



# The VISITOR

A monthly publication of St. Luke's United Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

JULY 2017

ISSUE 7

*A Bit of Humor to Make You Smile As We Welcome our new pastor family--Ben Bagley, Sabrina, William, Wesley, and Wyatt to our St. Luke's home beginning July 2 in a one service only at 10:00am in the Family Center. A brunch of red, white and blue food--ham, chicken strips, biscuits, cheese grits, tomatoes, red/blue fruit and bread pudding will feed the people who are dressed casual & patriotic. A great Red/White/Blue choir will present and lead us in patriotic music. Uncle Sam (Rev. Ben Bagley) will do the preaching. YOU do not want to miss.*

## Explaining God

(Note: For a written class assignment, a third grade teacher asked her students to explain "God." This is one perspicacious response from Danny Dutton who attends the First Christian Church of Chula Vista. Danny's 8 years old.)

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grownups. Just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that up to the mothers and fathers. I think it works out pretty good.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on as some people, like preachers and things, pray other times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As he hears everything, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise going into His ears unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere. Which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your parents' head and ask for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn't want to learn. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind like his Father and He told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said okay. His Dad (God) appreciated everything He had done and all His hard work on earth, so He told him he didn't have to go out on the road any more. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing which things are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important, of course You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they've got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to Sunday School because it makes God happy and if anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip Sunday School to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. That is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you like at camp, but God can. It's good to know He's around when you're scared of the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown in real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't think always of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases and that's why I believe in God.

# ST. LUKE'S HAS BEEN BUSY

**WORK DAY @ PARSONAGE GETTING READY FOR NEW PASTOR**



**JUNE 11: FAREWELL TO THE GALAWAYS**



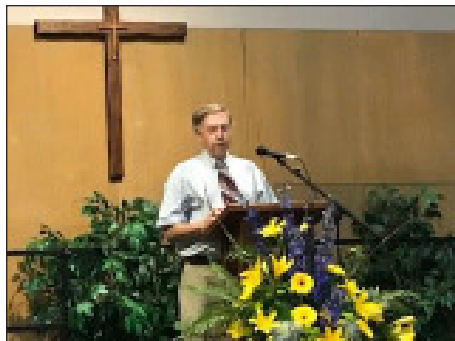
**JOSH GALAWAY, SON**



**JARED GALAWAY, SON**



**DEAN MILLER, SPEAKER**



**CARMEN VERMILLION, SINGER**



**T.J. GILLEN-HALL, SPEAKER**



**SANCTUARY 339 FOLKS FULL  
THANKS TO THE MANY  
WHO SHARED THEIR LOVE  
IN SO MANY WAYS.**



# Holy Huddlers

*Good Christian Fellowship - While We Eat*

**6:00 p.m. - Upcoming Meeting Dates & Locations**

- July 7 Jason's Deli, Longview**
- July 21: Hupei Chinese, Longview**
- Aug. 11: Jucy Taco, Judson Rd @ Loop-Lvw.**
- Aug. 25: Jalapeno Tree, Kilgore**
- Sept. 8: Las Tejanitas, Kilgore**
- Sept. 22: Butcher Shop, Longview**
- Oct. 6: Cotton Patch, Longview**
- Oct. 20: Bodacious BBQ**
- Nov. 3: Charburger, Kilgore**
- Nov. 17: Dairy Queen, White Oak**
- Dec 1: Val's, Kilgore**
- Dec, 15: Jucy's Burgers, Eastman Rd. @ Hollybrook, Longview**

Come one. Come all. The meal is on you,  
but the fellowship is shared by all!!

*-Mikki Ellis*

## Thank You's!

Hello, this is Troy Jones. Thank you for recognizing me on Senior day and for the blanket, books, and the great meal. I appreciate it very much. *-Troy Jones*

My Church Family,

Thank you so much for everything you all have done for my family and me. First of all, thank you for providing me with the scholarship, Next, thank you for the amazing Senior Sunday. It was perfect! Also, thank you for letting me work in the nursery and find a place that I belong. I have so much love for you all. *-Sloan Berger*

Dear St. Luke's,

Rahab's Retreat and Ranch thank you for your recent donation. We currently have 21 residents living in our facility. On weekends, when many of the mothers get weekend visitation, our numbers swell to around 25 people. Rahab's Retreat is a facility for women coming out of the sex trafficking industry, those escaping abusive situations, or women working through emotional trauma.

