

Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608
www.lakeavebaptist.org lakeavebaptist@rochester.rr.com, 585-458-5765

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:
lakeavebaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
10:00 am: Worship for all, Sunday School Children & Youth (Communion every first Sunday of the month)
11:15 am: Fellowship
11:45 am: Adult Education
12:00 pm: Karen Worship
Burmese Worship

CHURCH MODERATOR
Tom Argust

CHURCH STAFF

Sr. Pastor
Michael Ford

Associate Pastor
Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Music Educator, Chancel Choir
Director and Organist
Lee Foster

Gospel Spirits Director and Pianist
Isobel Davies

Refugee Coordinator
Hkadin Lee

Karen Lay Pastor
Day Chit

Burmese Lay Pastor
Simon Kui

Office Manager
Ken Setera

Custodial Services
Lloyd Cuyler

You know that LABC is a busy church! If you are thinking of booking the church, or want to see what events are taking place on a certain day, please go to our website ... www.lakeavebaptist.org ... there you'll find a calendar with (hopefully!) up to date information about the various ministries and bookings at the LABC building.

Our Pastor's Article

Originally written on Monday, June 13, 2016

I am feeling an incredible mix of emotions. This past Sunday we celebrated Youth Sunday with what I would call one of our most uplifting services in recent history. Our young people did an incredible job pulling together a wonderful service with music, prayer, and testimony. Thank you to the youth and their leaders for such a powerful worship service.

That said, as I left the Youth Sunday I looked at my phone to learn of the deaths of 49 people in Orlando. My heart was immediately heavy knowing the pain that this tragedy would cause for so many across our nation, and here at LABC. We have a long and significant history with the LGBTQ community in Rochester, and many folks who self-identify as LGBTQ are an important part of our church family. I grieved and continue to grieve with them in their loss.

The incredible highs and incredible lows continue to punctuate this week. I was again lifted up as four of our young people came to the council meeting to share a vision they have for a youth worship service. To hear the way God has laid this ministry upon their hearts has lifted me again to a place of great joy. And then, as I drove home from this meeting I passed a man who I see daily at the corner near the church, begging for spare change. Highs and lows.

As I experience this mix of emotions I realize how profoundly that my experience may be shared by many others in our community. The things that we face may take us daily through this emotional rollercoaster. What do we do about this?

Sadly, I cannot offer a solution. I cannot offer the simple way to keep us all on an emotional base line. The challenges and opportunities of the world lead us to experience so much. The only thing I can offer to speak into this experience is that God is present, and that we have a community of faith that can, and does, offer support and love in the midst of all of our daily trials and tribulations.

I have seen in my own life how God is present in the midst of joys and pains, even when I do not see it at the time. I am too often blinded by the presence of God, but when I am able to reflect back I am often able to see those glimmers of God's presence.

When I am in the midst of the challenges I find that when I bring those challenges, and to God's people in community, I am reminded that I am not alone. There are others who may not understand exactly what I am going through, but who can simply "be" with me. Who can sit in the pain and sorrow, who can sit in the joy and triumph, and who can "be" with me.

And I am also reminded of my calling to "be" with those in need. People are not always asking for an answer. And the reality is that the answers that I can offer are often now what people need. They simply need someone to "be" with them. We need to "be" together.

As we struggle with the various emotions that this week has brought, and with the various emotions that our weeks together may bring, may we pray that we can "be" with God and with one another. And that we can gain strength to persevere in the midst of the darkness, in the light of God's presence, and in the presence of his saints here in community.

May you find God's presence, and may you know that you are loved. Together, may we "be" with God and with God's people ... in love.

Blessings, *Michael*

A "Thank You" from Your Pastor

On Sunday June 26th we held a congregational meeting to affirm our trustees for the next year of ministry together. This was the first time we selected new trustees when functioning under our new, revised, bylaws. In order to "reset" our trustee roles some of the people who have been serving in the past few years have agreed to stay on for a year or two more to help us get to the point that we have a more natural rotation for trustees onto, and off of, the church council. We certainly appreciate their willingness to serve. Further, we appreciate your willingness to be part of this congregational meeting ... the fourth in the past 12 months.

