where our world is headed, and headed there quickly. In my job, we see these new worldviews affecting our kids in a big way. In talking with our preteens, it is evident that our kids are being exposed to things way too young, and they are being forced to make decisions that they shouldn't have to make. It's imperative that they don't make these decisions alone.

In the *The Disappearing Church*, Mark Sayers talks about a list of seven core beliefs that reflect an individualist society, ranging from believing that the highest good is individual freedom and self-expression, to believing that all forms of external authority should be rejected. We are seeing this play out in our kids, preteens and youth. And for many, it's innocent because they are hyper-exposed to these beliefs through TV, social media influencers, gaming and peers.

So what can you do? As a parent, **you** are the first line of defense. It is up to you to talk with your child and have real conversations every day. During your conversations, see if you can pick up on any of these viewpoints in your child:

- They feel that "Jesus is the only way" seems intolerant.
- They challenge that the biblical teaching about binary gender is bigoted and unsafe.
- They talk about themselves as a "brand"
- They refer to "my truth" rather than "the truth."
- They celebrate the decisions of others, regardless of behavior.
- They fall to peer pressure to stay popular or in the loop.
- They know when they (or friends) have been included in something that is wrong, but they stay silent because of peer pressure or status.

The world wants your children and we have to be ready to fight the good fight. ***IF I can ask you to do one thing right now, it is this:***

Tell your child TODAY that you are there for them. That they can feel safe telling you anything. That you can't protect them (from whatever it may be) if you don't know what's going on. Tell them that while some actions will still have consequences, you are still ***FOR THEM.*** That you will work through whatever it is together. Above all, they need to understand that they can't do anything that would make you love them less.



Be prepared to hear things you don't want to hear, and deal with situations you don't want to deal with. Most importantly, be prepared to offer healing and restoration with these four truths:

### GOD KNOWS YOU.

Hebrews 4:13 says that nothing in all creation can hide from God. There is no place kids and students can go that He cannot see them. He already knows their thoughts and intentions. And even though He knows everything about us, He still loves us.

### GOD DESIGNED YOU.

Colossians 1:16 tell us that God made everything in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible.

Ephesians 2:10 reads "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Even though the worldview would have you believe that you are random, a product of chance, or even a mistake, God says differently.

### GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

Isaiah 41:10 says "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand." God promises to be with us no matter what happens.

### GOD LOVES YOU.

1 John 3:1a tells us "See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children - and we are! God did not wait for us to love Him, He loved us first. You are loved by God.

Guiding your child through these tough times is hard, and we don't want you to do it alone. Helping your child find their identity in Christ is crucial. We are here for you for support and guidance. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help. 🌱

KINGDOM KIDZ PRESENTS

# UP & ATOM!

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00-7:15PM

JOIN US AS WE LEARN  
ABOUT THE BIBLE THROUGH  
SCIENCE EXPLORATION!

KINDERGARTEN – 3RD GRADE  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



## FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

'FULL TUMMY' BAGS FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



DATES TO  
FILL BAGS ARE  
UPDATED MONTHLY

WE NEED 20 VOLUNTEERS  
EACH MONTH

KIDS 5 & UP CAN ATTEND WITH  
THEIR PARENTS

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED



PACKING LOCATION AT ABUNDANT LIFE

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE SUMMER CAMP



by Trent Barnett

Last month, we held our annual Children's Choir Summer Music Camp - and it was another great year! We had the largest number of students ever participate and many students involved for their first time ever. Putting on a musical like this involves a ton of moving parts - especially when the students only have one week to learn all the songs, skits, and choreography.

Our musical this year was "Not Your Average Joe" - a 1950s themed re-telling of the Old Testament story of Joseph. Each day, I taught a Bible study, walking the students through the story of Joseph and helping the kids to see the connection between the truths in the fun songs we sang to the truths of Scripture. The goal of our studies was to help the kids see that, in the story of Joseph, we see pictures of what Jesus would look like. Just like Joseph, Jesus is the favored Son of His Father. Jesus took the form of a slave and was falsely accused. Jesus was convicted as a criminal, though He was innocent. Jesus was lifted up from the grave and seated at the right hand of God. Jesus offers forgiveness and salvation to all who come to Him!

The students did an incredible job and if you came to the performance, I know you were blessed! It was encouraging to see so many families supporting their students. It was also incredible to see church members who didn't have kids in the musical, but who came anyway to support these kids and to be blessed by the gifts God has laid on their lives.