Seven of our women "phased up" last month, meaning they are now more than one-third of the way through the program. In Phase 1 they wrote chapter summaries after reading over 100 chapters in the New Testament. They memorized 16 scriptures and attended numerous classes, including lots of homework. They have been working very hard, and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Make an appointment to come tour our beautiful facility. Again, thank you for your donation. *-Treva Wilcox*

## CHURCH FAMILY CONCERNS

Cynthia Adams	Sam Holley	(#404) Oliphint
Jean Aills (Arabella Memory)	Billie Hale	(Arabella)
Margarette Allison	Arabella #200)	Vivian Patton
(Briar Cliff, Tyler)	Jo Hancock	(Arabella, Kilgore)
Charlotte Austin, (Hospice Denton, Tx. 75033)	Millard Harkrider	Rita Peters
Jerry Boone	Sally Holder	(Arabella, Lvw.)
(Arbor Grace #10)	Steven Jackson	Charlene Phillips
Barbara Cotten	Mary Jordan	Wanda Renshaw
Chris Crawford	Yvonne Kennedy	Linda/Bill Ridder
Jan Duncan	Richard/Kathy	Pat Sage
Daniel Ellis	Kimball	Fred/JoAnn Samford
Laura Farnham	Nell King	Jo Stiles
Tommy Freeman	Dwayne Kirksey	Marilyn Summers
Curtis Harvey	Pat Morchat	Bonnie Sistrunk
Ronnie Jobe	Marie Murray	Samuel Thurston
Jim/Sarah Galaway	Nina Fern Nichols	Wendell/Glennys
Jacque/Todd Gibbs	(Arbor Grace #19)	Travis
Gary Gray	Guy (#309)--Billie	Edith Williams
		Wilbur/Kay Yates

## Prayers for Loved Ones:

*People will remain on this list about a month.*

*Please let us know if they need to be on longer - 903-984-3576.*

- Kathy Adams* .....friend of many
- Mark Allen*.....Freddie Lollie's family
- Bob Barbee* .....friend of Mickey Smith Family, Ann White family, & many others
- Mac Blackstone* .....father of Donna Shupe & friend of many
- Keith Allen Brown*.....great nephew of Anna Rohde
- Rosemary Bocanegra & Martha Emili & Mary Herrera*.....friend, aunt, & great aunt of Carolina Bryant
- Jimmy Brown*..... friend of David Wilson
- Barl Covin* step-brother of Ronda Dickey & friend of Mack/Toby Monday
- Carolyn Duren* .....Mother of Allison Thompson (friend of SyRena Witt)
- Joe Dyson* .....nephew of Dorothy Geese
- Margie Edwards* .....friend of Suzanne Gibson
- Edna Frazier*..... mother of Milton Frazier
- Reg Garner*.....father of Chet Garner
- Meagan Gibbs* .....niece of Bill Bryant
- Jennifer Gilcrest* .....friend of Carolina Bryant
- Wanda & Bill Haney*.....brother & sister-in-law of Ludie Courtney
- Reggie Hawkins*.....dear friend of the Whitworths & the Cottens
- Austin Huckaby*..... friend of Gus Witt
- Gene Hutchison* .....Uncle of Misty Shipman
- Kim Hurlburt*.....ex-member & friend of Thompsons & others
- Bruce Huther & Rod Allen*..... brothers-in-law of Sharon & Jim McCann
- Loa Johnson* .....mother of Denise Reinert
- Dave Kelly* .....step-father of Misty Tuck
- Nancy King*.....friend of Sara Lugeanbeal
- Brian & Dianne Lee*.....Lee family
- Henry Lyne*.....brother of Martha Eschenfelder
- Keith Mattern* .....friend of Bill Bryant
- John McCloskey*..... father of Bruce Tindel
- Melissa McDonald*.....niece of Sally/Randy Holder
- Teresa Miller* .....neighbor of Sally Holder
- Camryn Noll* ..... granddaughter (cancer) of Carolina Bryant's friend
- David Penn* .....friend of Tonya DeKoker
- Ron & Carol Procell* .....family Phillip & Tina Procell
- Roy Simmons* .....brother of Carol Grimes
- Orea Smith* .....uncle of SyRena Witt
- Dana Ransom* .....friend of Larry Phillips & many others
- Christin Reeves* (cancer).....sister-in-law of David Reeves
- Pam Richburg* ..... friend of Sheryl Caraway
- Luvia Rios* ..... friend of Carolina Bryant
- Cherie Salmons* ..... niece of Jan Duncan
- Alejandra Serrano*.....2nd cousin of Carolina Bryant
- Sharon Schoenemann* .....sister of Jan Hattaway
- Josh Shirey* ..... cousin of Ludie Courtney
- Robert Shugart* ..... father of Misty Shipman
- Rachel Simpson & 3 children*.....submitted by Lori Todak
- Robert Stiles* ..... son of Jo Stiles

