SMALL GROUPS A DROP FROM THE ALTAR SENIOR ADULTS EVENTS

IVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / NOVEMBER 2023

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FROM THE **PASTOR'S** DESK

> SAME GOD

PASS IT ON

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US PRESENTED BY DR. FRANK TUREK

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LIVE OAK CHURCH DENHAM SPRINGS, LA

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and the

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 8:00, 9:30, 11:00AM CT and 6:00PM CT

ADOPT A FAMILY This christmas

Live Oak Church is partnering with local schools to provide Christmas gifts to those in need this upcoming season.

If you would like to adopt a family or a child, please email Kim at kim@liveoak.church for more information.

THANK YOU FOR SPREADING THE JOY OF CHRIST WITH THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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07 from the pastor's desk

All eyes are on the Middle East...

08 same God

The same God who was faithful to the generations of the past is the same God who is faithful to His people today.

11 senior adults

Get updates on upcoming events.

12 pass it on

Relationships like these spread like wildfire and become a church-wide sensation.

14 helping the most helpless among us

Our vision is to provide life affirming resources to individuals who are faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

18 honoring the past

We wanted to find a way to honor the past and show the new generation just how long Live Oak Church has been faithful to the Gospel.



4 MONTHLY EVENTS

5 SMALL GROUPS

17 A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

22 MEET OUR TEAM

NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

a time and a place for everyone

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

- WEEKLY CALENDAR -

- 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

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

MEN'S MINISTRY

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

LIVE OAK LADIES

Prayer Bible Study 9:30am Mondays

Bible Recap 6:30pm Wednesdays in Room #202

KID'S MINISTRY

Christmas Party See Page 13 for Info.

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US

Saturday November 4th

Root for Team Live Oak Church! Born To Run Event in Baton Rouge, sponsored by the Woman's New Life Clinic.

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: Nathan Lott:7-12th Grade - Upstairs in FLC 8:45 AM Adult Small Groups: See Page 5 for Full List 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 Min 11:00 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel 11:00 AM Worship Service

MONDAY

SUNDAY

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 Worship & Study - 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



SUNDAYS Starting at 8:45 AM

Young Adult Couples Class // Meaning of Marriage // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #212 Young Adult Coed Class // Gospel of John // Brayden Lott - Upstairs FLC Median Adult Coed & Couples Class // The Book of Revelation // Dickie Davis - Room #202 Senior Adult Class // Explore the Bible // Room #201 Pastor's Class // Titus // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

Starting at 9:30 AM

Robert's Coed Class // *Book of Romans* // Room #211 Todd & Sealy Couple's Class // *Book of Daniel* // Room #202

Starting at 6:00 PM

Nathan Lott - Young Adult Group - FLC Layne Hutchinson's Doctrinal Study (Coed) - Room #202

WEEKDAYS Monday

9:30 AM - Ladies Bible Study // When You Pray // Mallory Williams-Chapel
6:00 PM - Deeper Life Men: Explore the Bible - David Tate - Room #201
6:00 PM - Deeper Life Women // Isaiah: Striving Less & Trusting More // Jan Tate - Chapel
6:00 PM - Men's Discipleship Group // Topical // Robert Poole's Home

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

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

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Coed Home Group // 2nd Peter // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home Ladies Bible Recap - Jeanette Clark - Room #202

<u>Thursday</u>

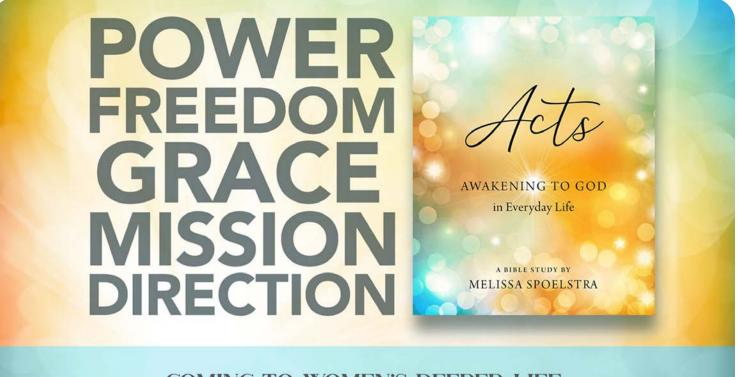
6:00 PM - Men's Play & Pray Basketball and Lesson - Jim Otken - FLC 7:00 PM - REFUGE Addiction Recovery - Sam LoBello - Room #201