Thank you to all of our leaders, parents, and student staffers who put in their time and energy to ensure camp was another resounding success. It is great to see this area of ministry growing and continuing to involve our next generation of students - not only in the choir and skits, but also through students serving their church! It was a great week of camp and I'm already looking forward to next summer! 🌿





# SENIOR ADULTS

by Landra Reed



1 John 1:6-7. “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

We had such an amazing turnout for the 4th of July BBQ. 107 people came to fellowship and celebrate the freedom that we have been given. Thank you for all the wonderful desserts that were brought, and thank you to all who helped get ready and take down. This is what fellowship is all about. This is what church is about. Being together with like-minded people who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our next get together will be at Brushfire in Denham Springs on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from noon-2. The cost is \$30, which covers a large selection of pictures that you would like to paint. A light lunch will be provided as well. Please sign up at the connection center in the church lobby or online, or sign up with Nancy McGraw in Sunday school class. You must be signed up by August 15<sup>th</sup>, no later than that. You will pay on that day. Looking forward to seeing your creative brush strokes.

We still have room for our Branson trip. The dates are November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The cost is \$710. A \$75 deposit is required upon signing up. This will be a trip you don't want to miss! And let me remind you, we had such an amazing time on our last trip. If you love Christmas, then you really don't want to miss this trip! 🍀



# LIVE OAK CHURCH SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS



## Branson Show Extravaganza



### INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Motorcoach transportation
- 5 nights lodging including 3 consecutive nights in the Branson area
- 3 meals: 5 breakfasts and 3 dinners
- Admission to 6 Fabulous Shows! including:
- Three Morning Shows: DUBLIN'S IRISH TENORS with special guests THE CELTIC LADIES, DOUG GABRIEL MORNING SHOW & A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW
- Three Evening Shows: THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW, QUEEN ESTHER Show at the Sight & Sound® Theatre & PRESLEY'S COUNTRY JUBILEE CHRISTMAS SHOW

For more pictures, video, and information visit:  
[www.GroupTrips.com/liveoakchurch](http://www.GroupTrips.com/liveoakchurch)

# \$710\*

## 6 Days 5 Nights

\*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

### (Mon - Sat) Nov 27 - Dec 2 2023

## Departure: Denham Springs, LA @ 8 am

**Day 1:** Board your spacious, video and restroom equipped Motorcoach and set off for the "Live Music Show Capital of the World" - Branson, Missouri. This evening, you'll check into an en route hotel for a good night's rest.

**Day 2:** Start your day with Continental Breakfast before departing for Branson. Later you will check into your Branson area hotel for a three night stay. After enjoying Dinner at a local restaurant, you'll experience the PRESLEY'S COUNTRY JUBILEE CHRISTMAS SHOW. This is one of Branson's original performing families. Nearly 50 years after they started, the Presleys' remain one of the most requested shows in Branson.

**Day 3:** Today, after a Continental Breakfast, you will start your day with the DUBLIN'S IRISH TENORS with special guests THE CELTIC LADIES. With great looks and incredible voices, this hugely talented group of Ireland's finest singers perform some of the best music of the 20th Century. Next, you'll visit HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BRANSON, with old-fashioned charm, novelty shops, and restaurants. Next, enjoy a relaxing Dinner. Tonight, you'll take in the QUEEN ESTHER Show at the Sight & Sound® Theatre. Set in the opulent yet perilous Persian Empire, Queen Esther is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects and live animals in this original stage production!

**Day 4:** Enjoy a Continental Breakfast and then start your day with A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW. This Broadway style production is designed and produced to appeal to everyone of all ages. Be prepared to take a journey that will leave you amazed. Then, you will go to BRANSON LANDING and discover waterfront shopping, dining, and attractions on Lake Taneycomo's beautiful waterfront. After Dinner, take in THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW. All your favorite Christmas Songs are presented with the Joy and Magic of the Season as only the Haygoods can perform them! This is an amazing experience you don't want to miss!

**Day 5:** After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you'll start your day with the DOUG GABRIEL MORNING SHOW. This good, clean, family show has lots of variety. It has a talented cast, rib-bidding comedy and a terrific ensemble of musicians. Plus, Doug plays his World Famous Muffler (a guitar made out of a 1969 Thunderbird muffler)! Later, you will depart and check into your en route hotel for a good night's rest.

