



LaCrosse Baptist Church Newsletter

June 2017

<http://www.lacrossebaptist.org>

Thoughts from Pastor Joey

What a terrific May we had at LaCrosse Baptist Church. I praise the Lord that we could give thanks that Bro Tyler and Mrs. Ashley have been amongst us for an entire year now. I am thankful for them and their sweet family. They are a blessing to me and our church. Believe it.

I was beyond amazed at the effort of some of our ladies and a few men when a yard sale was held to raise funds for a local woman that has cancer. Her bills are piling up and this church ministered to her needs. Over \$1700 dollars was raised to help her! That's not the most exciting part for me though...the most exciting part is that people in the community have



heard about it and are becoming interested in what is happening down 203 place. I spoke with a lady on the phone who heard about the yard sale and has expressed interest in coming and visiting the church. Maybe she will...maybe she won't, but an impact of some sort has been made. No matter what anyone else might be saying or thinking...I'm thankful!

The church also celebrated 135 years of existence in May as we celebrated Homecoming. What a great start to the services as we got to be included in seeing Megan Stroud baptized! I was honored to be the one to baptize her. How exciting! I was glad to see so many visitors and have the opportunity to minister the Word to the church. Someone told me that I was "wound up" that morning. I'd agree with that assessment. The messages that God gave me throughout the month of May seemed to flow with little

resistance. I'm not fooled though. The enemy is active amongst us. He consistently attempts to stir things up to cause division. Be aware of him and be prayerful that he is not able to destroy.

I was also grateful for the new church sign at the end of the road. People are taking notice! Bro Tyler told me that a lady at the Town Hall said she "loved the new sign!" All of these cosmetics that are happening (new roofs, new paint, new signs...etc...) are just that: cosmetics. I'm not overly worked up about that as much as seeing God work amongst His people. A small rural church with not many people shouldn't be able to do the things that we are seeing accomplished. Be we are seeing it. God is preparing the church for rain. Not physical rain, but spiritual rain. God is up to something incredible. We must be patient and praying. Again, as I stated before, the enemy is actively attempting to ruin what God is doing. We cannot let that happen.



Finally, the month of May saw my family celebrate 4 years at LaCrosse. I cannot believe that 4 years has gone by so quickly. When we arrived Benjamin was not even outside yet...he was still inside Vicki! He was born in November of that first year at LaCrosse and if you remember...Vicki was showing! What a great time we are having serving the Lord with you. Sometimes things get tough...but it's worth every second to honor the Lord by being called your Pastor. If you receive this newsletter and do not have a church home come visit with us! We would love to see you in person!

Until next month,
Pastor Joey

Yard Sale Benefit

During May, Barbara and Charles organized a Yard Sale Benefit for Sara Crim and her family. We managed to get the volunteers to stand still for a photo Friday morning and Sara is the one in the green shirt. She is a young mother with stage 4 cancer but no insurance. She really needed help and Barbara offered to hold the yard sale to assist in raising funds to help cover bills and expenses. All in all, through the sale of donated items, food and monetary donations, \$1700 was the final count. That is just outstanding! Thank you to everyone who helped and praise the Lord for providing the blessings. We serve an awesome God! And we have some awesome people in our church too.



Child Dedication Sunday

The Bible teaches that baptism is the act of recognizing and submitting to the will of Jesus in our lives. This is a decision a person must personally make and baptism and dedication are two different things.



So what is a “dedication”? It is primarily parents’ publicly dedicating themselves to raise their children in the nurture and love of the Lord. These three things should be true of the parents: they should be committed Christians, they should be involved in the church and they should take seriously their responsibility to raise their children with a strong spiritual foundation. Scott and Jeanine dedicated James and his baby brother Jonathan. Pastor Joey and Vicki dedicated Benjamin and I know these are dedicated Christian parents. May the Lord shine His love on these children as they grow and become Christians in their own right.

