

# THE LEFLORE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*July*

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## Upcoming Events

*July*

4th- Independence Day

6-9th-Church Camp Revamped  
@ Southside  
& Hontubby VBS

VBS Sunday's In July  
Mornings @ Springhill  
Evenings @ Southside

22nd-26th-Forrester VBS

26th-29th-Falls Creek @  
Springhill



Summer is a wonderful time for family and friends to spend time outdoors doing things that they love, whether it is gardening, fishing, swimming, or even a day at the lake. With so much going on in our country these days it is also a good time to Thank God for the blessings we have. In LeFlore County, we are blessed to be out of the mainstream where we do not have to deal with riots and the other things that seem to be plaguing our nation. I watched a movie recently called "I Still Believe." In one scene a character asked his father after just losing his wife if he ever had regrets over the things he had prayed for that hadn't been answered. This wise father told his son: "even though not everything I asked for has been given to me, I am blessed and I am blessed because of the NO's God has given me."

This stuck with me and made me think. I do not know about you, but there have been several times where God has said either no or not yet to my prayers. Do I truly feel blessed despite the answer from the Lord that I did not want? I am sure that you are in the same boat. Everyone has prayers that were either not answered or answered differently. Do you feel blessed?

Scripture is full of people that didn't receive what they asked for or the answer was delayed. Exodus 3 states all kinds of ways Moses tried to get out of his calling, yet he still freed the Israelites. David, a man after God's own heart lost a child in the midst of his prayer and fasting. Job endured the loss of his whole world and was only restored after the trial was completed. Mark 5:25-34 shares the story of a woman who had an "issue of blood" for 12 years. It doesn't say if she prayed, but as a woman of that kind of faith, I feel like she did. She had to wait 12 years for her healing to show the power of our Savior. All of these people had the faith to do what was asked, wait for the miracle, move on and begin again. I believe each of these people also felt blessed, maybe not in the process, but certainly afterward.

Let's look at 2020 with new eyes. Yes, it has been a crazy year with all sorts of changes, but it has also been an opportunity for reflection and growth. God is in control and He knows exactly what is in our future. Let's look at the blessings we do have. Blessings that might have come about because of the NO's or not yet's we have received from the Lord. After reflection, I can say yes. I am truly blessed for the answers to my prayers that I didn't expect or necessarily want. Let's take this summer and the rest of 2020 to reflect on the blessings that we didn't seek, but God gave us anyway. You may be pleasantly surprised to see that the prayers you thought were never answered, were answered, but in a way you never expected.

## LEFLORE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

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Even in the virus the Lord has blessed our Association. Several churches have called pastors. We look forward to serving with them. Lets give a warm welcome to...

Dr. Troy George and his wife, Karen have been called to serve at Poteau First Baptist Church.

Gary Fitzpatrick and his wife, Becky have been called to serve at Buffalo Valley.

Darrin Goode has been called to serve as pastor at Albion.

Gary Sigler has been called to serve as Youth Pastor at Albion.

## Next Chapter

Over the years there has been an opportunity at church camp to graduated seniors to go through a program called Next Chapter. Since camps have been canceled for the summer Oklahoma Baptists decided to make this curriculum available for free. It is designed to come alongside churches and help them prepare their 2020 high school graduates for their Next Chapter in life. This could be the workforce, military, college, or something else. This Next Chapter curriculum is designed to be taught in any size group. It can also be used in a variety of settings. There are three lessons aimed at giving students some foundational tools that will help them face the coming changes in their lives. If you are interested please go to <https://www.oklahomabaptists.org/bcm/next-chapter/> to download.

### Needs Your Help!



We are looking for new volunteers to serve. The team has a grappler and we are in search of someone that owns a skid-steer that would like to join the team. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact Jim Smith @ (918)721-4208



**Rusty Bushong**  
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KBA Fundraiser

Albion FBC

4-7pm

July 11th

Brisket~Pulled Pork

Baked Beans~Potato Salad

Bread & Drink

Dine in or carry out

DONATIONS ONLY

the CHURCH

BBQ

# FALLS CREEK @ SPRINGHILL

**JULY 26-29, 2020**

**6:00-9:30 PM**

"EVEN NOW"

Join us at Springhill Baptist Church

for our version of Falls Creek!