# July 2017 Birthdays



Praying for our St. Luke's Family. Please say a prayer for our church family on their special birthday. **If we missed your date, please call the church office.**

<b>July 1</b>	Justin Johnson	<b>July 21</b>
Jax Brantley	Kevyn Smith	Bill Clarke
Lynne Cross	<b>July 11</b>	Chad Stephenson
Bobby King III	Noah McClammy	<b>July 22</b>
Hudson Loyd	<b>July 12</b>	Holly Davis
Mark Varvel	Mike Kerr	Trey Hattaway
<b>July 2</b>	Mary Lamb	Joe Johnson
Kraig DeKoker	<b>July 13</b>	Dalton Mason
Kim Miller-Pitt	Sara Lugeanbeal	<b>July 23</b>
Will Ross	Henry Tryon	Antony Barnfield
<b>July 3</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>July 24</b>
Garrett Davis	Carla Branson	Mary Jordan
Sherry Ellis	Tommy Farnham	Gary Moore
Hudson Loyd	Emma Hanks	David Phipps
<b>July 4</b>	Gene Harville	Bryan Thurston
<b>July 5</b>	Wilton Jones	Karen Wilson
Mary Jordan	Kevin Tinkler	<b>July 25</b>
Mickea Smith	<b>July 15</b>	Margo Davis
Marianna Sparks	Rodney Bell	Anthony Jones
<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>July 26</b>
Kathy Kimball	Janel Brown	Laura Clark
<b>July 7</b>	Brandy Holman	<b>July 27</b>
Glenda Cochran	Wendy Weir	Madison Holman
Tommy Freeman	<b>July 17</b>	<b>July 28</b>
Vernie Kunkel	Jerry Ann Boone	Cruz Castaneda
<b>July 8</b>	Erin Rohde	Harold Craig
Robert Johnson	Diana Sieber	Elizabeth Rabius
Jacqueline Lopez	<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 29</b>
Gunner Patton	Morgan Dowell	Sheryl Caraway
Wade Silvey	<b>July 20</b>	Ruth Tucker
<b>July 9</b>	Todd Gibbs	<b>July 30</b>
Nina Miller-Pitt	Pat Morchat	Rick Huey
<b>July 10</b>	David Morgan	Colette Jones
Tommy Farnham	Christen Rheay	Ami Smith

## JULY 2017 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Names</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Date</u>
Anthony & Linda Barnfield	25	1992
Brant & Shelley Brantley	27	1990
Leon & Ludie Courtney	53	1964
Bill & Dorothy Denham	40	1977
Dwaine & Elaine Kirksey	51	1966
Robert & Cynthia Lindley	36	1981
Larry & Richelle Rathbun	34	1983
Willie & Ima Roberts	68	1949
Thomas & Madison Tapler	7	2010
David & Candice Torres	7	2010
Chris & Lisa Whetzel	14	2003

## PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES, Con't from page 3

*Cristen Sistrunk/Dorothy Williams* ..... daughter-in-law/sister .....to Bonnie Sistrunk  
*Kathy & Ronnie Todd* .....sister & brother-in-law of Loretta Ross  
*Dr. Rob Thoni* ..... friend of Jamie Haynes & many others  
*Billy Vernon* ..... friend of many  
*Watkins family in the loss of daughter/sister*...The Shipman family  
*Melvin & Sue West* ..... brother-in-law & sister of Bill Bryant  
*Peyton & Langston White*.... grandsons of Curtis & Sigrid Harvey  
*Harold Wiese* .....father of Emily Mason  
*Carter Wilbanks* ..... 11 yr. old friend of Richelle Rathbun  
*Katy Williams* .....friend of Andrea McGilvray  
*Billy & Linda Williamson* ..... grandparents of Logan Gilbreath  
*Oren Wright* .....close friend of Will & Loretta Ross