As I look over the agenda for the congregational meeting I was reminded of all that we did this past year as a congregation. In the spring of 2015 we voted on our trustees. In the fall of 2015 we voted on our bylaws. In the spring of 2016 we voted on our 2016-2019 strategic plan. Finally, just yesterday we voted on a new slate of officers/trustees. That is a lot of congregational meetings in one year! It also is a great reminder of the work that we have done together over a short 12 month period.

In a congregational church we make decisions together. Granted, some are set apart to use certain gifts and abilities on behalf of the church (i.e. pastors, musicians, teachers, etc.), but the overall point that I'd like to share with you is that in a congregational church ministry takes an effort from all of us. Thank you for being such an important part of the ministry of LABC.

As I emphasized in the message yesterday, voting on a new church council does not remove the responsibility for ministry from each of us. As we select new people to help lead us into the future together, we know that they will rely on each of us to support, encourage, and engage with them and with each other. We are in this ministry together! That is what makes our congregational polity such a joy, and such a challenge. We will not always agree, but we need to move forward with a genuine sense of respect for each other, and a commitment to work together as we explore what God has in store for LABC.

Thank you again for your involvement in these (many) congregational meetings this past year. Thank you to Tom Argust for ably leading our congregation as Moderator. Thank you to Ken Setera who pulls together the many agendas and annual reports. Thank you to our translators who help to make sure our entire congregation can understand what we are discussing in these meetings so that we all can actively take part.

Thank you ... and I look forward to ministry with you in the year to come!

LABC WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Sunday, July 3, 2016: 10:00 am: Worship & Communion for all; Summer Sunday School for children and youth; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship Worship, Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship. We

collect our Fellowship Offering.

Sunday, July 10, 2016: 10:00 am: Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship Worship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship.

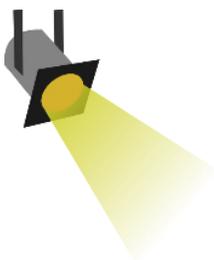
Sunday, July 17, 2016: 10:00 am: Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship, Social Hall; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship Worship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship.

Sunday, July 24, 2016: 10:00 am: Worship for all; Summer Sunday School for children and youth; 11:30 am: Fellowship; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship Worship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship.

Sunday, July 31, 2016: 10:00 am: Worship for all, Summer Sunday School for children and youth; 11:30 am: Fellowship; 12:30 pm: Karen Fellowship Worship and Myanmar Christian Fellowship Worship.

SUPPER AND SOMETHING

On Wednesday, July 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m. you are invited to join in a meal and time of discussion and sharing. Summer can find us going and coming a lot, and we do not try to have adult education classes. This will be a time to connect with one another both personally and spiritually. Join us and bring someone else along with you! Please bring a summer dish to share – salads of all types, fruit, bread, or desserts are all needed. Doris Perket and Jackie Sullivan are coordinating the food, so sign up with them if you can, so we have some nice variety.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

We celebrated the beginning of summer with a Youth Picnic on Sunday, June 26th, in Jones Park. Youth Council will be working with adult leaders to plan for summer activities. What's already on the calendar? Myanmar Fellowship Bible study July 1-3 and annual picnic at Hamlin Beach on July 4th. Karen youth volleyball tournament in Syracuse Saturday, July 9th. Practices for the youth musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", will resume on Saturdays - July 16, 23, and 30 with daily practices August 8-12 and 15-19 (hours to be determined). Performance is projected for August 21. Sundays mornings Bill Gibbs is organizing visits to the Catholic and Episcopal churches nearby, with possibly more churches later. At the end of tutoring we also discussed offering some fun/educational field trips – watch for announcements and sign up. Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 18th and we need youth to participate!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
2016

Baptist History and Heroes

Ambrose and Jessica are ready for their annual week at Lake Avenue Baptist Church! This year we want our children to learn and celebrate our rich heritage as

Baptists. We will meet the week of July 18th in the evenings starting at 6:30 p.m. for singing, storytelling, crafts, games, and snacks. VBS is for children and younger youth, preschool through 7th grades. Older youth are needed to help! Please sign up with Pastor Debbie - to teach, be a storyteller, lead music, be a puppeteer, organize and serve snacks, or just be a general helper. Parents, please plan to get your children here for this special time of learning and fun together. The church van will pick up those who need rides - but we need to hear from you if you need us to pick you up!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

● **In Memoriam: Paul Beech**, a long time member of LABC, passed away on Saturday, June 25 at the age of 95. We extend our condolences to his wife, children and family. A memorial service is being planned for sometime later this summer.

