

Live Oak United Methodist

Monthly Newsletter of Live Oak United Methodist | *January 2012*

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And A Happy New Year!

This time each year we often reflect on what we accomplished, experienced and learned in the past year. We also make goals, dream dreams, and sometimes enter the New Year with a sense of wonder and anxiety. Many reflect on some of the major stories of 2011.

Some of the headlines in 2011 were the deaths of terrorists and tyrants like Bin Laden, and Kim Jong il. We also saw an incredible tsunami in Japan, extreme tornadoes in Alabama and Missouri, and our country lose its AAA rating as a Nation. Therefore, many wonder what will happen in 2012. Will 2012 be a year of recovery and blessing, or will the headlines announce greater turmoil and uncertainty?

Many ask what does one do in times of uncertainty and disappointment? How do people manage and what does the Bible say about these uncertain times? Remember most of the Bible was written during and about times of uncertainty and how God made a way when there was no way.

In the month of January our focus will be "How to face uncertain times and still enjoy the time of our lives."

I hope you and yours have a great 2012. Please make every effort to grow in God's word and to walk in God's grace. We have been so blessed here at Live Oak UMC and have witnessed God do amazing things among the people of our church.

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A Huge Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone that turned out to help our "sock project" for the Wounded Knee District School on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. What began as a pack of socks for each child turned into a personal gift bag for each child containing a pack of socks, a pair of shoes, a blanket, a scarf, a book sack, toys, and a spiral cut ham. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time and love to help us prepare the bags for delivery. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to David Drake, Bryan Bueche, Ronnie Langlois and Charles Dougay for delivering everything to South Dakota. Above all, we thank the Lord for helping us make this happen!

*With great appreciation,
John & Gaynelle Rhodes*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen who make quilts and fix sewing machines and bringing them to St. Vincent de Paul:

Thank you so much for the hand made quilts. We have given them all to the Sweet Dreams Shelter residents. The families and all of us at St. Vincent de Paul appreciate your work, your kindness and the spirit you bring to us all. You are truly a part of our St. Vincent de Paul Community.

Merry Christmas,
Bishop Ott Shelter Staff

And a Happy New Year Continued ...

My prayer is that God will continue to bless us and guide us by His Spirit and grant us wisdom through His Word.

I want to personally thank all of you, for making 2011 another amazing year of ministry as we experienced His Love and Grace in truly amazing ways.

I pray that all of us will draw near to God as God draws near to us in the year 2012.

God bless, Hope to see you Sunday
Mark Crosby

From: Mary Burgin

Date: December 13, 2011

Subject: Live Oak UMC

Vibrant Church Recognition

Bishop Hutchinson and Dr. Ford,

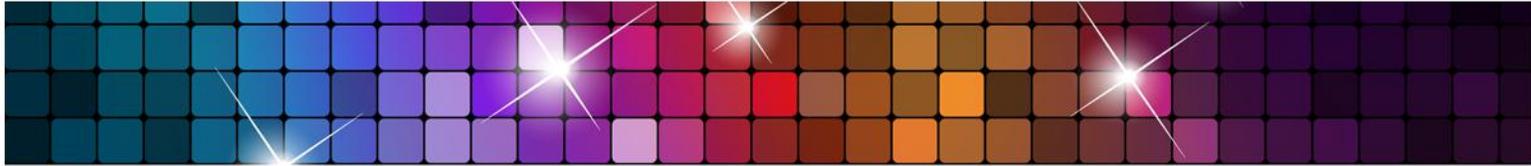
We at The Foundation for Evangelism have the opportunity to see The United Methodist Church at its best. Utilizing data and interviews, we began a study of churches that experienced a 20% or more attendance growth in 5 years. Very quickly, we realized that the information gained from these interviews is invaluable.