## REMEMBER OUR MILITARY

- \**Spec. Drew Bryant*  
US Navy - nephew of Bill & Carolina Bryant
- \**Derek Chamness* (Loretta Ross's "adopted" son )
- \**Captain Chris Conte* , Army - Sandra Holley's grandson
- \**Staff Sgt. Joel Crenshaw* , son of Mike Crenshaw, step-son of Ronnie Jobe, brother of Shanna Burgess
- \**Shawn Decker* , National Guard, Kilgore
- \**Airman Daniel Ellis* , Air Force - son of Dennis & Mikki Ellis
- \**2nd Lt Jack France* , Air Force nephew of Jan Hattaway
- \**Capt. Stanton Gardenhire* , son of Terry & Christine Gardenhire
- \**Cameron Chase Grimes* , Army - Grandson of Carol Grimes
- \**PO1 Brian Holcombe* Spec. US Navy  
Wendell & Carolyn Holcombe's son
- \**Lt. Col. Chad McAdams* , nephew of Loretta Ross
- \**Kenny Montross* - USAF, "*Bubba*" *McKinley* - USMC  
great nephews of Kay McKinley
- \**Jake Pierce* , Navy - son of Debra Sanders & J.B. Pierce
- \* *Chief Robbie Reinert* , US Navy - son of Ray/Denise Reinert
- \**Ryan Reinert* , Army-Private 1st Class - son of Ray & Denise Reinert, Courtney (wife), Emma (daughter)
- \**MSgt. Shane Shugart* , brother of Misty Shipman
- \**Jacob Whitworth* , Army - son of Anthony & Lori Whitworth, Grandparents are Herb/Barbara Cotten

**Jake Pierce, US Navy Specialist, is being deployed to Qutac, South America for 10 months with his dog, Cash. He is the nephew of April Watson. How proud we are of him and our prayers go with him as he serves to make America free!!**

## GAME NIGHT - FUN, FUN, FUN

**A wonderful fellowship opportunity!  
 Saturday, July 15, 6:00 - 8:00pm, gym.  
 Call Barbara Francisco for more information  
 903-918-6797.**

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## MORNING CIRCLE United Methodist Women

The Morning Circle met June 6, opening with devotions by Ima Roberts based on Hebrews 10:24-25: *"Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, . . . , but encourage. . . each other."*

Sharry Christopher, vice president, led the meeting in the absence of President Kay McKinley. Minutes of previous meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Sharry, as Program Director, gave an update on what the Texas state government is proposing regarding the Foster Care program. The proposal is to have more community-based centers and hire more personnel to cover the load of clients. The State has allotted funding for this new arrangement.

We will continue to write our legislatures on both this topic and regarding the continued influx of the sex trafficking industry.

Prayers were requested for several friends and family members. The meeting closed with a snack lunch provided by Sue Jones.

Our next meeting is **August 1, 10:30am in the fireplace room of the family center.** The program will include Memorial Moment for our deceased UMW members and the "Nurturing Community". Roundup Luncheon: bring Salads and Sandwiches. See you then. Happy Summer!!

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## United Methodist Women PAM BESSER EVENING CIRCLE

UMW Pam Besser Evening Circle met for our regular monthly meeting in June. A light supper was provided by Angela Thompson.

Mikki Ellis provided our monthly devotional. The scripture was from Psalm 18:19b "God takes joy in us."

The business portion of the meeting was conducted in which the minutes and treasurer's report for the previous meeting were approved.

We assembled Birthday Bags for the women staying at Rahab's Retreat, containing prayer shawls, crowns, horn blowers, other birthday party stuff, journals, candy, socks and other goodies.

We will not have a meeting in July. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 1st, at 6:00 pm in the Fireplace room. We will be discussing our upcoming enchilada fundraiser in September.

All women are invited and invite a friend to come with you.

Don't forget Saturday Bread on August 12th. Volunteers are needed. Contact Brenda Culpepper for more information.

*Kathy Brown*, Secretary

## St. Luke's United Methodist Men 2017

### 2017 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Breakfast and Program, Family Center

8:00am Following Saturdays:

September 23      October 28      November 11

### Special Date & Program

**December 16, 10:00am, Family Center,**  
**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**

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### THANK YOU!

What a nice surprise it was to receive a prayer shawl from the Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Luke's. I not only appreciate the shawl, I appreciate the thought behind it. It's so nice to know that friends are thinking of you and wishing you comfort and peace. I enjoy just thinking about what you have done and I thank you very much.

Love,

Cynthia Adams

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## HILLTOPPERS

**July 5, 2017, Gather at 11:00am**  
**Family Center-Meal (\$6.00) at 11:30am**  
**Meal Catered by Richelle Rathbun**  
**Menu:** Hamburgers & fixin's, chips,  
homemade ice cream, and drinks for \$6.