Guest speaker Scott Bloyer from Aurora, CO

Worship- Snyder Band

Games & Activities

[springhill.us/fallscreek](http://springhill.us/fallscreek)

Schedule:

6:00-6:30 Dinner

6:30-8:00 Service

8:00-9:30 Activities





*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Cor. 1:3-4*

My wife and I lost our daughter just over a year ago, on April 28, 2019. She had cystic fibrosis, a genetic lung disease that she battled her entire life. When she was born the doctors predicted that she would live to about 19 years of age, but she lived to almost 38. We are thankful that the Lord allowed her to live that long, but it was still painful to watch her deteriorate to the point that she could barely breathe. The loss of a child is one of the most painful losses anyone can experience.

Many of the readers of this newsletter have lost loved ones and know how painful losses can be. It is important to realize several facts about grief. First, grief is normal. Jesus felt deep pain when His friend Lazarus died, and when Martha and Mary ran to him and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." In John 11:35 we read the astonishing words that "Jesus wept." Jesus felt their pain and was not ashamed to weep with them. So, grief is normal. Second, grief can be very painful. This can be seen throughout the Scriptures in the life of Joseph when his father Jacob died, in the life of Abraham when Sarah died, and in the life of David, who was inconsolable after he lost two children. A third basic fact about grief is that the Lord does not want us to get stuck in grief. He wants to carry our grief for us as it says in Isaiah 53:4, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (KJV). His disciples were grieved when He told them He was leaving them, but in John 16:20 He said, "Your grief will be turned into joy."

The top researchers in the field of grief counseling wrote a report on bereavement in 2003 and agreed unanimously that nothing takes away grief. But I learned a faith-based way to overcome grief from a pastoral counselor in Tennessee in 2002. I have learned that there are two simple steps for overcoming grief:

**Step One:** Make a thorough list of everything you miss about the deceased person's personality and everything you miss doing with them.

**Step Two:** Tell the Lord everything you miss about the deceased person, and ask Him to take it all from you and carry it for you.

I have prayed with hundreds of people over their grief and found that these steps always work. If you take these two steps and you still feel deep grief, it just means that you missed some things and need to make another list of what you still miss about the person. Sometimes there are additional feelings of sadness or shame that you may need to resolve. With people you have known for a long time it takes more time to resolve all of the losses. My wife and I both went through these steps, and it took longer for her because she spent every day with our daughter and had a lot more memories, but both of us have found peace in relation to our daughter's loss.

We are both doing well and are not depressed or sad. We still miss our daughter, but we know she is much happier now with the Lord. The Lord has taken our grief and replaced it with His peace. We enjoy praying with others who are going through grief because we understand the pain and want to see them experience peace again. After all, that's what the above Scripture says, *"[He] comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Please Mark your calendars and plan to join us

August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

For our Rescheduled Quarterly

Executive Board Meeting

At the LBA Office.



We voted in January to have meetings on Monday evenings so everyone can attend. Join us to get an update on all your association is doing. 2 members from each church are asked to attend.



(918) 647-8101

(800) 362-0171

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Thank you to the churches that help keep our doors open. We truly appreciate all you do for us. We are seeing clients Mon-Wed 12-4. If you are interested in volunteering please call Angela @ (918)649-3650

Big Creek  
Buffalo Valley  
Forrester  
Friendship  
God's Country Cowboy Church  
Hodgen

Howe Faith  
Shady Point  
Southside  
Springhill  
Talihina 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wister Bethel

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**LBA OFFICE HOURS:**  
 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Thursday



- \* We are able to get out more and visit with our loved ones.
- \* Our debt is well on the way to being gone. We are down to \$71,239
- \* The beautiful weather and time with family

## Prayer Requests

- Our pastors and churches seeking the Lord in this time.
- Our churches that are without a pastor at this time. (Arkoma 1st, Howe 1st, Pocola 1st, Pilgrim Rest, Whitesboro)
- Those that are sick and those that are concerned about getting this virus.
- Our country (need I say more)
- Protection for those on the frontlines dealing with the virus and the riots.
- We are taking resumes for a new Director of Missions. Pray for those applying and those on the search committee to know the will of God.
- The number of people getting the virus are going up.