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

<u>Second Saturday of Each Month</u>

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



COMING TO WOMEN'S DEEPER LIFE BEGINS MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH | 6:30 PM | IN THE CHAPEL | LED BY JAN TATE

Happy Birthday, Dr. Mark!



live oak church

11 the eyes are on Middle East as Israel has declared war on Hamas in particular and terrorism in general. As most of you know, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack upon Israel (50 years after the Yom Kippur War of 1973), killing approximately 1,400 men, women, and children in a brutal and barbaric assault. Some have declared this to be the worst atrocity upon the people of Israel since the Holocaust.

Many are concerned about where this will lead as nations are now positioning themselves to support either Israel or Hamas. Mass demonstrations are occurring around the world to support either Hamas or Israel. In our own nation, there are congressional leaders, university organizations, and various others that are either rebuking Israel, defending Hamas, or both. As the polarization grows, so grows the political and international tension that



"MANY HAVE DECLARED THIS AS THE WORST ATROCITY UPON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SINCE THE HOLOCAUST"

many fear could lead to a more significant proliferation of war.

Many are asking where this fits into Bible prophecy, what the Bible says about these events, and what is on the horizon prophetically. These are all great questions being asked and that we hope to teach in the month of November as we look at "Our Spiritual Heritage (the Nation of Israel)."

FROM THE **PASTOR'S DESK**

Hopefully, this series will remind us where our faith originated, why we believe what we believe, and why today's events are seen as prophetic, as God fulfills His word as we see events unfold before our very eyes.

So come see us in November as we prepare for Thanksgiving and give God thanks for including us in His story and for giving us insight and understanding of His prophetic word.

Hope to see you Sunday!

Dr. Mark Crosby Senior Pastor



This month, we are introducing the song "Same God" by Elevation Worship. The truths in this song's lyrics help realign our thoughts and lives around the One who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

This song gives us a brief glimpse into the stories of many key figures in Scripture. In each situation, the Lord provides, works miracles, and brings hope to the nations. God's covenant with Jacob (later called Israel) was that the people of earth would be blessed through him. God's love endures through each generation of Israel, with its fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. The same God who was faithful to Jacob is faithful to Moses when He splits the sea so the Israelites can cross safely. Later, God was faithful to Mary, finding favor on her as a humble, obedient servant to carry the Lord (Luke 1:48).

The same God who was faithful to Jacob, Moses, and Mary is the same God who was faithful to David time and time again. Through God's power, David defeated the giant Goliath. God was also faithful to believers throughout Scripture. In Hebrews 11:32, the writer says, "I do not have time to tell about" all the heroes of the faith, who were obedient to God and received their reward through trusting Him. While each situation is unique, the Lord is faithful in each one. The hope in each story is made possible only through the power of God.

In Malachi 3:6, God declares "I, the Lord, do not change." The same God who delivered and restored His people throughout Scripture is the same God we worship today! He's the same God who provided the salvation of souls by sending Jesus so eternal life could by found through His sacrifice. All the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 knew God had something in store that was better than the persecution they were facing (Heb. 11:40). They didn't settle for "less than;" rather, they focused on the prize set before them - the eternal reward resulting from a life of following Jesus. When we worship, we join with all believers who've gone before us, declaring the faithfulness of God - the ways we've seen Him move in our lives, the ways He has delivered us from the fire, and how He's restored us to walk in His covenant.

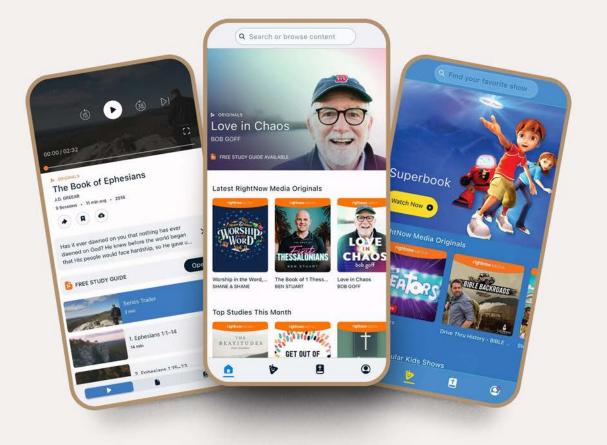
In the Chorus of this song, we echo that God is our "Rock of Ages," a term that comes from Augustus Toplady's 1776 hymn of the same name. This name of God isn't explicitly found in Scripture, but comes from Isaiah 26:4 - "we have an everlasting rock." As we worship, we align our hearts to remember and reflect on the everlasting rock, the faithful one. He is the promise keeper, the healer of our lives, and the Savior of our souls. As Louie Giglio has said, "Worship begins and ends with God." He is the source and object of our worship. As God reveals Himself, we respond with our hearts bowed before Him in worship.