**Program:** *Carmen Vermillion* will share some wonderful music with a wonderful voice.

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### THANK YOU, STANTON

Captain Stanton Gardenhire is currently a fighter pilot for the marines stationed in Yuma, AZ. He is a member of the Black Sheep squadron and flies the Harrier. On July 7th Stanton will deploy for a minimum of 6 months on the aircraft carrier America. He will be leaving behind his two children, Gibson -2yrs, and Bennett- a few days shy of one, and his wonderful wife Andrea. We will all miss him and are praying for safe journeys as he proudly serves his country. While onboard he will receive his promotion to Major. Fly high and proud, son. God bless the USA and all military and their families for the many sacrifices their service brings. St. Luke's says a mighty thans! He is the son of Terry and Christine Gardenhire, former members and friends of many.

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### Tommy Freeman

#### Looking For a Roommate

Tommy Freeman is looking for a roommate and offers free room and board for some day to day help. Call his Uncle Vernon Fritz at 903-235-9236.



**Red, White,  
& Blue**

and  
**the Bagleys,  
Too!**

Sunday, July 2 at 10:00 am in  
the Family Center

**Join in as we celebrate!**

**Our annual Red, White, and Blue brunch and service is scheduled for July 2 with a special twist this year! That will be our first Sunday with Rev. Ben Bagley and his family!**



**Music  
Machine** AT KC

**WHEN:** Aug. 14-19, 2017

**ABOUT:** A one-week inter-denominational sacred music summer camp for children who have completed kindergarten-6th grades

**WHERE:** Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Center (Kilgore campus)

**AGES:** Students who have completed K-6th grade

**COST:** Early Registration June 1-June 30: \$135/camper; Late Registration July 1-21: \$150/camper - \$10 discount for each additional sibling from the same family (i.e. \$135-first child; \$125 second child; \$115 third child; \$105 fourth child, etc.)

**REGISTER:** Call (903) 983-8146 or scan the QR code to register now!





### Parents' Night Out

Friday, July 7, 2017

6:00pm - 10:00pm

\$10 per child

Call Niki Chowdhury

903-235-9401 for more information.

### Vacation Bible School

August 7-11, 9:00am-12:00pm

Join us in a VBS where kids learn they were created by God and built for a purpose! Register your children up on link on church website. You may also register there to be a volunteer.



### Confirmands become church members!

Dalton Mason, Jayce Hankins, Ben Hatfield, Ryder Konczak, Trent McDaniel, Carlos Ortiz, Jr, Joel Vermillion, & Isabell Witt. All were baptized except Dalton Mason who had already been baptized.



### MOTHER'S DAY OUT

MDO is currently on summer break. Classes will resume on August 30th. We are currently holding registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are interested in registering or learning more about how our program can serve you, please feel free to contact me @ 903-240-4609.

**Please keep the cans and cartridges coming!**

In His Service,

**Misty Shipman**



**July 9th-14th-LAKEVIEW CHURCH CAMP** in Palestine, TX. Register online at [www.lakeviewmcc.org](http://www.lakeviewmcc.org)

**July 20th-23rd- BIG HOUSE Jr.** High mission trip to Coldspring, TX.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HONORED AND GIVEN GIFTS:** Ally Venable, Troy Jones, Sloan Berger, Jordan Stephens, A.J. Henson, & Abby Horst (not pictured)



The Sr. High Youth spent the week of June 4th-10th working with M25 in Atlanta, GA. It was a humbling experience to say the least. Each day we worked with a different organization in the Atlanta area that assisted those who were experiencing homelessness. On Friday, we had a day off and visited the World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium. We also had dinner at The Varsity.

We are excited to apply the lessons we learned in Atlanta in our local community. If you have a chance, ask one of the youth or adults to share their experiences with you.

Thank you to Chet Garner, Kathy Brown, Lindsey Bennett, Niki Chowdhury, Salena Jackson, Sherry Ellis and Robert Ellis for volunteering to chaperone. This trip would not have been possible without the wonderful volunteers who gave a week of their summer to go with us.



