



The Branch NEWSLETTER

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

A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church
11560 Toepperwein Road, Live Oak, TX 78233
Phone # 210-656-8200 FAX # 210-656-0848
Web Site: <http://www.liveoakfbc.org>

*Donald Valenta, Pastor
Paul Reavis, Minister of Music & Education
Jeremy Sandefur, Minister to Students
Rachel Dorchester, Secretary*

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Valentine Banquet

**Saturday, February 11th
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Our students will be hosting a Dinner Theater Fundraiser to help send them to Pre-Easter Retreat, Master's Camp, and a summer mission trip. Join us for an evening of great food, fellowship and encouragement. We will be showing the movie "Fireproof", which is an encouraging love story from a Biblical perspective. We hope that your family will join us for this night as we support our students in ministry. Please RSVP on the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.



Addressing the Problem of Human Exploitation

Saturday, February 11, 2012
9:30 am - 11:00 am
at San Antonio Baptist
Association Conference Center
5807 IH-10 West

Sponsored by San Antonio Baptist
Association Women's Missionary Union

Alice Lee and Patti Villarreal will explore the scope of the problem and identify solutions that will help lead our church in strong actions based on knowledge, awareness, and the leadership of the Lord. This is open to everyone wanting to understand this issue and make a difference in our city. The event is free and breakfast will be served.



Sunday, February 19th, 6:30 pm

One Mom, one Dad, and 10 of their 12 children share a time of lively music and humorous stories centered on faith and family. From Maine to Mexico the Durochers' have been entertaining audiences with their spontaneous music, love, and laughter. Bring the whole family to experience the Durocher Family Live! Bring a friend.

From Our Pastor

February 14 is Valentine's Day. A day the merchandising world emphasizes purchasing candy, flowers, and cards to express our love to that special person in our life. Love is something you do for another. However, it cannot be expressed adequately only one day a year. Do you know who St. Valentine was? St. Valentine, according to tradition, was a priest who lived in Rome about AD 200. He cared. He cared about Christians who were being persecuted. He helped them to the extent that he became imprisoned by the Roman government. While in prison he cared very much for his jailer's daughter, who was blind. He prayed for her and she received her sight. How much did he care? Did he love her? All she had to go by was a note written to her the night before his execution. It was simply signed, "*From your Valentine.*" The implication is clear that love had been expressed by the continuous actions of St. Valentine.

Let's consider the amazing love of God, which far exceeds any humans' attempt to love. Karl Barth, the 20th century European theologian and preacher, believed the greatest theological truth he had ever learned was "*Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*" God's love is expressed throughout the Bible. Ruth describes God's love with the Hebrew word hesed, which is translated kindness and refers to the characteristic of God's covenant relationship. God's love is universal. God's love extends to every human being. God's love is relational. God chooses to relate to human beings by being with His people as a faithful friend. God's love is unbreakable. The love of God is clearly seen by His willingness to continue in mercy toward His people. God's love is generous. If you stop and examine your life, you can obviously see the generous love and kindnesses of God.

One of the most amazing theological truths you can learn is: God loves you. "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8) Remember that God cares for you and loves you continuously. I hope you live each day with the realization that you are loved by God.

Your Pastor,
Brother Donald

From Our Minister of Music and Education

February is a special month with roses, chocolates, love songs and corny cards. I have a nephew who was born the 29th, so this month he will have his seventh birthday and played football at Yale and earned a PhD at Rice! Weird!

We celebrate famous presidents, Valentine's Day, and the demise of cedar pollen. Want to make a hit with your honey? Check out the two posters in the hall for singing valentines.

Be sure to support our students as they serve us at the sweetheart banquet on the 11th. The *Lively Oaks* will lunch on the 9th at La Cabana on FM 78 in Cibolo. The place used to be called Pat's Place South.

We have a special treat on Sunday evening, February 19th, as the Durocher Family Singers will lead us in worship. There are ten (10) children/adults that all sing and play instruments in the bluegrass gospel style with their parents. You won't want to miss this!

Paul

Deacons/Staff/Wives Retreat

February 3-4, 2012

Live Oak First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

This year Will Bearden, a BGCT chaplain ministry consultant, will lead our training. He will incorporate Bible study and various training modules to equip us to be more effective ministers. Plan to be flexible.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, February 3, 2012

6:30 pm-7:00 pm Fellowship and snacks
7:00 pm-8:00 pm Bible Study
8:00 pm-8:15 pm Break
8:15 pm-9:00 pm Training

Saturday, February 4, 2012

8:30 am- 9:00 am Tacos and fellowship
9:00 am-10:30 am Training
10:30 am-10:45 am Break
10:45 am-Noon Training

A brief deacons meeting will follow the training sessions.

Live Oak First Baptist Church
11560 Toepperwein Road
Live Oak, TX 78233-3199

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Dated Materials Please Deliver
In Home By February 2, 2012

From Our Minister to Students



This month is an exciting time in our student ministry. We will be participating in DiscipleNow February 17th-19th with several local churches in the San Antonio area. DNow is a weekend full of worship, Bible study, fellowship, and service opportunities. DNow is an important time in the lives of students where they can encounter Christ in a relevant and real way.

Here are two ways you can help us have an amazing weekend. First and foremost, we ask that you join us in praying for our students, speaker, worship leader and small group leaders. We are asking that God would reveal himself to our students and that His blessings would be abundant. Another way is by providing a meal (three needed) and snacks. Please contact me if you are available to help.

*InHisGrip,
Jeremy Sandefur*

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Bill Knox | 17 James Tilghman |
| 3 Stacey Hartness | 18 Lisa Sandefur |
| 5 Clyde Smith | 18 Kyle Robertson |
| 6 Betty Blomberg | 22 George Wangerow |
| 8 Al Blomberg | 23 Diane Burgett |
| 8 Cassandra Roberson | 27 Paula Emmons |
| 13 Hazel Rodriguez | 28 Don Godwin |
| 13 Misty Cox | 28 Bunny Costo |
| 16 Ethel Roberson | |

Missions Day Camp
Baptist Temple Church
Saturday, February 25, 2012
For girls in Grades 1-6
9:30 am-2:00 pm

Discover Senegal with Missionary Journeyman, Krista Tope, Billy Lucas' granddaughter. She recently served in West Africa for 2 years. Former Missionary to Romania, Wesley Craig, will present the "game plan" for meeting needs in our community. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. Event is free. A love offering will be taken. Enjoy multicultural foods, games and crafts. For more info, contact Annette Smith (210) 695-9628.