The same God who was faithful to the generations of the past is the same God who is faithful to His people today - and will continue being faithful to future generations of believers. Wherever you are, whatever you're dealing with today, trust that God will hear your cry and respond as He always has. Isaiah 59:1 reminds us "Surely, the arm of the Lord is not to short to save, nor his ear to dull to hear" those who call upon His Name in faith.

I pray our focus would never be on the songs we sing, but on the truths of God contained within. Stories of how God has been faithful to His people through the generations is a blessing and a reminder in our lives that God was faithful, God is faithful, and God will continue to be faithful even still, as we worship and trust Him. The same One who took our sin and shame, who rose again from the grave, is the same God we worship today. The same One who created us is the One we lift our hearts and our voices to in worship. He is worthy of all our worship - and so much more.

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PODCASTS - SERMON OUTLINES - LIVE STREAM - THE MESSENGER



visit liveoak.church tap "Media" on the bottom of your screen



by Landra Reed

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

We had a fantastic turnout for our annual Fall Feast. Thank you, everyone, for all your help and giving. A special thank you to Erin Delafosse and Brittany Devall for all your help and support, especially your friendship!

Our next outing is to Branson, Missouri, this November 27th through December 2nd. There are no more available seats. We are leaving the church with Diamond Tours on Monday at 8:00 am. One suitcase and carry-on per person, please. We also have enough room if you want to bring a scooter or walkers. Snacks, water, and games will be provided. Don't forget to bring your ugly sweater for our first night in Branson. First-place prizes will be awarded to one man and one woman. We will also have a plugin cooler for those with medicines. Also, make sure to bring a blanket or sweater for the bus. On December 8th at 9 am, we will have our 2nd Annual Cookie Bake. Please make sure to sign up online, with Nancy or myself, or at the kiosk. Recipes, ingredients, and containers will be provided. If there is a cookie recipe you would like to share, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. The cost is \$20 per person. There will be prizes for the cutest, the most unique, and the ugliest apron. Lunch will be provided, and the sign-up cutoff date is December 3rd.

Happy Thanksgiving! 🥖



live oak church

pass it on By Faith Storck

Have you ever heard a song that, unfortunately, gets stuck in your head? It doesn't matter what you do; it just won't go away. A few repeat offenders that come to mind are "The Brady Bunch", "The Song That Never Ends", John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt", or that less-than-desirable song from your toddlers' favorite show. For me, that song is "Baby Shark." You know the one I'm talking about. If you look up this song (for lack of a better word), you will find people exercising to it and grown men singing and dancing along to it (in tuxedos). People have even changed the words to baby Jesus doo doo doo doo doo ... you get the idea. (If you don't know this song, consider your-self blessed.) Strangely enough, this song, which makes you feel like you are losing brain cells, made it to the Top 40 Billboard. What is this world coming to? What is it about this song that has caused such a worldwide sensation?



In my time of trying to do anything to get this song out of my head, my brain went down a long and winding rabbit hole, and I began to think about the once-popular Christian song "Pass It On."

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon, all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it; you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on."

I know the women in this church groan when I tell them to sit by someone they don't know and to get out of their comfort zone. I even do this in children's ministry. My reasons are twofold, but they are valid reasons. Some ladies attend our activities and don't know one other person here. I know everyone wants to sit by their friends, and I get it. I really do, but I don't want someone leaving anything at this church not feeling welcome or wanted. Truth be told, I'm an introvert/extrovert. I need my solitude after peopling, but I make myself get out there, even fearing rejection just to make someone feel welcome. Y'all, it's hard, but the relationships I've made just by putting myself out there have been some of the sweetest.

What if our desire to be with other believers sparked a fire among our congregation? What if these relationships that started out just through Christian fellowship with others in our church caused us to form such a bond with one another that when we were struggling with something in our life or when we had something exciting to share, some of the first people we thought of telling were a part of our community of family at church? If I'm being completely transparent, I'd rather spend time with my church family than with my extended family. Those that I consider my close church family might not have the same paths in life, but they all strive to be more like our Creator and challenge me to grow in my faith.

