

# The Branch NEWSLETTER

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

A Monthly Publication of Live Oak First Baptist Church  
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**Number 1**

*Go therefore and  
make disciples  
of all the nations ...*



**Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)**

## *Live Oak First Baptist Church Women's Ministry*

*For Ladies (ages 10+)  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 am-12:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall*



The Women's Ministry will host a brunch meeting on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Our program will feature a guest speaker from Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC). San Antonio is also the site of a new Christian Men's Job Corps, so we will hear some about that new venture as well. The purpose of CWJC/CMJC is to provide a hand for adults seeking to become self-supporting, self-sustaining, and financially free of welfare. Join us and bring your friends to this very special meeting, focusing on a wonderful ministry of Women's Missionary Union . . . helping people see Christ in us, and also help themselves to improved lives.

We will ensure childcare is available for this event—so those who care for small children can participate without concern. Contact Sandy Trivett for more information at 210-771-4575.

### *Deacons of the Week*

January 1st	Mario Ward
January 8th	Ken Bean
January 15th	Donnie Cox
January 22nd	Lalo Peña
January 29th	Scott Lane

## From Our Pastor

How shall we enter the New Year? How shall we tread the unknown path of the New Year to be? The child of God can enter the New Year with confidence because they have “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). The future brings with it new responsibilities, new opportunities, and new challenges that can be met when we decide to follow Jesus. I don’t know what you may face this year, but you will still have the responsibility to create a home, make a living and be a responsible Christian. I hope you will look for opportunities in soul winning, witnessing and evangelizing. We always face the challenge to grow in faith, Bible study, and prayer. A believer can say, “I know not what tomorrow will bring forth, but I know who holds all the tomorrows in His hand.”

We may face some obstacles, but we need to always remember that there is no obstacle too big for God. Let’s make preparations for the New Year as we sanctify ourselves and purge ourselves from sins. As we begin the New Year, there are some things we should forget such as the little irritations and frustrations, our prejudices and resentments, as well as our bitterness and suspicions. Let’s start 2012 with a clean slate and completely trust Jesus as we travel the Jesus road. Have a Happy New Year and may God bless you as you pursue His purpose.

Your Pastor,  
*Brother Donald*



## From Our Minister of Music and Education

With one of my sons, I tried to use each new grading period as a “fresh start” motivational stimulus, and it usually worked for the first week. The fresh start was just that: a start. The issue is where are we going after we get started?

What will 2012 hold for our church? Is it a fresh start for allowing God to do more through us? To send more people our way? What can we do differently as a class or committee or congregation? Will we have to admit that 2012 is the “same ol’ same ol’?” I don’t think the Spirit would be happy with that!

What can you do differently as you come into the church to worship? What can you change in your approach to Sunday School or outreach? What needs to change in your devotional life? Is there an area of your life that is not totally surrendered to Him? Sometimes we give Him the big rooms of our heart and life, but not that closet in the back.

There is much theology in the hymns we sing. In 2012, let us take to heart the prayerful hymns such as “I Surrender All” or “Have Thine Own Way.”

Have a blessed 2012!

