



LIFT LETTER

July 2017 | Monthly Newsletter of Selma First Baptist Church

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 7.3 YOUTH FOOD BOOTH
- 7.4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7.9 JUNIOR HIGH CAMP @ HARTLAND
- 7.20 SERVANT BOARD MEETING
- 7.23 HIGH SCHOOL CAMP @ HARTLAND
- 7.23 KIDS' CAMP @ CAMP SUGAR PINE

FROM THE VINE: A CONGREGATIONAL BLOG

Just Pray

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

These aren't just words from a much-loved hymn. This is the reality for those of us who are children of God through faith in Christ. I confess I don't always take even the big things in life to God in prayer, much less everything. But I know that when I pray more, when I allow God to bear my burdens, I am able to handle life better. Not that there are miraculous answers to my prayers, (though I have seen a few miracles over the years) and not that everything in my life lines up just right when I pray. But there have been

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FROM THE VINE:

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seasons of my life when I prayed very little, and seasons when I prayed a lot, and staying close to Jesus is always better.

As a disclaimer, I am not a prayer expert, or a prayer warrior. Actually, it's ironic that I was asked to write about prayer. You see, in our Sunday school class we have been reading Richard Foster's book about spiritual disciplines. I've really enjoyed this book, but when I got to the chapter on prayer, I got so upset that I stopped reading it. Not only that, I skipped the class that following Sunday. There were a lot of how-to's in the chapter and I felt as though it was telling me that God would not listen to me or answer my prayers unless I did things just right. I'm sure Foster's instructions were valid, but I struggle with low self-esteem and the last thing I needed was to add prayer to the long list of things I'm not good at. So I stopped reading, but I didn't stop praying.

Many books have been written on prayer, and I have no insight that will be new to anyone. I can't tell you how to have more powerful prayers, or how to have enough faith or enough whatever, so that your prayers are always answered the way you want them to be. My prayers aren't always answered the way I want, and sometimes God is pretty silent. I'm sure I rarely pray just right. I often forget to properly acknowledge God's awesomeness before I jump in with my requests. And I forget sometimes to thank him for all of his many blessings. But the fact that I am communicating with my Heavenly Father in an intentional way brings me closer to Him. He has promised in His word that if we seek Him we will find him (Deut. 4:29, 1 Chron. 28:9, Is. 55:6). So I seek Him, every day.

God is smarter than me, and He is smarter than you. As you pray, God will give you His wisdom. As you ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit, you will receive it. And as you act according to the Holy Spirit's leading, God will be able to use you for His glory. Interestingly enough, when I started writing that last sentence, in my head, I was planning to end with "....things will go better" but then I thought about the times when things didn't go better. They don't always, even when you pray in all earnestness, and follow the Holy Spirit's leading. But the blessings will come. God will work out his purpose in your life, if you surrender to Him, and that is the true blessing; the ultimate answer to prayer. We all know Philippians 4:6, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." But don't stop there. Verse 7 says "Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." That's the promise, and most of us need more of it.

So what should we say to God? Everything. Do you have regrets? Sin that needs forgiveness? Need healing — emotional or physical? Tell God about it. Are you angry? Feeling blah? Having trouble feeling like you are connecting? He can help you with that too. He can handle all of what we throw at him, including our anger, self-pity, and even a lack of desire for God himself. Take it all to Him! Now some of you are thinking, "Ok, she has rambled on and on, but hasn't given any practical advice to help us." Like I said, I'm no expert, but I'll share some things that have helped me to pray in the past.

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6-18-17



FAITHFUL GIVING

WEEKLY BUDGET OBLIGATION (Includes Missions): \$6,681.00

6-4-17

6-11-17

5-28-17

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

	3 20 17	0 4 17	0 11 17	0 10 17
Offering/Tithing/Missions	\$6,614.94	\$8,050.01	\$4,681.65	\$5,116.00
Benevolence Fund	\$37.00	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$10.00
Designated Funds	\$155.00	\$1.00	\$1,997.00	\$265.00
Building Expansion fund	\$40.00	\$10,410.00	\$70.00	\$1,075.00

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SERVING THIS MONTH WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM

Serving July 2

Nursery-Russ & Janet Mitchell Toddler/Preschool-Clarissa Cole & Judee Howard K-6th Grade-Jamie Wenter & Debbie Lopez Computer Check In-Dan Sparks Greeters-Virginia Lee & Jo Murray