● We continue to keep in our healing prayers **Judy Eysvogel** who is receiving therapy for a recent stroke and is residing at the Edna Tina Wilson Living Center.

● **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

University Preparatory Academy graduates:
Thaw Htoo, Ywa Hay Moo, Eh Ler Tha, Si Thu Myat

Tanner Jameson graduated from Pittsford Mendon High School

Blen Htoo graduated from East High (in Feb. '16)

Esther Htoo graduated from Edison High

May Honey graduated from Aquinas Institute

●**Marc Bigsby** will be riding over 400 miles from August 17-21 in the AIDS Red Ribbon Ride. The ride starts in Rochester and continues through the Finger Lakes region before ending back in Rochester (Genesee Valley Park) on Sunday, August 21. The money Marc raises through donations will go to help people battling HIV/AIDS in Monroe County. Trillium Health provides medical, emotional and spiritual support to people battling this disease. Donations can be made to Marc in cash or check (made out to Trillium Health) or online at this address:

["http://trilliumhealth.donorpages.com/ARRR2016/mbigsby1/"](http://trilliumhealth.donorpages.com/ARRR2016/mbigsby1/)

YOUTH SUNDAY

TESTIMONIES

●**Meh Ri:** Seventh Grade Student who will be entering 8th grade next year. (The following is adapted from her testimony)

"I love God with all my heart and I want to stick with God my whole life. He's always there even if those who care for me can't be there. I know that I have a reason to live and he lets me know at times especially when my family needs my help. A lot of people support me (which is really nice!) And, I know that I will get to know a lot more about God from these people and as I go through life.

When I see Pastor Debbie and Pastor Michael they seem pretty chill and confident. They care a lot! I want to be like them and I want to care a lot also. I want to be closer with our Lord and understand more and more.

As time goes by I feel much more connected with God and the earth. I think that the Lord's Prayer speaks the truth - God's "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". That is why we should be good to the earth. It is God's will that it should be so. Earth should be treated well by us and made to be a beautiful and happy place just as God's will is done in heaven.

As the psalms teach us, any person can and should ask for help from God. Through God's help and the help of others we can make our earth a beautiful place."

●**Tanner Jameson:** High School Senior, Graduate of Pittsford Mendon High School.

"Looking for God in Change.

Jeremiah 29: 11: "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord. "plans to prosper you and not to harm

you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Right now and especially in the next three months of my life, change will become an omnipresent factor. Just this past week alone I had to say goodbye to my soccer teammates, and I had to say goodbye to my teachers, some of whom I've known for more than 4 years. And in 12 weeks, I'll have to say goodbye to some of my best friends. I'll have to say goodbye to my parents for a little while. I'll be in a new town with completely new people. Now a very part of me is excited to go on this adventure, but another is scared. Like any rational human being, I'm resistant to change but I think that is why this verse from the Book of Jeremiah has such an impact on me.

Change is another word for opportunity. God is providing me with the chance to spread His love to new people and to do his works in a new city. This congregation is proof to me that God works through change. In the past 14 years God has changed this church into the diverse, multicultural welcoming place it is today and I want to thank LABC for all the love and support it has shown me throughout my journey. This has been a place not only of comfort but also a place that has shown me the importance of loving my neighbor.

One of the best examples of community in my life is LABC. Just as all the lessons I've learned here have been a wonderful part of all the friendships I've made. I know that all the changes I will experience are also a part of God's plan. So I want to thank all of you, my Sunday school teachers, and LABC as a whole for showing me all the blessings that God has given me. This church, its teachers and its members have been an inspiration to me which I will long remember as I am presented with the new opportunities God has in store for me."

