



Live Oak United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 709, Watson, LA 70786
(225) 664-4801

www.loumc.org

liveoakumc@aol.com

**Sunday Worship - 8:00 AM., 10:00 AM., 11:30 AM. and 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School - 9:00 AM & 10:00 AM**

Thursday Worship – 7:00PM

Sunday School - 9:00 & 10:00 A.M.

Pastor Dr. Mark Crosby
Associate Pastor Rev. Dickie Davis
Pastoral Care Director Rev. Tom Bergeron
Asst. Pastoral Care Rev. Rita Chiasson
Youth/Missions Director Rev. David Orges
Special Ministries James Harthoorn
Assoc. Minister/Worship Leader Trent Barnett
Music Director Melanie Rushing
Asst. Music Director David Easley
Education Director Terrie Crosby
Administrative Asst. Cathy Bermes
Treasurer Jim Otken
Maintenance David Drake
Organist Carol Justice & Vickie Arbour
Keyboard Brittany Crosby, Sammi
Rushing and Sarah Rushing



Live Oak United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter | March 2012

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Pastor's Desk

Here we are on the brink of spring, the temperature is trying to rise, grass wants to grow and the trees are beginning to bud a little early this year. This is the season of renewal and life. We look forward to warmer days, longer days, and the life that spring time brings. I am hoping that as we look forward to this season, we will be reminded that Jesus brings life to those who believe in Him and call upon His name. In the month of March we will focus on a topic that we all think about at some time, and hope to enjoy at some time, yet a topic that few of us truly spend much time reading about, and that is the subject of Heaven.

Heaven is the final destination most people are hoping to reach, however many aren't sure how to get there, what it looks like, or what will happen once we get there. For some people heaven is nothing exciting and therefore their hope, joy and anticipation are minimal. What do you know about heaven? Can you define the "New Heaven and the New Earth?" Can you share with someone how to get to Heaven if they were to ask you? What is it about Heaven you look forward to or are uncertain about? These and many other questions will be answered as we begin the series on "**Heaven, the Final Frontier.**"

I hope you will join us for a series that will hopefully bring hope, joy and great anticipation into your life. **Remember, Heaven awaits all who believe in Jesus for it.**

Hope to see you Sunday.

Mark C.



2011 Thrift Shop Report

During 2011 the Thrift Shop was able to provide or help our church with the purchase of 2 vacuum cleaners, mulch for the playground, a defibrillator, office furnishings, repairs at the Family Life Center and asphalt work.

We made donations to our quilters, the college and career group and the benevolent fund. We provided bereavement food trays for families who have lost a loved one. And we were able to make a large donation on the principle of the church building loan.

We sent blankets to Joplin, donated to the Alabama tornado victims and the Wounded Knee District School in South Dakota. These are missions some of our church members were involved in. We contributed to the Scout's charter and made donations to WOW and Livingston Parish Sheriff's Christmas Crusade. As we do every year we also paid the dumpster fees, the utilities at the Thrift Shop and any repairs needed there.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Thrift Shop and to everyone who donated items to us. Because of you we were able to continue the mission of the Thrift Shop which is to provide items to people who cannot afford them.

If you know of a need we can help with please contact Peggy Langlois at 225-665-1314.

A graphic featuring the word "worship" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are partially obscured by a white circle containing several white, semi-transparent, fan-like shapes radiating from the left side.

worship

Tommy Ray Bergeron Sr., OCL



I was born in Houma, Louisiana on January 2, 1938, the fourth son of Ivy and Rita Bergeron. At the age of nine years, the family moved to New Orleans where I grew up through High School.

Upon graduating from Nicholls High School in New Orleans, in 1954, I got a job with Texaco, Inc., working as a cook's helper in the Oil Rig Camps of South Louisiana, working my way through College and Seminary. I attended Centenary College in Shreveport earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion. I graduated from Perkins School of Theology earning a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1963, which was later updated to a Master of Theology Degree.