"Celebrating Vibrant Churches" has been developed as an online resource for clergy and laity from across the connection who are seeking creative, successful evangelism practice ideas. Dr. Kenneth Lambert, Director of Church Relations, interviewed pastors of select churches that have displayed some of the fastest growing attendance numbers in the nation. These interviews are featured on the "Celebrating Vibrant Churches" section of our website, which continues to be the most visited area of our website.

We are pleased to recognize a church in your area, Live Oak United Methodist Church in Watson, Louisiana, as a Vibrant Church. Dr. Mark Crosby shares insights we feel may help others. We invite you to visit our website at <http://foundationforevangelism.org/category/vibrant-churches> to read this and other inspirational stories from United Methodist pastors and churches.

May God continue to richly bless each of you in your ministry.

Mary Burgin | Administrative Assistant



Nuggets from the Bible

**"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16**

It has been said that John 3:16 is one of the Bible's most simple yet most profound verses of Scripture. Here we find the way of salvation. We may ask "What does God want to give us?" - Eternal life. "What does He say we have to do to get it?" - believe - simple, yet profound.

From the beginning of the Bible story to the end, God has always looked for those who will believe Him. We have examples throughout Scripture of those who believed.

The story of Noah and the ark is one of the earlier stories of belief that God will do what He says He will do. The idea of the ark for the preservation (salvation) of Noah and his family originated in the heart of God. After Noah heard God and believed him, he responded by building the ark, in spite of ridicule from the people. Believers today do not have to "build an ark". It has already been "built" by God when His son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross to pay for all sin, for all men, for all time. There is no work to be done, because Christ did all the work. All we need to do is believe it. So the way of escape from God's judgment and wrath is still the same as it was with Noah.

Paul the Apostle said it so well in his letter to the church at Ephesus,

"For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)



Awana News

AWANA DAYS

January 1, 2012 - No AWANA – New Years

January 8, 2012 - First AWANA of the New Year!

January 15, 2012 - No AWANA – Martin Luther King Holiday

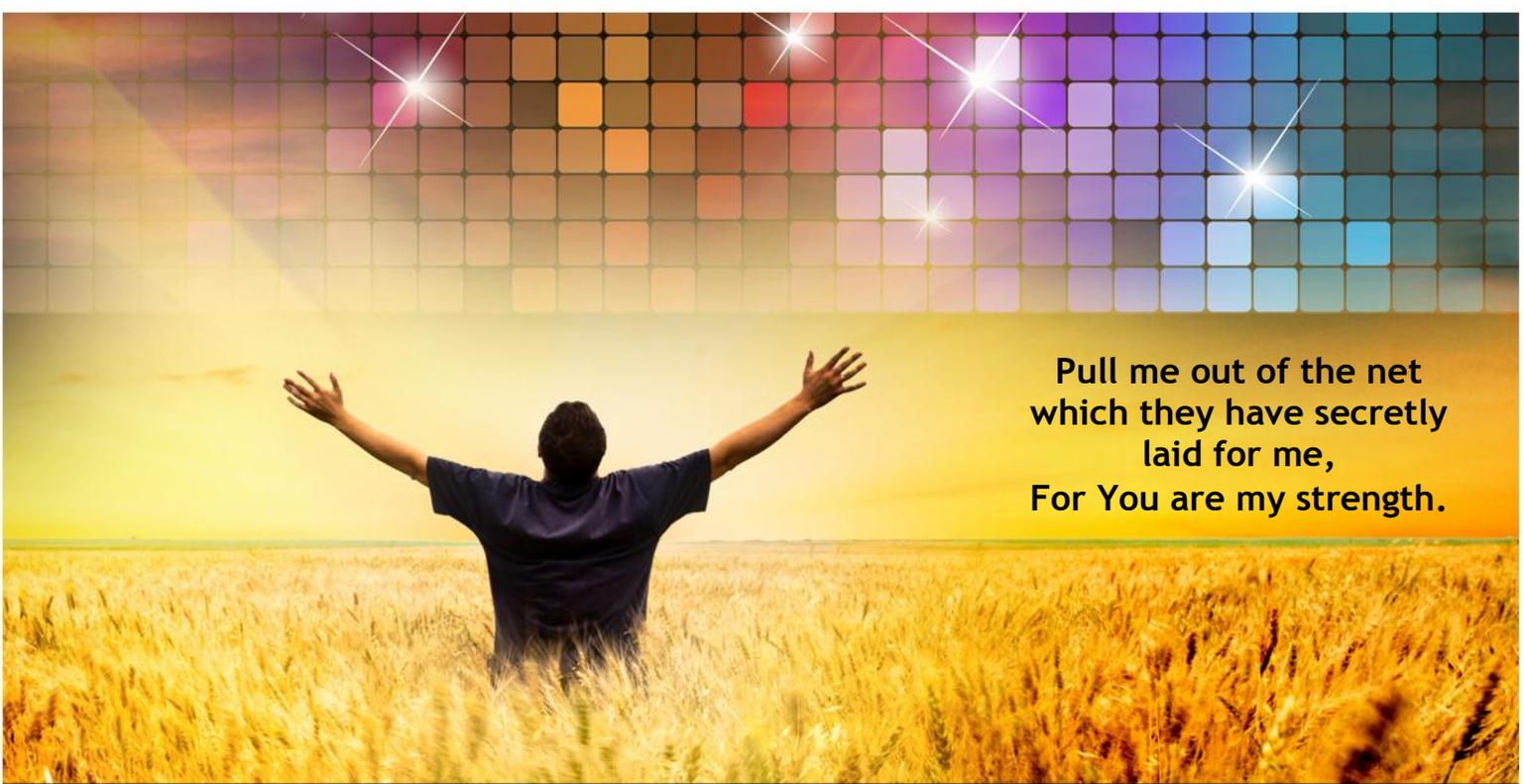
January 22, 2012 - Give Thanks AWANA – Come with a list prepared of things you are thankful