●**Thaw Htoo:** High School Senior, Graduate of University Preparatory Academy:

"First of all I would love to thank God for keeping me alive, for being with me all my life, back in Thailand and where I am today. When I think about it carefully, God was with me step by step and I am in a place that is full of opportunities, blessings, freedom and most of all the opportunity for a better education. Without God, my family and I might not have arrived here. I do believe in miracles and the works of God.

I am glad to share the blessings that God had and has been pouring on me. God's grace is amazing and unending. When I think about life and count the blessings day by day, I realize how God has been with me and kept me on the right path. God has plans for me and I do believe that my faith in him will keep me on the path he has planned.

I want to thank Pastor Debbie, Pastor Michael, and Mr. Bill for giving me the opportunity to speak in front of the congregation. I want to thank Pastor Alan for helping me with

this testimony. I want to thank all the families and friends for coming today. May God's love protect each and everyone of you.

Before I go to college, I want to tell you more about God and the work He has done in my life. I may have seemed fine with my school projects but I've struggled many times. I have failed sometimes but that didn't stop me from praising God, reaching my goals, and it didn't keep me from trying. Failing made me stronger.

I always pray to God when I experience any trouble. I always remember God before I take my school tests or the night before I take my tests. Not long ago, I promised God, "If I pass all my Regents and graduate with an advanced diploma, I will come to church and give a testimony." Now here I am, fulfilling my promise to God. I am amazed with what God can do. I believe that God

answers all prayers. God sees and heals all pain, broken hearts, tears, and sorrow within us. Sometimes we don't get what we've asked for or perhaps assumed that God didn't answer us. but, I'm going to tell you that it is not our fault or God's fault. I believe that God has a better plan for us and that is why He wants to give us something better. Sometimes answers take longer and sometimes they take short periods of time. God does answer prayers.

I learned that life may seem hard, but you have to work harder. It is ok to fall because God will pick you up when you fall. Obstacles will always walk in our way but we can't ignore them. We need to face them with courage and find a way to overcome them. If you think you're lost, remember, Matthew 7:7 - "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you."

Healing communities: An Update from Our Partner in Ministry, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

During 2015, Volunteer Mobilization Ministries **facilitated the placement of more than 650 volunteers-who** served 3,245 days-across the United States. Close to 240 volunteers logged more than 7,100 hours during ABHMS' annual "Home Mission: 'Til the Work is Done" in New Orleans, still recovering from the devastation wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These volunteers, representing 28 churches, colleges and universities in 20 states and Puerto Rico, completed more than 40 projects, including cleaning and tagging 80-plus storm drains on a 2 1/2 mile stretch of road. In a joint effort of ABHMS and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, 60 volunteers logged close to 2,400 hours during the two-week "Coming Together for New Jersey ...Rebuild, Renew and Restore" work weeks, a Hurricane Sandy recovery effort.

Disaster Response Ministries **awarded One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Emergency Disaster grants totaling \$58,000** that assisted local churches and regional offices responding to natural disasters, including flooding and mudslides in the Pacific Northwest, fires in California, damage from extreme winter storms in Massachusetts, Michigan and Wisconsin, and flooding in Wyoming, New York and Ohio. ABHMS also assisted a church vandalized in Nebraska and provided assistance to two Massachusetts camps, Grotonwood and Oceanwood. Other American Baptist regions receiving assistance included Central Pacific Coast, Growing Healthy Churches, Northwest, Rocky Mountains, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and Wisconsin. Grants awarded to national partners Church World Service and American Baptist Men USA assisted in their respective response as well.

OGHS Domestic Development Grants distributed by Disaster Response Ministries totaled \$280,907.84. Examples of ministries that received Funds include: Community organizers in Massachusetts and Ohio addressing low- wage issues and immigration; a community mission organization in New York focused on strengthening faith services; hunger, shelter and refugee/immigration programs in the Growing Healthy Churches, Nebraska, Ohio and Pennsylvania and Delaware regions; support of construction of a new well and filtration system at Redwood Glen Camp and Conference Center within American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast region; and kitchen and classroom expansion along with an anti-hunger project at two ABHMS-related Christian centers in Billings, Mont., and Peoria, Ill.