My wife, Peggy White (now deceased) and I met in the seventh grade, dated seven years, and we were married on June 7, 1959. Through our married life, we adopted our three children, Renee Marie, Tom Jr., and Brian Scott.

Throughout my ministry, I had the privilege of serving 13 different United Methodist Churches: New Iberia - First (63-66), Indian Bayou and Kaplan (66-69), Berwick (69-72), Elysian Fields and John Wesley in New Orleans (72-80), Magnolia and Bethel in Baton Rouge (80-87), La Place (87-88), Belle Chasse and Marrero (88-91), Pharr Chapel in Morgan City (91-94), and Oak Park in Lake Charles (94-2001). After serving 40 years as a minister, Peggy and I chose to retire from the active ministry.

Upon retirement in June 2001, Peggy and I moved to Baton Rouge and are now living in a Retired Minister's Home, provided for us by the United Methodist Church. Currently, in retirement, I am serving as Director of Pastoral Care for the Live Oak United Methodist Church in Watson, LA.

I joined Rotary while serving as Pastor of the United Methodist Church in La Place in 1987. Throughout my ministry, I was a member of 5 different Rotary Clubs: La Place, Belle Chasse, Morgan City, Lake Charles - East, and presently Baton Rouge - Capital City. I am a past President of the Belle Chasse, Lake Charles - East Club and the Baton Rouge - Capital City Club. I am working toward 18 years perfect attendance. I was also privileged to serve three terms as an Assistant Governor for Rotary District 6200.

In 1987, I also became a member of the Order of St. Luke, an Order of the United Methodist Church which calls its members to a life of personal spiritual discipline, promoting, practicing, and upholding the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Spiritual Healing.

Along the way, I also reclaimed my Cajun heritage and have become a Cajun Humorist telling Cajun Stories (not jokes) about the Cajun people. I do this for hire and am available for bookings.

Travels include: Various U.S. States, Bahamas, Mexico, Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Haiti, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Holy Lands, Athens, Rome, Amsterdam, England, Wales, and Pierre Part.

Hobbies: Sailing, Jig-Saw Puzzles, Cross Word Puzzles. Scrabble, Classical & Religious Music.

Nuggets from the Bible

Thessalonian 1:2-4, 6-7

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God."

"And you have become followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achia who believe."

The three phrases in verse three, work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in Christ; are sometimes referred to as the three Christian graces by Bible scholars and students. They speak to us today just as they did to the early Thessalonian believers.

The **work of faith** is looking back at the cross work of Christ and trusting that His death was enough to forgive all my sins (past, present and future) and to assure me of eternal life with Him. This is sometimes referred to in Scripture as **justification**. Justification means being declared right by God. When a person believes in Christ, he takes on the righteousness of Christ, and Christ takes on his sins. Paul the apostle explains it this way, "And you, being dead in your trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (past, present and future) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us (law, legalism) which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." (Col. 2:12,14). When Christ died on the cross, all sins of all men for all time were nailed to the cross. When we believe this we have justification.

"**Labor of love**" refers to labor done because of a love for Christ and what He has done for us. It has nothing to do with salvation, but it does apply to our "walk" (how we live our lives after salvation). This love springs from knowledge of His love for us. Love for Christ motivated the Thessalonian believers to labor and strive to please Him. Love is a powerful motivator of labor. This is **sanctification**.

"**Patience of hope**" concerns the endurance that resulted for the confidence in the return of Christ. Biblical hope is not wishing that something will occur. It is being certain of something that is yet future. The return of Christ kept the attention and focus of those early believers and helped them to persevere (hang in there in spite of troubles and hard times.) They looked ahead to the change that would take place when Christ returned. This is **glorification**.

The word of these three things related to the Thessalonians had spread throughout the land as a witness for Christ. The questions for us today are "Can these things be seen in my life?" and "Can they be seen in my church?"

ARA

Pull me out of the net
which they have secretly
laid for me,
For You are my strength.