## Summer Slam Mission Trip -

St. Luke's is so proud of these 4th & 5th graders; Kyleigh Lewis, Lily Chowdhury, Autumn & Madison McDaniel, Jacob Mooney, Morgan Payne, Bethany Stephenson, Rayce Tuck, and Kaylie Watkins! In two days, they served 105 people lunch at Newgate, made 80 more sack lunches for people in need, raked and picked up 228 piles of leaves and pine needles at a 151 year old church, cleaned doors/baseboard, painted picnic tables, played tag with the kiddos at Asbury House, built 2 wheelchair ramps and 8 modules for more ramps. These kids are amazing!!! Way to serve God and our community! Huge thank you to Misty Lewis, Lindsey Bennett, and Sydney Chowdhury for being amazing mission leaders.





Join us for the

**Son Shine**

**Lighthouse 4th**

**Anniversary and**

**Graduation**

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London Baptist Church  
12855 S Main St  
New London, TX 75682

Saturday July 15, 2017  
Begin at 4:00 pm

Reception to follow

### How Can You Help?

Lighthouse helps ladies who need safety and help.

Prayer for our staff, residents, and board of directors

**Volunteers: transportation, and more**

Dining Room Flooring

Goal 50 Churches giving \$200 and 100 families giving \$30

One-on-one mentors

groceries

Interior painting

Plumbing \_ Double Oven \_ Commercial Gas Stove/ Oven

### Dear Pastor and Church Staff:

The **Texas Conference Committee on Disabilities** earnestly needs your help.

They want to be aware of all ministries to disabled persons within our Conference. If you provide a ministry in any or several of the following areas of disability:

Visual impairment, Hearing impairment, Mental health conditions, Intellectual impairment, Acquired brain injury, Autism spectrum disorder, Physical impairment

Please list: the kind of ministry, the director's name, contact information, when and where this ministry takes place. *For example, does this ministry take place once a month on a Friday night or does it occur each Sunday morning?*

And forward to the North District Office in Longview before July 24. This information will be sent to the chairperson of the Committee on Disabilities, Texas Annual Conference, Dr. William J. (Bill) Newcomb. Also, if you have photos and any other information that will help convey the excitement of your "exceptional" ministry, please include them in your email.

### SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you consider giving altar flowers in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of a special person for the Sunday worship services. If you would, please call to schedule a Sunday with **Kalynn Harrison, 903-985-1562 (C) or 903-984-4267 (H). She will help you with the process.**



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### “God Takes The Summer Off”

By Brad Whitt, Pastor

Abilene Baptist Church, Augusta, GA

The writer of Hebrews tells us not to forsake *“..the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching”*

#### Hebrews 10:25

At the beginning of my first summer as a pastor, Louse Vandergrift, the only senior adult in our tiny congregation in Tennessee brought me a little article that she had clipped out of a magazine decades before. I never forgot the point of the article, so years later I called “Mrs. Louise” and asked her to fax it to me. I share it today with the hope that it sticks in your heart and mind the same way that it has in mine over the past 17 years.

### God Takes The Summer Off

We are sorry to inform you that God will not be available during the summer beginning June 1st. He feels He deserves some time off, so He has canceled His normal duties for the summer.

He has agreed to send the sun and rain occasionally when He happens to be in town, but so far as answering prayers for the needs of your family, please don't count on Him.

God has let church leaders know that they should not plan any outreach efforts or mission trips during the summer - or at least if they do, they will have to do it without Him because He plans to be gone a lot to see relatives, baseball games and the lake. God has expressed the opinion that we should find someone else to take His place.

Then we reminded Him of His promise, *“Surely you will be with us always,”* but He said He didn't realize when He said it that it meant going two or three years without a break. He expressed His sincere regret and hopes that it will not cause anyone any inconvenience.

God may be contacted anytime after September 1st at which time He hopes to get back into the routine. *“Please defer all requests until then,”* He requested.

Aren't you glad God doesn't take the summer off? As we approach summer, make it your determination to bring yourself and your family to God's House on Sunday. He'll be waiting for us to worship Him.  
....[BradWhitt.com](http://BradWhitt.com)

*See you Sundays in Your Favorite Pew,  
OR, Worship Where You are Visiting.*

## THANK YOU

### Parsonage Yard Clean-Up Crew

This is a BIG THANK YOU to the following members who responded to the call for the yard clean-up project at the parsonage.

The following 11 workers arrived about 8:00 a.m. and by 1:00 p.m. the yard was mowed, the shrubs trimmed, the debris hauled off by way of Mack Monday's truck/trailer to his burn pile. Sidewalks were swept clean, flower beds cleaned and several pieces of unused equipment were removed. All in all, the place looked like it had been swept clean by a hurricane - in this instance - a human hurricane.