**Day 6:** Today, after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great sights you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!



QUEEN ESTHER Show at the Sight & Sound® Theatre



A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE SHOW



DUBLIN'S IRISH TENORS with special guests THE CELTIC LADIES



THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW

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\$75 Due Upon Signing. \*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$179 for single occupancy. Final Payment Due: 9/20/2023

### FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

**Landra Reed @ (225) 400-1687**

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# HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US

by Gideon Rossman  
and Stephen Hebert

The last few months have brought forth a whirlwind of blessings from the Lord as we have launched this new ministry at Live Oak Church. On Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, our Church hosted a lunch and learn for our pastors, our counselors and our laity that have shared a desire to take part in this new ministry. We welcomed the Clinic Manager, Stephanie Saavedra, and the Lead Therapist, Elizabeth Wilson, from Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC) who came and presented to us on crisis management, the status of abortion in Louisiana, the abortion pill, and grief counseling and healing for those ladies and families who have had abortions, miscarried and/or lost a newborn or infant. WNLC is a Christian organization that provides life-affirming medical care, mental health care and material care to women in crisis, unplanned pregnancies, and various circumstances where the struggle is bigger than they are. WNLC has two clinics, one is in the Baton Rouge area and the other is in New Orleans. They are very passionate about their mission, and the information they brought to our group was invaluable, and it will help us, help others in the days to come.



Just ten days later, on the afternoon of Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, our Church hosted an Educational Conference for people in our general congregation who are interested in learning more about what's happening in our state and in our community regarding abortion, and many others who have shown interest in taking part in this ministry and its future development. We had over 70 attendees, and we had a wonderful time of fellowship, breaking bread, and engaging



in the presentations while soaking up all the information that was shared. At the Conference we had three speakers: Charles and Clelie Carpenter from Baton Rouge Right to Life, and Allison Daigle, CEO of Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC).

Mr. Charles and Mrs. Clelie spoke on the legal landscape of abortion in the United States and in Louisiana, the full humanity of the fetus beginning at conception, and pro-choice arguments along with necessary rebuttals. Afterwards, Mrs. Allison gave a powerful talk on the mission and work of her organization at the WNLC. She explained how they provide counseling to men and women in unplanned pregnancy situations. They also provide low-cost women's health care, material assistance, referral for adoption and other life affirming services. Mrs. Allison emphasized their role in fertility awareness education as well, and how they inform their clients that abstinence is the only guaranteed way to avoid pregnancy. Care Net (1) reports 86% of abortions are among unmarried women, and this helps even further affirm God's design for marriage, where husband and wife "become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24, Malachi 2:15, Matthew 19:4-6) and from that point on, He calls them "to be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 9:7).

At the conclusion of the presentations, there were many good conversations where more ideas were shared on how we can proceed forward, and this brings us to the big question of "Where do we go from here?" For starters, we have formed a leadership team that will be meeting in the short term to make plans for the second half of the year ahead. We are looking forward to having another Educational Conference in the fall of 2023 which will be opened to our congregation as well, and in the new year, we are looking into starting a small, focused group with plans to

take a deeper dive into the topic of abortion, its surrounding issues, and how we might make an even larger impact in our community for those with unplanned pregnancies. We will continue to foster our relationships with life affirming pregnancy centers and programs, which will help us build a robust program for referring those in need and connecting them to the proper resources.

We are very excited to see what the Lord has been doing already through this ministry in stirring up the hearts of His people in a powerful way! We look forward to what the Lord will do in the future in and through Live Oak Church, so we can continue to be a light in the darkness that surrounds us. We are called to do good to all people, especially to those of the household of the faith (Galatians 6:10). Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. Pray that God will give us wisdom as we proceed forward. Pray that He will stir the hearts of the visionaries of this ministry, empower the counselors and pastors of Live Oak Church to minister to those in need, and that He strengthen our relationships with others in our community so that the impact will be broad, and that He will receive the glory for this mission and ministry.

Be on the lookout for future articles, advertisements and events as we share more educational tidbits in hopes to increase awareness and provide knowledge and tools to the people of our Church, to witness and refer those in need.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you His peace as we continue to be the hands and feet of our King Jesus here on earth! 🍌

1: Care Net is a nationwide network of life affirming pregnancy centers



## A DROP FROM THE ALTAR by sam lobello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, “This is a drop from the altar.” He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test. As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me “Drops from the Altar” from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

***“You are not defined by your scars.  
You’re defined by His.”***

- Tim Tebow



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**PODCASTS - SERMON OUTLINES - LIVE STREAM - THE MESSENGER**

# MEN'S MINISTRY

men helping men be men.



