



LaCrosse Baptist Church Newsletter October - December 2020

<http://www.lacrossebaptist.org>

From the Pastor's heart:

As I reflect on 2020 I would like to share some perspectives, reflections and some insights as we look ahead. I am grateful that the majority of 2020 was spent as interim and pastor of LaCrosse Baptist Church. Ever since that first Sunday of May 17th we have felt at home. We have felt the presence of God in our services, activities and fellowship with each other.

I'm more and more moved and motivated by the unity and, desire to connect and reach the community. I believe that as we keep our focus on Him, pray and believe by faith in our great God He will move us forward, building up His kingdom. I also believe it is a process of allowing the Holy Spirit to motivate us to connect with Him as we reach upward and as we reach around us with the love and peace that only Jesus can bring.

Further evidence of God's presence and power is shown through scriptures such as Psalm 27:1 which says that "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid." Oh beloved what precious, powerful words of assurance, and, confidence that God will provide the open doors of opportunity to share the Gospel to all. Satan can throw many forces our way to deter and distract us from God's intended mission. We must remember that the Bible says "Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world." Brethren, Let us also take heart and courage by the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7," For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

As we go further into 2021, I look forward to praying, caring, sharing and going out with you to the harvest field of the LaCrosse community, Alachua county and much beyond. Please continue to pray for, participate in and tell others about our second Call to Pray day, (more info at the end of the newsletter) starting at 11:00am on January 23rd. There will be other opportunities like this in the coming days. May you and your family experience all the blessings of His Peace in the coming days I refer again to Paul's words in Philippians 3:14 which says "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ."

I'm reminded of the words of Psalm 33:20-22 which says "Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His Holy name. Let thy mercy, O Lord be upon us, as we hope in thee." May there always be praise and rejoicing on our lips. May you and your family experience all the blessings of His peace in the coming days, I refer again to Paul's words in Philippians 3:14 which says "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ."

As We Serve Together,
Pastor Howard Adams



Community Call to Pray Day

On October 17th we held our 1st Community Prayer Day at our Church and, the Lord willing, it will be the first of many. Given all the problems we seem to be facing this year; the COVID 19 pandemic, the political climate, the rollercoaster economy and so many people out of work, Pastor Howard felt led to give the Christian community an opportunity to join together and pray for our country, first responders, our schools and our military. When the problems seems so large and our efforts limited, prayer is our best response. As the Bible says, with God, anything is possible.

For our first effort, attendance was good. We would always like more, but God pays less attention to numbers than to sincerity. The prayers offered to God were from the heart and genuine. Pastor Howard started the session with a general call for all Christians to call on the Lord for assistance with the situations we now face. Pat prayed for our schools, Buddy prayed for the Government and their response, Hamp prayed for the military and Pastor Teque from Santa Fe Baptist prayed for our churches.

The need for more prayer continues. Remember to pray for the Lord's assistance in all things. We are already seeing something of a miracle with the astoundingly quick development of a vaccine against COVID. God hears and answers when we pray in Spirit and Truth. Keep the prayers going! Our second Community Pray Day will be January 23rd. See article at the end of the newsletter.

Community Visitation

On Saturday November 21st we had a church visitation scheduled. This is part of a continuing effort for our Church to reach out to our local community. It is one of the things God calls on us to do, build His Kingdom. If people don't come to church, how will they hear the Word of God? If they don't come to church, they won't have the fellowship of other Christians and the devil will have an easier time devouring them. One of the best ways to get others to come to church is for you to invite them. If you know of someone who is not going to church or is looking for a place to worship, invite them to come join us. We would love to minister to them.



Thanksgiving Lunch

November 22nd was the first



time since about March that we had a Church Family meal together. COVID 19 really messed up all of us getting together as a group. Thanksgiving just seemed to be a great time to celebrate and fellowship together and remember what we are grateful for. We still did our best to practice proper protocols and it was great to sit down and have lunch together. As always the food was outstanding and the fellowship heartfelt. We truly have a wonderful church congregation.

Community Christmas Concert

December is, of course, the Christmas season! This year, on December 12th, our church held a community Christmas Concert. The church put on a concert of Christian Hymns that we all know and love and invited people from the community and other churches. Keith Pace and his friend played their guitars, Carolyn played the Autoharp. The audience joined our hearts and voices together to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Well, we all seemed to know the first chorus and a lot of us hummed the rest of the song, but it was still a lot of fun. It really did help put Christ back in Christmas. A big “Thank You” to Keith Pace for helping organize and MC the event and to Carolyn for helping with the music.



Church Christmas Celebration

The Community Concert was so much fun we did the same thing for just our church family on the 20th at our evening service at. This time we did have a book to use and there was a lot less humming. Keith Pace came back with his guitar and Carolyn with her Autoharp and it added to the Christmas spirit once again. Afterwards we had a fellowship gathering with finger food. It was a great time and a great way to end the year.



How Cool is That Birdhouse?

Kay saw a birdhouse on Pastor Joey Hay's website in the shape of his church and asked if we could get one in the shape of our church too. The Designer and builder, Alford Johns, was asked by Brother Joey Hay if he would build a replica of the LaCrosse Baptist Church building to which he agreed.

Many thanks to Mr Johns for his willingness and his donation of the birdhouse to LaCrosse Baptist Church. Thank you Brother Joey for interceding on the church's behalf and for the delivery. All we have to do is find a place, put a bird feeder near it and a "For Rent" sign in the window. Well OK, birds can read! But bet there will be a commotion on what bird get's to nest in there.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

Many thanks to Brother Gerry Forbes for heading up the OCC shoebox ministry this year. A total of 20 boxes were delivered to Trinity Baptist and 14,000 from our district! We are grateful for Gerry leading this effort to supply for children in other parts of the world. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this ministry.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

LaCrosse Baptist Church set a goal of \$200 for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering this year based on what we had collected in the prior year. God expanded it this year and the total offering was \$275. Thank you to those who gave to this very important ministry.

WHAT'S COMING UP - always check the bulletin for updates

Church Council - Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:30 pm.

Business Meeting - Third Sunday following the Morning Worship Services

Community Call to Pray Day, Testimonies and Praises - January 23rd, 11:00am to about Noon, with lunch to follow. This will be our second community prayer gathering, and we are adding a Testimony/Praise session. How has the Lord helped you through these difficult times? How did God answer your prayers? Sometimes we concentrate on the asking and forget that many of us have had our prayers answered in one way or another. Sometimes the blessing is that we didn't get what we asked for! Please come out to pray with us and share your experiences. Once again we will meet outdoors on the south side of our Fellowship hall, weather permitting.