This past year, God knew I needed four special ladies in this church. They've seen me cry and have also cheered me on. They are my biggest cheerleaders. We honestly don't have anything really in common except for the fact that we all love Jesus. They make me laugh, unlike anyone else. We can have all the fun, but we can also have all the serious and hard conversations. God orchestrated these relationships for me with these four extraordinary women. Only God. He filled a void in me that I didn't realize I had when he brought Jana, Jeanette, Heather, and Summer into my life. My friendship with them just gets sweeter as the days go by. I've prayed Ephesians 3:20 over Women's Ministry this past year, and it has run over into my own personal life. Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." The Lord has been so kind and gracious to me this past year in the area of relationships.

That's what I want for everyone in this church to experience. I would love for relationships like these to spread like wildfire and become a church-wide sensation that everyone will want to have. Put yourselves out there and make new friends here at Live Oak. Pull someone out of their shell. Bring them into your circle. I want the people of Live Oak to be like those unfortunate songs in your head...except in a good way. I want the people of this church to be your lifeline, right after Jesus, because there's nothing like good and solid Christian friendships and relationships. Those are the kinds of relationships that we should want to "pass it on."

christmas party!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Only One Service for Kids & Axis

9AM-12PM Kindergarten Through 6th Grade

XXX

Lunch and Snacks Are Provided REGISTER ON THE APP

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US

By Lucy Hebert, Gideon Rossman & Pastor Stephen

Hello everyone! This article was contributed to the November edition of *"The Messenger"* by Lucy Hebert, Gideon Rossman, and Pastor Stephen. We all serve on the Leadership team for the new ministry, "Helping the Most Helpless Among Us." Our sole mission is to give glory to God by helping His people who are in need. We have established a Church In-reach and Community Outreach designed to address needs and offer support to women who have unplanned pregnancies and those who are contemplating abortion. We also want to provide support for women who have had past abortions and women who are in challenging, complicated situations and feel like they have nowhere to turn. Dr. Mark has always referred to Live Oak Church as a "Lighthouse to our Community" and a "Hospital for the Hurting," and we want to be a resource to those affected in this way and fulfill this very mission.

Our latest conference took place on October 8th, and it was an opportunity for the Church to meet the ministry team and for our ministry leaders to share what inspired them to get involved. Each person shared their stories, their experience, and the gifts they have been able to contribute to the ministry thus far. We prepared over three months with a common goal in mind, and that is to enable Live Oak Church to provide life-affirming resources to individuals who are faced with an unplanned or crisis pregnancy while honoring the sanctity of life gifted to us by our Creator God. The workshop also launched three different opportunities where You can get involved! Please see those details below.

MINISTRY REFERRALS

Referrals will be one of the most critical means of connecting with people and providing resources to those in need. Although anyone on the ministry team can assist, three primary contacts are dedicated to







handling Ministry Referrals. These individuals are **Ashley Gonzales**, **Kristen Mitchell**, Mitchell.Gabriel@gmail.com, and **Pastor Stephen**, Stephen@liveoak.church. We also have Referral Cards at the Info Desk in the Church foyer or in the Church office. We hope to have this accessible to you electronically via the Church App and website very soon.



FAQ's:

- Can anyone make a Ministry Referral, or does it have to be made by a Church member? Can it be a self-referral? Yes, anyone can refer to the ministry. They do not have to be a Church member. Yes, it can be a self-referral.
- 2) What is the most critical information needed to send in a Ministry Referral? Name, approximate age, city/parish, phone/email, whether a pregnancy is involved, approximate due date, and the reason(s) for referral.



Ashley Gonzales Vife, Mother, Homeschool Iom, Ministry Referrals, undraisers, Material Drives Ashley_r@yahoo.com

newsletter & updates





3) Why is this particular information essential to know? We have access to a multitude of resources, and we want to ensure we are providing the appropriate resources to each individual based on their unique set of circumstances.

MONTHLY MATERIALS DRIVE

The second way you can help out will be through our Monthly Materials Drive! Over the next few months, we will focus on collecting items to assemble Care Packages for Infants and Moms. The Drive started by collecting baby wipes for October. For November, our Drive will be focused on Infant Diapers, and for December, we will be collecting baby blankets! Designated Donation Bins are located in the Church foyer. The bins will be accessible on Sundays and Wednesdays



consistent with the Church calendar. We plan to continue collecting items by focusing on expecting Moms in the New Year!