Psalms 4:4



Reverend Rita Chiasson

Rita Milton Chiasson was born February 2, 1940 to Monroe and Eris Milton, of Denham Springs. Rita grew up on Florida Blvd in a small house on ten acres. Her childhood was a happy one surrounded with lots of open spaces to play and lots of pets and animals. Her father always had a large garden that provided the family with fresh vegetables. He also had cows and pigs that provided milk and meat. Rita's mom was a Social Worker and she worked at the Livingston Welfare office. This property is still in the family as she still lives there as well as her daughter and her family.

Rita attended Denham Springs Elementary through the eighth grade and graduated from Denham Springs High in 1958. While in high school she started teaching piano, was a member of the band for four years playing clarinet and was accompanist for the Children's Choir and Sunday night services at First United Methodist in Denham Springs. After graduation she went to LSU and majored in Piano.

At the first LSU football game in 1958 she had a blind date with a Cajun guy from Thibodaux who later turned out to be her husband. This was also the year that LSU won the National title. She graduated from LSU in May 1962 and married her first love, Percy, in October 26, 1962. They moved to Fort Worth, Texas as he was still serving in the Army. They lived there for three years and their first child, Lisa was born.

After Percy's release from the army they returned to Louisiana and lived in Thibodaux for three years where she taught music at Thibodaux Jr. and Senior High Schools. Percy and Rita then moved to Denham Springs after he got a job with Exxon Chemical. They had three more children and now have four grandchildren. Rita then started teaching piano in her home and continues to teach today. During this time she also became the organist and Children's Choir Director at First Methodist Church. She served in this position for 20 years; she has also served at Magnolia UMC as Director of Instrumental Music.

In 2001, Rita felt the call to enter the ministry at age 60. For many years she had been serving God through music and had put aside her desire to become a minister, but now she couldn't say no to God anymore. Ten years later she was ordained as a Deacon with the Louisiana Conference and has been serving at Live Oak for two years in Pastoral Care and Music.

At Live Oak she has taught several Bible Studies and organized a Youth Handbell Choir. She also subs on the organ and in the Adult Handbell and Choir when needed. Rita says that she feels so blessed to serve and be a part of this wonderful Church.

May God bless each and everyone as we continue to work together to serve our Lord and Savior!

Thank you to our Volunteers

In writing my report on the Thrift Shop, I started to think about the many volunteers in our church. I've made a list of them but I'm sure I've left out some. Please let me know of any I've forgotten.

These are some areas of volunteer service: Thrift Shop, Vacation Bible School, Security, Newsletter, Church sign maintenance, Food Pantry, Sunday School teacher, Quilters, Ushers, Mother/Daughter Tea, Trash Bash, Greeters, Father/Daughter Dance, Decorations, Audio, Valentine Banquet, Choir, Bells, Special Ministries, DVDs, Pie Ministry, Veteran Home/Military, Acolytes, Money Counters, Men's Breakfast, Visiting, Prayer Chain, Communion Stewards, Fall Festival, Correspondence, Communion Preparers, Folding Bulletins, AWANA, Offering Envelopes, Attendance Forms, Youth Bereavement Food

Also thanks to all who volunteer their time in prayer for our church. Without volunteers our church would not be as good as it is.

Thank you.

Peggy Langlois

Thank You

From Christian Education

THE BRANCH

The Branch is designed to minister to our young adults who are in their twenties & out of college (or almost out). Please contact Terrie Crosby for more information 225-937-4657 or terrie@ilovejesus.net.

THE UNION

Married Couples: The New ministry "The Union" will be meeting once a month, Child care is available but must be prearranged. Married couples under 35 are encouraged to join us for food, fellowship and teaching.