**August 12**

Prayer Breakfast & Study  
**7:30 AM in Room #202.**

**Topic: Daniel: Faithful in the Fire...  
Navigating a Corrupt Culture.**

**August 29**

**Men's Steak Dinner Fellowship**  
**6:30 PM in the Chapel**  
**Video Message by Robert Jeffries**  
**Faith & Freedom...Salt & Light**



**September 23**

**Axe Throwing & Lunch**  
**11 AM at The Gym in DS**

# REFUGE

**At Live Oak, our Addiction Recovery Ministry is called REFUGE. For God's Word declares, "Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." REFUGE is a Christ centered support group helping people who struggle with addiction. REFUGE has a unique blend of instruction, support, encouragement and accountability.**

**The teaching and sharing that takes place within our group is helpful and enriching. What is taught is often life changing! If you wrestle with addiction issues we are here to assist you on your journey to life recovery!**

**Your questions about our REFUGE Ministry can be answered by calling our Church Office at 664-4801 or email Bro. Sam at [sam@liveoak.church](mailto:sam@liveoak.church).**

## **THURSDAYS AT 7 PM**

**WE MEET IN ROOM #201.  
COME JOIN US!**

# the **family answer man** podcast



DR MARK CROSBY



REV DAVID ORGES



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*Live Oak Ladies*

PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR A MORNING AT THE MOVIES

FEATURING

*Breakfast at Tiffanys*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023  
AT 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

BREAKFAST PROVIDED

MOVIE TAVERN - JUBAN CROSSING

PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 14  
\$15/PP INCLUDES THE COST OF ADMISSIONS AND BREAKFAST  
MUST BE 18 YEARS OLD TO ATTEND



LIVE OAK CHURCH

**QUILTING  
MINISTRY**

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 AM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
**COME JOIN US!**

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY BY WRITING QUILTERS IN THE "OTHER SECTION" OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU SUPPORTING US!

meet our team



Dr. Mark Crosby  
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges  
Executive Pastor



Rev. Nathan Lott  
Young Adult &  
Student Pastor



Rev. Trent Barnett  
Worship Pastor



Rev. Stephen Hebert  
Minister of  
Pastoral Care



Irish Graves  
Children's  
Ministry Director



Faith Storck  
Children's  
Ministry Assistant



Linda Holdman  
Administrative  
Assistant



Rev. Sam LoBello  
Director of Adult  
Ministries



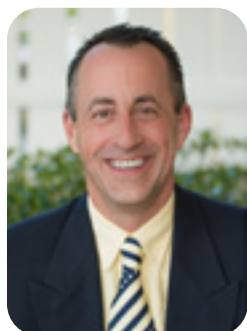
Rev. Chris Lacara  
Maintenance  
Director



Rev. Krist Norsworthy  
Communications  
Coordinator



Katie Norsworthy  
Office Secretary



Jim Otken  
Treasurer



Kim Pamplin  
Counseling Office  
Manager



Ila Clark  
MDO Program  
Administrator



Austyn Chopin  
MDO Curriculum  
Administrator

Coming together from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, our skilled team of pastors and ministry professionals are the backbone of Live Oak Church. Their ideas and leadership help shape the direction and mission of our organization as we continue to grow.

rightnow MEDIA



# A GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH

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# LIVE OAK CHURCH

we are driven by a single goal:  
to do our part in leading people  
into a growing relationship with  
Jesus Christ

## 5 Ways to Give



### IN PERSON

PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE WOODEN BOXES LOCATED INSIDE LIVE OAK CHURCH



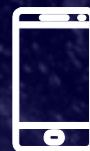
### MAIL

MAIL YOUR GIFT TO P. O. BOX 709 WATSON, LA 70786



### ONLINE

GIVE ONLINE AT [LIVEOAK.CHURCH/GIVE](http://LIVEOAK.CHURCH/GIVE) AND SELECT "GIVE NOW"



### TEXT

TEXT "LOUMC" TO 77977. FOLLOW THE LINK AND ENTER THE AMOUNT YOU WISH TO GIVE



### RECURRING

VIA THE "ONLINE" OR "TEXT" OPTIONS, SELECT "MAKE A RECURRING GIFT"