Serving July 9

Nursery-Venessa & Audrey Golding Toddler/Preschool-Tom & Katie Chandler K-6th Grade-Tony Escobedo & Esther Silva Computer Check In-Dan Sparks Greeters-Larry & Sharon Cruff

Serving July 16

Nursery-Toddler/Preschool-Clarissa Cole K-6th Grade-Katie Chandler & Katie Wells Computer Check In-Dan Sparks Greeters-Helen Dalerio & Leola Kaiser

Serving July 23

Nursery-Dimple Rasmussen & Darlene Wilbanks Toddler/Preschool-Clarissa Cole & Caitlyn Larkin K-6th Grade-Alison Rogers & Kim Langstraat Computer Check In-Dan Sparks Greeters-Leo & Joyce Yarbrough

Serving July 30

Nursery-Leola Kaiser & Wealthy Grilione Toddler/Preschool-Caitlyn Larkin & Katie Wells K-6th Grade-Elva Gonzalez & Rosemary Alanis Computer Check In-Dan Sparks Greeters-Curtis & Dimple Rasmussen

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

- 2-Annette Allen, Ray Cameron, Samantha Gonzalez
- 4-Mary Hill
- 5-Nathan Chandler, Jeremiah Oakley, Jamie Wenter
- 6-Tiffany Lacey-Deroian, Nikki White
- 9- Linda Bianchi, Emery Green
- 10-Roy Boyd, Jacob Dellamaggiore, Reagan Green
- 11-Mike Derr, Joyce Smart
- 12-Vince Ramirez
- 13-Emily Pallesi
- 15-Terri McKay
- 16-Hannah Fennell, Arnold Sparks
- 19-Sarah Mitchell
- 20-Mat Barnett, Jerald Traeger
- 21-Helen Dalerio, Alexandria Ornelas, Daniel Pankratz
- 23-Israel Chapa, Elijah Gonzales
- 25-Mary Allen, Larry Cruff, Connor King
- 26-Savanna Gonzalez, Erica Green, Danay Niles
- 27-Chris George, Leslie Nelson
- 28-Austin King, Joyce Yarbrough
- 29-Lelaigh Chapa, Makenna Hoyt, Jose Zaragoza

ANNIVERSARIES IN JULY

5-John & Belen Hoyt

9- Mike & Sandra Hull

14-Troy & Dena Yarbrough

16-Paul & Libby Green

Chad & Jamie Wenter

27- David & Amy Dobrinin

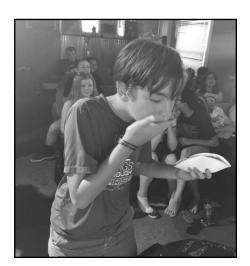
30-Doug & Lynette Hecker

31- Don & Joan Nelson

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. - 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 NLT

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This past month has been a difficult time for our whole church. Through this situation, I have felt like I have been drowning with no way out. I don't tell you this so you will say, "Poor Matt". Rather, I say this because our youth ministry is called REALITY. We do not exist in some magic fairytale world where there is always a clear good guy and bad guy. Sometimes bad things happen, for no explainable reason.

Although this past month has been hard, we will endure. God is working in great ways behind the scenes, and although I don't see it I have to believe that He know what he is doing. Reality YM will survive, we will come through this, and we will be better for it. We must stand on the promise God made to us through Paul in Roman 8:

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. 28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

God is working for our good, He is working for the good of our youth ministry, and He is working for the good of our church. It has been my continued prayer that His will would be done in our lives, our church, and in our community as it is in Heaven.

STUDENT MINISTRY DIRECTORS: MATT ADAMS & ISAIAH ESCOBEDO
STUDENT MINISTRY INTERN: ALLIE McGINNIS

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FROM THE VINE:

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- Pray the Psalms. Many of them are written directly to God. Find some that you relate to, and pray them to God. This also works with praise music. As you listen to a song on the radio, pray the words back to God.
- 2. Keep a prayer journal. Oh, I can already hear many of you say "No way, not gonna do that. I don't journal." OK, try using the Notes app on your phone. Create a note called Prayer, and type in one or two word subjects or people to pray for. This will help you in two ways. First, it will be a reminder of what to pray about. Second, you will be able to look back months later and see how God has been faithful to answer some of your prayers.
- 3. Gratitude think of 3 things to thank God for each day. This helped me so much when I was going through a time of depression. Some of the things I thank God for are big things, like His forgiveness and love, my family and my church. Other things were small things like my breakfast oatmeal, my warm robe on a cold morning, and my giant-print Bible.