Herb Cotten, Leader of the Pack

Michel Barnard

Bill Bryant

Lisa Frazier

Milton Frazier (stitches)

Richard Green

Danny Harrison

Michael McClammy

Mack Monday

Garry Mount

Pat Rudy

In addition to these eleven, food and funds for food were furnished by:

Bill Bryant

Brenda Culpepper

Lisa Frazier

Willie & Ima Roberts

Pat Rudy

**The wonderful thing was . . . it ALL GOT DONE.  
And God smiled on our efforts!**

### A very wonderful and special country

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country.

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them. ...

Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unhampered by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We need to recover the cleanness and manhood and power and might of the United States in our minds. We must reemphasize morality, decency and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of human personality. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.

-Dr. Norman Vincent Peale from his sermon “I Pledge Allegiance”

## JULY CALENDAR 2017

\* Nursery provided for this event.    \*\* Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call Niki Chowdhury

### Saturday, July 1

### Sunday, July 2 Red, White, & Blue Sunday

#### Pastor Bagley's first Sunday

8:30am NO Arise Worship  
 9:30am Sunday School\*  
 10:00am ONE Worship Celebration only, Family Center\*  
 3:45pm NO Handbells Rehearsal  
 4:30pm Youth, gym

### Monday, July 3

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center

### Tuesday, July 4 Independence Day Offices Closed

### Wednesday, July 5

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 11:00am Hilltoppers The Menu: hamburgers & fixin's, chips, homemade ice cream, and drinks for \$6. Program: Carmen Vermillion will share some wonderful music with a wonderful voice.  
 6:00-7:30pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 6

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary\*\*

### Friday, July 7

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 6:00-10:00pm Parents' Night Out, gym  
 7:00pm Holy Huddlers, Jason's Deli, Lgv.

### Saturday, July 8

7:00am Newgate Mission, Longview  
 1:00-3:00pm Gunner Patton's B-day party, gym

### Sunday, July 9 Leave for Church Camp at Lakeview

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary  
 9:30am Sunday School\*  
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary\*  
 3:45pm NO Handbells Rehearsal  
 4:30pm NO Youth

### Monday, July 10 Church Camp

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center

### Tuesday, July 11 Church Camp

### Wednesday, July 12 Church Camp

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 6:00-7:30pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 13 Church Camp

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary\*\*

### Friday, July 14 Church Camp returns

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center

### Saturday, July 15

6:00-8:00pm Game Night, gym

### Sunday, July 16

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary  
 9:30am Sunday School\*  
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary\*  
 3:45pm NO Handbells Rehearsal

4:30pm Youth, gym

### Monday, July 17

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 7:00pm Trustees, Conference Room

### Tuesday, July 18

### Wednesday July 19

9:00-9:45 a.m. Exercise, Family Center  
 6:00-7:30pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 20 BIG HOUSE to Cold Springs

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary\*\*

### Friday, July 21 BIG HOUSE to Cold Springs

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 7:00pm Holy Huddlers, Hupei Chinese (front of Butcher Shop)

### Saturday, July 22 BIG HOUSE to Cold Springs

### Sunday, July 23 BIG HOUSE returns

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary  
 9:30am Sunday School\*  
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary\*  
 3:45pm NO Handbells Rehearsal  
 4:30-5:00pm Youth

### Monday, July 24

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center

### Tuesday, July 25

### Wednesday July 26

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 6:00-7:30pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 27

### Friday July 28

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center  
 11:30pm Kilgore Church Women meeting for July will be at Crossroads United Methodist Church, Friday - July 28, 2017  
 11:30 - 1:00 Covered Dish Lunch  
 Mitzi Hartfiel will be giving the program

### Saturday, July 29

7:00am Newgate Mission, Longview

### Sunday, July 30

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary  
 9:30am Sunday School\*  
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary\*  
 3:45pm NO Handbells Rehearsal  
 4:30pm Youth, gym

### Monday, July 31

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center

## JOB OPENING

Ore City UMC is seeking a Youth Leader, as well as a Worship Leader for their contemporary service. Should you have either of these gifts or both, please contact Rev. Doug Smith @ 903-932-5559. This is a part-time position.

Will offer compensation. Details when you call.

# Evangelism Moment.. . .

## WATCH & LISTEN

The man **whispered**, “God, speak to me,”  
and a meadowlark sang.

But, the man did not hear.