Contact Jamie Crosby LeBouef at 225- 247-6688 for details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The New Year is in and most of us like to start it off right with new family habits and traditions. Please consider Sunday school as a part of your family's new activities for 2012. We have classes at 9:00 a.m. for all ages, nursery to adult. At 10:00 a.m., we have adult classes and Children's Church for kids in Preschool through 5th grade. If you haven't seen our beautiful Children's Worship area we call "**The Front Porch**," please visit soon. It is located in the rear of our old sanctuary. There, children will learn about Jesus through songs, puppet shows, games and Bible study.

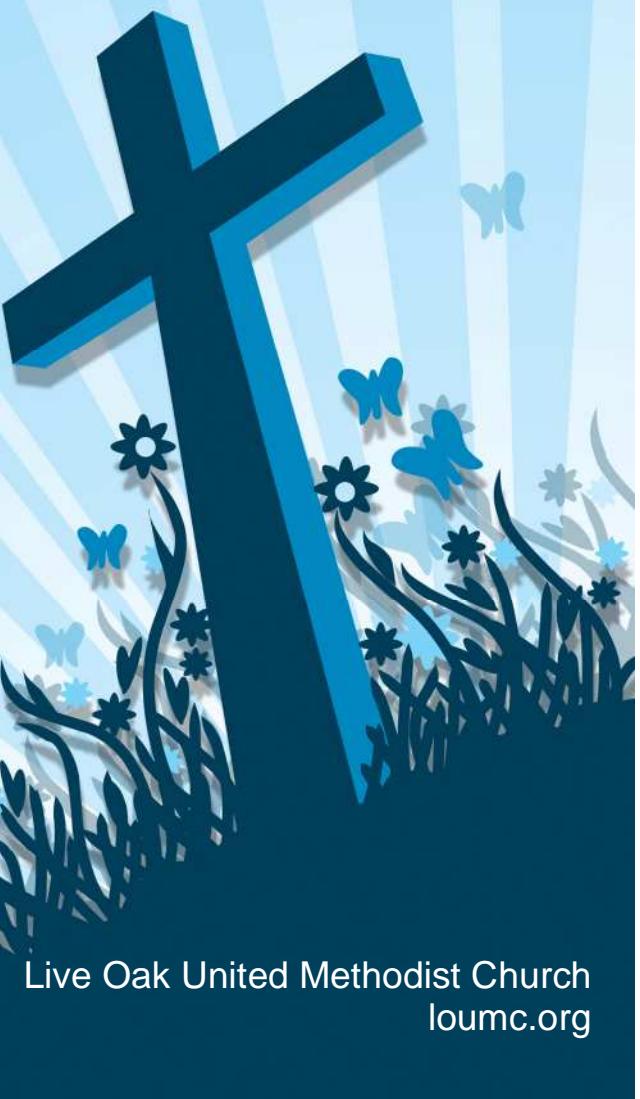
Please contact Terrie Crosby for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please save the date! **June 10th through 13th**, Sunday through Wednesday night we will be having our super awesome amazing Vacation Bible School!

Our theme this year will be **Swamp People!**
You won't want to miss this one!

**More information to
come in next month's
newsletter!**





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Live Oak

United Methodist Church

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10) NLT

Guest Speaker: Jamie Crosby LeBoeuf

God the Master Artist

Ladies Retreat

When: March 16th – 18th

Where: Shiloh Ministries in Greensburg, LA

Depart from: LOUMC on Friday @ 6 p.m.

Return to: LOUMC on Sunday @ 1 p.m.

Facilitated by: Ladies Refuge/Debra Thomas

\$40 Registration Fee to be paid by March 1st

Fee Provides: 2-night stay, meals & painting

For more information contact:

Debra @ 225-252-4512

In Loving Memory

02/12/2012

Mrs. Lib Hancock: Pat & Mike McCumsey

02/19/2012

Mike Ott: Scott and Julie Smith

Live Oak United Methodist Church

*My life dissolves and weeps itself away for
heaviness; raise me up and strengthen me
according to [the promises of] Your word.*

Psalm 119:28



In Honor

1/1/2012

Doug & Delores Corkern: Virginia Meinke