As you pray, don't worry about getting it just right, or impressing God. In Max Lucado's book, *Before Amen*, he writes that God is "Low on fancy, high on accessibility" and "there is no panel of angelic judges with numbered cards... 'Wow...that prayer was a ten.'" The important thing is to talk to your Heavenly Father as often as you can. Maybe I am not spiritually mature enough to handle the how-to's of prayer, and maybe someday I will be ready for the instruction manual. But in the meantime, I am going to keep talking to my Father in my improper, clumsy way, because I know He hears me and I know He loves me. I'm going to keep trying to do as the song says, "Everything to God in Prayer." The last line of the song gives us the best reason to pray: "In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there."

by Cathy Christensen





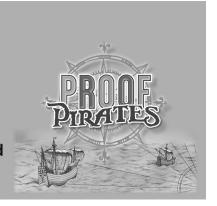
Kids in grades K-6th

July 5: Movie Night in Fellowship Hall July 12: Pioneer Village July 19: Pool Party & BBQ August 2: Movie Night in Fellowship Hall

August 9: Wacky Water Games

Thank you volunteers!

Kids met Jesus at VBS because you gave your time and talent.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Dorcas' Missions Group continues to collect box tops and labels for education to support several mission projects during the year. Clip and bring them to the back tables when it's convenient for you. Thank you!



Box Tops are found on a variety of food and household items. Look for the Box Tops coupon on your favorite products.

1-POINT VALUE



5-POINT VALUE



Labels for Education are found on Campbell, Swanson, V-8, and Pace products. Look for the logo next to the UPC.

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JULY 2017

SELMA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 2025 GRANT STREET SELMA, CA 93662

www.SelmaFirstBaptist.org Facebook.com/SelmaFBC

559-896-5842

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm OFFICE HOURS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	THURSDAY	Friday	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 11:30 am VBS Celebration 5:00 pm Small Group Bible Study	3:00 pm Youth Food Booth Fundraiser-SHS stadium Office Closed	4 Independence Day Office Closed	9:00 am The Adams of the Long Table (Men's Breakfast) - McCoy's 6:00 pm H.S. & J.H. Student Ministry- Pool Party @ The Alonzo's Home 6:00 pm Wacky Wednesday-Movie Night in Fellowship Hall	6 9:00 am Be A Neighbor Meet- ing- Fellowship Hall	7 Office Closed	∞
90.100 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 5:00 pm Small Group Bible Study	10	9:00 am Staff Mtg - Pastor's Office	9:00 am The Adams of the Long Table (Men's Breakfast) - McCoy's 9:00 am Wacky Wednesday-Pioneer Village	13 9:00 am Be A Neighbor Meeting- Fellowship Hall	14 Office Closed	15
Junior High @ Hartland Camp	Junior High @ Hartland Camp	Junior High @ Hartland Camp	6:00 pm H.S. Student Ministry- Movie Night @ Youth House Junior High @ Hartland	Junior High @ Hartland Camp	Junior High @ Hartland Camp	
16 10:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 5:00 pm Small Group Bible Study	17	9:00 am Staff Mtg - Pastor's Office	9:00 am The Adams of the Long Table (Men's Breakfast) - McCoy's 9:00 am Wacky Wednesday-Pool Party @ The Allen's Home 6:00 pm H.S. & J.H. Student Ministry "Wed Night Sundae Fight!" Youth House	9:00 am Be A Neighbor Meeting- Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Servant Board Mtg- Conference Room	21 Office Closed	22
23 10:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 5:00 pm Small Group Bible Study	24	25 9:00 am Staff Mtg - Pastor's Office	9:00 am The Adams of the Long Table (Men's Breakfast) - McCoy's 6:00 pm J.H. Student Ministry- Movie Night @ Youth House	27 9:00 am Be A Neighbor Meeting- Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Lift Letter Production-Church Office	28 Office Closed	29
High School @ Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	High School @ Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	High School @ Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	High School @ Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	High School @ Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	Hartland Camp Kids @ Sugar Pine Camp	
30 10:00 am Worship Service/ Children's Church 5:00 pm Small Group Bible Study	31	For t	the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom 2 Corinthians 3:17	nd wherever the Si Iom 2 Corinthiar	pirit of the ns 3:17	