So the man **yelled**, “God, speak to me,”  
and the thunder rolled across the sky.

But, the man did not listen.

The man **looked around** and said, “God,  
let me see you.”

and a star shined brightly.

But, the man did not notice.

And the man **shouted**, “God show me  
a miracle,”

and a life was born.

But, the man did not know.

So, the man **cried out in despair**, “touch  
me God, and let me know you are here,”

whereupon, God reached down and  
touched the man.

But, the man brushed the butterfly away  
and walked on.

*Don't miss out on a blessing just because  
It isn't packaged the way that you expect.*

Barbara Francisco  
Evangelism Team

## A prayer for July 4

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise  
you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live.  
We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for  
its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources  
and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and  
mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and  
steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting  
document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good  
stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen.



## UPDATE ON MISSIONARIES HANNAH & AARON, FAMILY OF DAVID AND MASON WHO ARE MEMBERS OF ST. LUKE'S

Greetings from Uganda, It's been a whirlwind of a month. Thank you for standing by us in prayer. We are so thankful for all God has done in our personal lives and what He has done in those around us. Many of you know that about 4 weeks after we sent out our last update in April that we had to move. Our plan was to continue our testing phase until August, but after much prayer and wisdom from our boss we decided that we needed to end the testing phase. It was made clear to us that it was time to move on to another area. Please praise the Lord with us for all the work that God allowed us to complete in Midigo. We are thankful for new wells, love and truth shared, new spiritual life, discipleship, and all the personal blessings and growth we experienced. We are now in Soroti and are excited to be near and working with those that we love in this area. The last month has not been what we expected due to some serious sickness, but we are thankful to be gaining strength back and are excited to jump back into work." And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25 The prayer of our heart is that we would all love deeply as Christ did, allowing Jesus to work through us and in us. Let us encourage one another to live a life surrendered to Christ with a passion for His glory alone! We have truly felt your love and prayers these last few weeks as we moved and battled sickness. Thank you for blessing us with your prayers and financial gifts so that we can continue to be here to share the truth of Christ and help provide clean water for those who desperately need it. Thank you! Much love, Aaron and Hannah Water for All International. We just updated our Blog on the hunger issue impacting this area <http://www.masonsgonefishing.com/> Prayer Request:-Pray for rain. Much of East Africa is in drought and many places on the verge of famine. Although it has rained some and people have planted, the crops are not looking good. People are hungry and living without the hope of Jesus.-Please pray for us as we transition, reconnect with old friends, and build new relationships. The prosperity gospel has plagued our area. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us as we stand up for the true Gospel.-We are thrilled that our team members Colin and Ronnie have just returned from some time in the USA. Please pray for them and their 3 children as they transition back to village life.-Please pray for us to be surrendered to the Lord daily, keeping our eyes on Him, and for wisdom as we discern where He wants us long term. Please pray for continued improvement from our recent sickness, against other illnesses, and attacks from the enemy.



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**The VISITOR**

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**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Arise Service ..... 8:30 AM  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
Traditional Service ..... 10:30 AM

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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Permit No. 202

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**INFANT BAPTISM OF  
CORA JADE MOONEY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017**

REV. DARWOOD GALAWAY, PRESIDING  
DAUGHTER OF CLAY & CELIA MOONEY  
BIG BROTHERS ARE CLAY & JACOB.  
CORA WAS BORN MAY 10, 2017, AT GOOD  
SHEPHERD HOSPITAL IN LONGVIEW WEIGHING  
5 LB. 15 OZ. AND WAS 18 INCHES LONG.

**UPDATE ON ORGAN FUND**

Renovation of St Luke's Historic  
Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ

**PHASE 1**

\$135,000  
\$121,500  
\$101,500  
\$ 82,515  
\$ 71,500

**RENOVATIONS**

will be accomplished  
in 2 phases  
Phase 1: \$135,000  
Currently Available  
\$82,515

**OUR GOAL**

**BALANCE MUST BE AVAILABLE BEFORE**

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT--BIG SUCCESS!**

Hot dogs, potato salad, chips, watermelon, cantalope, & more were enjoyed. What a wonderful sight seeing so many children playing with the youth and other "agile" adults jumping on the bouncy houses and playing ball. Others took over the game tables. The Rock Class sponsored this first annual family fun day and presented bicycles & a bike stroller to the new Bagley children as a special welcome. Thanks, Lisa Frazier and Anthony Boone for their leadership with lots of class/friends help.