*Paul*

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## *Lively Oaks Meeting*

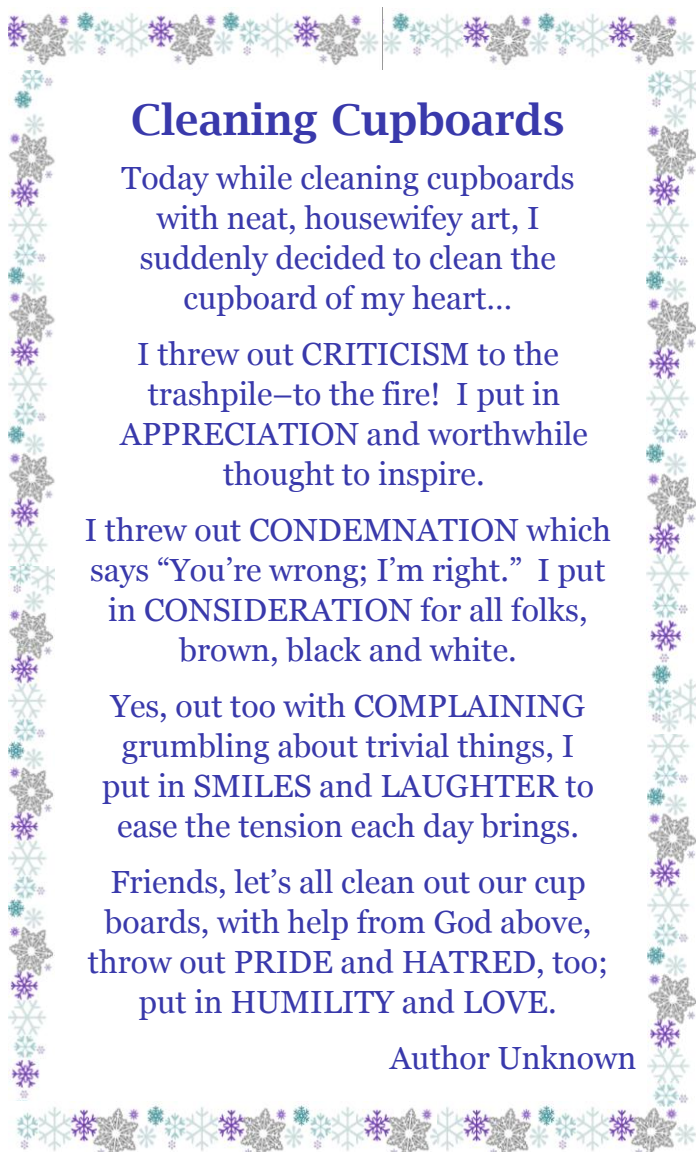
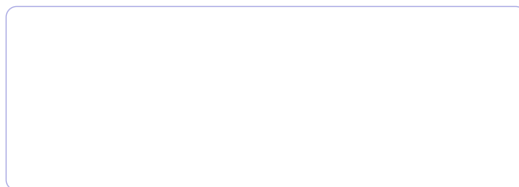
**January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 am**  
**Fork and Spoon**  
**New Braunfels**  
Age 50+



We will meet at the church and carpool to the restaurant. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship and good food.

Return Service Requested

Dated Materials Please Deliver  
In Home By December 1, 2011



## Cleaning Cupboards

Today while cleaning cupboards with neat, housewifery art, I suddenly decided to clean the cupboard of my heart...

I threw out CRITICISM to the trashpile—to the fire! I put in APPRECIATION and worthwhile thought to inspire.

I threw out CONDEMNATION which says “You’re wrong; I’m right.” I put in CONSIDERATION for all folks, brown, black and white.

Yes, out too with COMPLAINING grumbling about trivial things, I put in SMILES and LAUGHTER to ease the tension each day brings.

Friends, let’s all clean out our cupboards, with help from God above, throw out PRIDE and HATRED, too; put in HUMILITY and LOVE.

Author Unknown

## January Birthdays



- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Freddie Simmons    | 18 Billie Langhus  |
| 6 James Alexander    | 21 Brianna Chase   |
| 7 Jean Perdue        | 22 Harold Bunn     |
| 11 Beth Sotello      | 23 Paige Angel     |
| 12 Carol Norred      | 26 Candice Powell  |
| 13 Kim Cox           | 28 Bob Greaves     |
| 14 Rebecca DeLeon    | 30 Linda Stewart   |
| 16 Grace Baker       | 30 Kendall Burnett |
| 16 Mary Lynn Lewis   | 31 Jill Winn       |
| 17 Elizabeth Sotello | 31 Conner Terry    |

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## Welcome New Members

### Praise the Lord for These Decisions



#### Joined by Statement

October 2, 2011  
Grace Baker

#### Joined by Letter

November 27, 2011  
Joseph Ector  
Joanne Ector  
Katie Jo Ector