TEAM LIVE OAK – RUN / WALK EVENT

Gideon Rossman, our Ministry Visionary, has led our third initiative to support the unborn! On Saturday, November 4th, Team Live Oak Church participated in the 5K Run/Walk and the ½-Mile Fun Run sponsored by the Woman's New Life Clinic (WNLC). The WNLC has two clinic locations in Louisiana, one in Baton Rouge and the other in New Orleans. Both sites help women with unplanned pregnancies, ultrasounds, professional counseling, low-cost women's health services, and fertility management. The WNLC has been a huge resource for Live Oak Church, especially in launching this new ministry. In return, we also want to do our part in helping support their joint mission! Be on the lookout for updates on our turnout as well as our Team pics on social media and December's edition of "*The Messenger.*"



If you have any questions or if you would like to get involved in this important ministry, please email Pastor Stephen at Stephen@LiveOak. Church. Please keep our Church, our Staff, and our Ministry Leaders in your prayers as we are the hands and feet of Jesus in a hurting world, and we work together to Help The Most Helpless Among Us.



We've got a beach house in Orange Beach, AL and all we need is you!

LIVE ONK Ladies

FEBRUARY 22-25,2024 Join us for fun, food, shopping, devotions, and more!

THERE ARE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPOTS AVAILABLE SO DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER!



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.

"When you touch someone's life, always do it to help them, not to harm them."

Marvin Collins

live oak church

HONORING THE PAST.

CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. EMBRACING THE FUTURE.



"...to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." – Ephesians 3:21

Since the formation of Live Oak Church, there has been a lot of seasons. Sometimes, those seasons were filled with growth and happiness. Sometimes, those seasons were filled with struggles and hardships. No matter what seasons we were faced with at the time, Live Oak Church remained faithful to God's word. We know that there have been 5 different buildings that Live Oak Church has seen throughout its history. One of these buildings was built in 1950. Many of our current congregation grew up in this building and saw new ministries begin and lives change through the gospel.

We wanted to find a way to honor the past and show the new generation just how long Live Oak Church has been faithful to the gospel. When you enter the Sanctuary from the parking lot, you will notice the planter has a new cross structure. This cross is from the steeple of the 1950 church building. The cross maintains its original patina as it did for many years and the base of the structure is masoned with bricks from the 1950 church building. Also, the cross has been constructed in a way where it will be backlit at night. The cross in the planter reminds us of how long Live Oak Church has weathered the storm and remained steadfast in God's word.



DONATION BIN

Monthly Materials Drive November - Infant Diapers December - Infant Blankets

COLLECTIONS IN CHURCH FOYER

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US



THURSDAYS AT 7 PM

aller and the

Refuge addiction recovery is a Christ-centered support group, providing instruction, encouragement, and accountability for those struggling with addiction.

We offer life-changing teaching and support on your journey to recovery.

For more information, contact our Church Office email Bro. Sam at sam@liveoak.church.

COME JOIN US IN ROOM #201!

live oak church

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.



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



Rev. Sam LoBello Director of Adult Ministries



Jim Otken Treasurer

Trish Graves Children's Ministry Director



Rev. Chris Lacara Maintenance Director



Kim Pamplin Counseling Office Manager



Faith Storck Children's Ministry Assistant



Rev. Krist Norsworthy Communications Coordinator



Ila Clark MDO Program Administrator



Linda Holdman Administrative Assistant



Katie Norsworthy Office Secretary



Austyn Chopin MDO Curriculum Administrator

SEND A GIFT-FILLED SHOEBOX IN JESUS' NAME



HAVE YOU BEEN VISITING LIVE OAK CHURCH? CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER?

WE HAVE A CLASS JUST FOR YOU!

"

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

This class begins the first Sunday morning of each month at 8:45 and ends on the fourth Sunday. In these four sessions, you will encounter life-changing truths and learn more about Live Oak Church. You will look at Salvation in 3-D, learn to Enhance Your Relationship With God, Examine the Stages of Spiritual Growth, and Discover Your Spiritual Gifts. This class meets in Room #102 and recycles each month. You can sign up for our New Members Class at the Information Desk. We look forward to welcoming you into our Live Oak Church Community of Faith!