Twenty-one Justice for Children grants totaling \$48,500 were awarded in 2015. The projects - from Maine to Florida to California and many points in between-addressed a breadth of needs, including mentorship of children of incarcerated parents, after-school programs and summer camps. One of the recipients, Warrensville Road Community Based Center of Life, Maple Heights, Ohio, received funds for its after-school program and Children's Defense Fund Summer Freedom School program. Through this outreach of Warrensville Road Community Baptist Church, 70 youth ages 8-18 learned to set high learning goals and develop and visualize plans for their future through vision boards.

Ex-offender Re-entry Ministries presented 12 workshops attended by more than 250 participants in eight regions. "Train the trainer" certifications-preparing participants to train more trainers for church and community re-entry ministries-

were earned by 21 individuals. As part of the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition, ABHMS participated in eight advocacy efforts supporting prison reform. Two camps for children of incarcerated parents--in Ohio and California--ministered to 38 children with support from ABHMS .

At the American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, ABHMS helped to launch two new mental health resources for faith leaders: "Mental Health: A Guide for Faith Leaders" and a "Quick Reference Guide." These resources were developed through the Mental Health and Faith Community Partnership, which ABHMS helped establish through its involvement with the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition, a program of American Association of People with Disabilities.

CHRISTIAN LOVE CAN AND WILL CHANGE THE WORLD **The Light I Never Saw Coming**

by Jade Burnett, student, Franklin (Ind.) College

When I stepped into the stifling August heat on my first day in New Orleans, I had no idea that, by the end of the week, my thirst for the Holy Spirit would be quenched.

I pray for God's presence in my life, but when He shows Himself, I often find myself fighting His plan. My idea of a mission trip is drastically different now compared to prior to my New Orleans experience. I used to think that, by going on a mission trip, I would become somewhat of a messiah for people in need of saving; and to achieve this status, I would perform immense acts of work, such as rebuilding destroyed homes.

I learned quickly that my plans for the mission trip and the plans God had already determined for me were far from congruent. If I wanted to be like Jesus, I had to do what He did, which was serve others unselfishly in love.

By learning to see the spiritual value in doing less "glorious" tasks--such as painting a front porch railing or pulling weeds from a garden--God showed me that what matters most it is not the size of the work you do, but rather the spirit with which you do it.

Ephesians 2:10 says that, as Christians, we are called to do the tasks that God has planned for us. By carrying out His will, we not only please Him, but we also shine His light into the darkest: places of the Earth. I pray that the work I did in New Orleans will be eternal proof to those I served that I represent a God whose very essence is love.

Finding a way past pain to healing, hope: At the ABHMS-supported Los Angeles camp for children of incarcerated parents, staff witnessed sad and insecure children transformed into artists, singers and performers. The children laughed, shared stories and, most of all, made friends. Brother and sister Carlos and Maria, whose parents are incarcerated, became good friends with siblings Tyrone and Shamika, whose father is in prison. After returning from camp, Carlos and Maria asked their grandmother whether their friends could join them for Sunday dinner. Tyrone and Shamika's mother agreed to the shared meal. Such friendships are crucial for children's healing.

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Through the generosity of donors both past and present, LABC is able to award scholarships to individuals who are church members or participants for academic study or training beyond high school. The Scholarship Committee reviews applications and makes decisions on those who will receive awards. Scholarship amounts can differ from year to year but are intended to offer only partial support for educational expenses. Your completed application must be received by the church office **no later than July 22, 2016. Late submissions cannot be considered.** By submitting your application, you certify that all answers are truthful.

Application forms may be obtained from the church office (by calling 458-5765 or emailing kenadmin@rochester.rr.com) or at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. Written applications may be mailed to:

Scholarship Committee c/o
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
72 Ambrose Street
Rochester, NY 14608-1215

Questions to: 585 458-5765
kenadmin@rochester.rr.com
Website www.lakeavebaptist.org

**DUE DATE:
July 22, 2016**

Awards will be announced by July 31.