## New Director of Missions

We are prayerfully seeking and new Director of Missions. If you are interested please send your resume to

106 Flanagan St  
 Ste A

Poteau, OK 74953

Or email:

rmarrow@lefloreaassociation.org

Attn: Search Committee

We will be accepting resumes until Sept 30, 2020



### Budget Summary For the Quarter (April-June 2020)

Requirements ..... \$ 45,951  
 Undesignated receipts ..... \$ 45,086  
 Under ..... \$ 865

Special Thank You to the  
 Churches/People that help make  
 the Debt Reduction Possible:

Bethel  
 Big Creek  
 Brotherhood  
 Buffalo Valley  
 Calhoun  
 Falfa  
 Friendship Baptist Fellowship  
 Heart O' the Hills  
 Heavener 1st  
 Howe Faith  
 Liberty Hill  
 Loving  
 Monroe  
 Octavia  
 Poteau 1st  
 Prairie Grove  
 Shady Point  
 Springhill  
 Stapp-Zoe  
 Talihina 1st  
 Whitesboro

Receipts from April-June 2020 (received as of June 30, 2020)			
	%	3rd Quarter	YTD
Albion	3.0	\$ 594.95	\$ 1,388.91
Arkoma	6.0	\$ 1,889.21	\$ 5,525.35
Big Creek	4.5	\$ 3,433.78	\$ 9,769.12
Big Creek, Hispanic		\$ -	\$ 20.00
Bokoshe	6.0	\$ 1,303.18	\$ 3,823.76
Buffalo Valley	4.0	\$ 1,006.96	\$ 2,943.30
Calhoun	4.0	\$ 1,031.56	\$ 3,049.72
Cameron	4.5	\$ 66.61	\$ 209.15
Cowlington	5.0	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Double Branch	3.0	\$ 1,015.72	\$ 2,904.53
Falfa	7.0	\$ 188.48	\$ 893.82
Forrester	3.0	\$ 682.50	\$ 1,534.02
Friendship	3.0	\$ 841.32	\$ 2,817.76
God's Ctry. Cowboy		\$ 300.00	\$ 900.00
Heart O' The Hills	2.0	\$ -	\$ 946.81
Heavener, First	1.5	\$ 2,650.68	\$ 7,880.83
Heavener, Trinity	Flat	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,350.00
Hodgen	3.0	\$ 232.02	\$ 976.94
Hontubby	3.3	\$ 311.00	\$ 1,195.00
Howe, Faith	5.0	\$ 734.15	\$ 2,100.75
Howe, First	2.0	\$ -	\$ 239.64
Independence	3.0	\$ 299.41	\$ 780.66
LeFlore	7.0	\$ 135.19	\$ 670.54
Liberty Hill	6.0	\$ 1,270.02	\$ 3,573.18
Loving	3.0	\$ -	\$ 482.42
Monroe	2.5	\$ 650.00	\$ 2,003.00
Mt. View	5.0	\$ -	\$ -
Muse	2.0	\$ 103.00	\$ 556.00
Nueva Nacimiento		\$ -	\$ -
En Cristo	4.0	\$ -	\$ -
Octavia	4.0	\$ 3,317.78	\$ 11,082.90
Page	1.0	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Panama, First	3.0	\$ 359.07	\$ 946.57
Perry Chapel	3.0	\$ 462.04	\$ 462.04
Pilgrims Rest	1.0	\$ 47.63	\$ 136.88
Pocola, First	3.0	\$ 912.99	\$ 3,197.90
Pocola, Trinity	2.0	\$ 736.97	\$ 1,741.88
Poteau, First	4.0	\$ 1,190.48	\$ 7,149.59
Poteau, Hispanic		\$ -	\$ -
Poteau, Cross Comm. Imm	1.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,800.00
Poteau, Southside	4.00	\$ 3,706.67	\$ 11,356.32
Poteau, Trinity	5.00	\$ 473.00	\$ 1,356.00
Prairie Grove	7.50	\$ 1,471.65	\$ 4,480.82
Shady Point	4.00	\$ 927.00	\$ 2,899.00
Spiro, Calvary	3.00	\$ -	\$ -
Spiro, First	3.00	\$ 4,879.48	\$ 13,874.04
Springhill	4.00	\$ 5,102.51	\$ 15,013.15
Stapp-Zoe	5.00	\$ 547.64	\$ 1,883.60
Summerfield	5.00	\$ 490.00	\$ 1,629.00
Talihina	3.00	\$ 2,404.88	\$ 7,025.63
Victory	5.00	\$ -	\$ -
Whitesboro	2.00	\$ 846.00	\$ 2,829.00
Wister, Bethel	4.00	\$ 1,523.18	\$ 7,950.22
Wister, First	2.50	\$ 180.58	\$ 536.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 49,469.29</b>	<b>\$ 156,025.99</b>