Church Work Day

On Saturday May 6th we had a general Church work day to help get the grounds ready for Homecoming. We had a good turn out and made good progress. As you can see

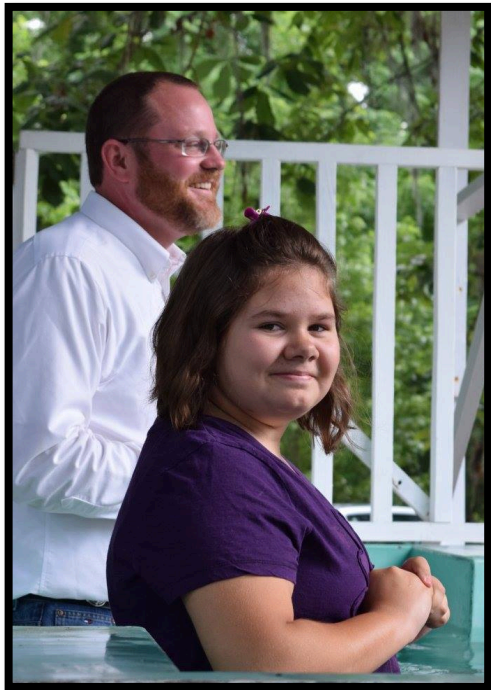


from the photo, Tobie bought his tractor and it was put to good use clearing out some old dead trees and shrubs. The bushes around the Fellowship Hall were trimmed and some progress was made in trying to reseed the low spot in front of the white fence. Many hands make the task go easier and the church thanks all the volunteers who came out and participated. Sometimes doing the Lord’s work involves moving a shovel or cleaning out the garage.

Megan E Stroud’s Baptism by Pat Stroud

On Sunday, May 28, 2017, at the celebration of 135 years Homecoming at LaCrosse Baptist Church, I was privileged and blessed to have witnessed the water baptism of my youngest grandchild, Megan Elizabeth Stroud at the age 11 years old. This baptism was only symbolic of the spiritual decision that Megan had made on April 30, 2017 to follow Christ Jesus as her Lord and Savior. It was a beautiful afternoon on April 30 when Megan came to spend the afternoon with her Nana and began talking seriously about things we had discussed before,

but now on a different level. Megan shared about the talks she and her Sunday School teacher, Candy Skelton, had shared about the ABCs of becoming a Christian: A – admit you are



a sinner and lost and in need of a Savior; B-believing in your heart that Jesus is real, He loves you and He died on the cross for our sins; C- confessing your sins and asking for forgiveness from God/Jesus.

After talking at length, Megan and I decided it was time to speak to Pastor Joey. God arranged for his availability and we met at the Church that afternoon before the evening services. After Pastor Joey spent time with Megan, he gave her time to spend time talking with Jesus in prayer. It was then jointly decided that she would come forward to make her decision public in the evening service, but Megan was so happy that she told the first person that came to church that evening, Ms. Kay Davis who was Megan's sitter from the time she was born until she started to school. She did come forward in the evening service and was set aside for baptism.

It was a great honor to see Pastor Joey baptize Megan in the same outdoor baptistery that her Nana, her parents, her sister and cousin Scott had been baptized

in, but more importantly, in the presence and in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we as a church family rejoice with Megan and her family, pray for her, and continue to guide and encourage her in her spiritual growth. Praise be to our Heavenly Father who called and caused Megan to respond. Hallelujah. Praise God for Sunday School teachers who make a positive difference in other lives. You can too!!

WHAT'S COMING UP

Church Council – June 11 – Will meet at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Business Meeting – June 11 – Following the Sunday Night service in the Sanctuary.

Ladies Meeting – June 12 – 7:00 In The Lighthouse. NOTE: Change of dated due to VBS.

Father's Day – June 18 – Dinner on the grounds after the morning service. The men are encouraged to enter the Annual Men's Dessert Contest.

VBS!!! – June 22-24 – Thursday and Friday, 6:30-8:30 --- Saturday 10:00 to 2:00 (family fun time starting at 12:00 with lunch served) Sunday at 11:00 will be graduation.

COLLECTION COUNTERS

JUNE - Jeanine Carsey and David Skelton (*David Lockup/Trash Duty*)

JULY - Carolyn Turlington and Pat Stroud (*Don Lockup/Trash Duty*)

AUGUST - Tobie Turlington and Kay Davis (*Tobie Lockup/Trash Duty*)

SEPTEMBER - Beal Stroud and Barbara Underwood (*Beal Lockup/Trash Duty*)