January 29, 2012 - NO AWANA – Come join us with the whole family for 5th Sunday Activities.

Participating in the night's theme is not mandatory – but it is a lot of fun and an opportunity to win a prize.

The Department of Children and Family Services

Are recruiting Foster Parents. Livingston Parish is desperately in need of families to provide a loving and nurturing home to the abused and neglected children of the Parish. For more information please contact Kim Chachere @ 225-686-7257 or Kimberly.Chachere@la.gov



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

Pastor Mark Crosby – Biography

Mark Crosby was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, but considers Sherman Texas his "home town." Sherman, TX is where Mark grew up going from grade school to college in Sherman, TX. During his years in Sherman, Mark lived what he calls a "Richie Cunningham" (of Happy Days) kind of life. His mother and father provided a very structured and loving home. He enjoyed sports, drama and student leadership during his school years.

After graduation from Sherman High School in 1978, Mark attended and later graduated from Austin College. It was at Austin College where Mark came to know and believe in Christ as his personal savior as a fellow student shared the gospel with him in a dorm room during finals week. It was at Austin College where Mark began to grow and share the gospel with others as a mini revival spread across the campus.

After graduation from Austin College, Mark moved to Baton Rouge (his father had become Director of BREC during his sophomore year in college). While in Baton Rouge, Mark became a part of the Management Team of a large retail chain. He was later transferred to Cut Off, LA. to open a new store, and while there he met Terrie Plaisance and after a few months of dating they felt God had brought them together and marriage soon ensued. (Continued on Page 5)



Handicapped Parking

Please be aware that certain areas of our parking lots are reserved for **Handicapped Parking ONLY**. Please do not park in any of these spaces unless you have a designated Handicapped License Plate, or, a Handicapped Parking Sign placed on your rearview mirror. If you or someone you know transports a handicapped person and might need a *LOUMC Handicapped Parking Permit* please contact our church office. Thanks for your cooperation.

