

Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608
www.lakeavebaptist.org lakeavebaptist@rochester.rr.com, 585-458-5765, Fax 585-458-5766

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:

kenadmin@rochester.rr.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 am: Worship for all.
(Communion every first Sunday of the month.)

11:15 am: Fellowship
11:45 am: Karen Worship
Burmese Worship
Adult Education

CHURCH STAFF

Sr. Pastor
Michael Ford

Associate Pastor
Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Church Moderator
Tom Argust

Music Educator, Chancel Choir
Director and Organist
Lee Foster

Music Educator, Gospel Spirits
Director and Pianist
Isobel Davies

Refugee Coordinator
Hkadin Lee

Karen Lay Pastor
Day Chit

Burmese Lay Pastors
William Lahtaw & Simon Kui

Office Manager
Ken Setera

Custodial Services
Lloyd Cuyler

LABC SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Sunday, April 26: 10:00 am Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

Sunday, May 3: We receive the America for Christ Offering: 10:00 am Worship and Communion for all, guest preacher **Maw San Aung Jum**; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship. 12:00 – 5:00 pm: Asian Pacific American Family Day at the Memorial Art Gallery; 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Chin Christian Church Worship, Open House and Reception. (See note below)

Sunday, May 10: 10:00 am Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship. We welcome the Jinghpaw Kachin visitors from Maryland. At 1:00 pm the Jinghpaw Kachin will celebrate worship followed by lunch in the social hall.

Sunday, May 17: 10:00 am Worship for all and Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on revisions to the LABC By-Laws; 11:30 am: Fellowship; 12:00 pm: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

Pentecost Sunday, May 24: 10:00 am Pentecost Worship Procession and Celebration; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education Bible Study; Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

Sunday, May 31: Recognition of New American Citizens! 10:00 am Worship for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult Education Bible Study; Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, April 26th: Join us for a forum on the proposed revisions to the LABC By-Laws. This will be led by Tom Argust, our church Moderator.

Sunday, May 3: There will be no Adult Education. Instead, all are invited to attend a Worship Celebration at 12:30 pm at the Rochester Chin Christian Church, 104 Wheatland Center Road, Churchville, NY. The worship service will be followed by a reception at 2:30 p.m.

Directions: Take 490 west and get off at exit 4 toward RT-259/North Chili/West Chili. Turn left onto Union St (RT-259) 2.7 mi. Turn right onto Morgan Rd (CR-133) 0.9 mi. Turn left onto Wheatland Center Rd (CR-174) 0.4 mi. The church will be on your left.

Sunday, May 10 - *Education Reform in Rochester* - Michael Ford will share recent efforts being made in the city of Rochester regarding our public education system.

Sunday, May 17: A congregational meeting on By-Laws revisions will take place immediately following the 10:00 am worship service.

Pentecost Sunday, May 24: For our adult education we will have a Pentecost Bible Study.

Sunday, May 31 - *Police Reform in Rochester* – We are pleased to have as our guest presenter Rev. Lewis Stewart.

A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

On Saturday April 18, 2015 we at Lake Avenue Baptist Church welcomed our church family and friends from throughout the community and across the state and country to celebrate the life of Jean Bartlett. I would be remiss if I did not use this space in this month's newsletter to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for making this a wonderful celebration of the life of one we knew and loved.

Thank you to the staff that spent countless hours working with the family to help develop a wonderful worship service. The family was clear that they wanted the service to be one that was "*focused on God with a nod to Jean, not focused on Jean with a nod to God.*" I believe that you did just that. Granted she would have been embarrassed that all that attention was being directed to her, but would have undoubtedly been confident that, because the focus was most clearly on God, it was a worthwhile time and a clear worship service in its truest sense.

Thank you to our music department. Thank you to Dr. Lee Foster and our remarkable chancel choir for selecting such beautiful pieces to share and taking the time to rehearse them, all the while being mindful that seeking perfection in music was not for their glory, but for God's glory. Their efforts were clear and appreciated by all of those in attendance.

Thank you also to Lee for his willingness and dedication in working with the brass quintet who the family invited to share in the service. For those who don't know, the hymns that were played by Lee at the organ and accompanied by the brass quintet were arrangements that Lee himself composed. You would never have known that this was the first time Lee and the quintet played these arrangements together – the signs of true professionals.

Thank you to Hkadin Lee for the flowers. The main arrangement in the sanctuary was a Hkadin Lee creation, and it was beautiful. Her skill continues to amaze us all.

Thank you to Khatom Sorrels and Jane Grant and all of the countless volunteers in providing hospitality to those who gathered for worship and memorial. I know that it brings great comfort to many of our folks to be able to provide a lovely selection of treats and beverages and your efforts do not go unnoticed. To everyone who brought food, prepared the tables, served the food and drinks ... thank you. You are too countless to mention by name but you are all a great gift.

Thank you to Euan Morton and Tony Bonham and all of our ushers. You greeted people and made them feel welcome in our church home. Your professionalism is greatly appreciated. And to all of our greeters and those helping to direct folks to parking spots ... thank you. I heard more than one person express their appreciation for your efforts in helping people navigate our interesting parking options and you were willing to don our blue LABC volunteer shirts and make people feel welcome and safe. Thank you.

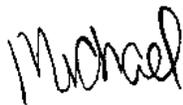
Thank you to the folks who helped set up chairs and take down chairs, not only getting things ready for the memorial service, but helping to get things ready for all of the other events that take place at our church over the weekend. When you set up for 400 people you also need to make some space changes, and you did so quickly and cleanly. Your efforts were and are so important ... thank you.

Finally, thank you to our intrepid office manager Ken Setera. Ken was responsible for pulling together the order of service (bulletin) for Saturday, running the copies, coordinating with the family and those calling in with questions, and dealing with a staff (ok ... namely me) who was juggling a lot of things that week and not always as appreciative at that time as I could have been. He accepted our craziness with grace and we really appreciate it. He is a gift and for him we are thankful ... even if he does keep his desk a bit messier than I would like. ☺

The reason I am sharing all of these “thank-yous” is that on Saturday many, many people came up to me and Pastor Debbie and expressed their words of appreciation ... but we are fully aware that we only do a small part of any event at LABC. It really is a community effort. We are the public face of our church in many instances but we are aware that it really takes a team like ours at LABC to make any event, big or small, come together. We know that ... and we want you to know how much we appreciate each and every one of you, who do everything you do to make our community so wonderful.

I pray that we don’t have to do this type of event again anytime soon, but, if need be, I know we can do it ... together. Of course, I would much rather have each and every one of you healthy and happy and in community with us. But I know that when we are called up as a church to rally together and do what we need to do to pull off any event, whatever it may be, we can do it ... by God’s grace alone, and with the strength of community ... the LABC community.

Blessings and once again, thank you!



GETTING READY TO VOTE ON UPDATED BY-LAWS

Tom Argust, Church Moderator

Six years ago our congregation approved a new set of rules to guide the way we work together and govern ourselves. These rules are called “*By-Laws*.” They were approved for “an interim period not to exceed three years.” The church was in-between pastors then and wanted to have updated rules until the future direction of the church became clearer.

Now that we have our two Pastors in place and a growing congregation, the Church Council felt that it was time to update our *By-Laws* as a way to help guide our promising future.

The *proposed By-Laws* were developed by the Moderator in collaboration with our Pastors. The Church Council reviewed and discussed them over a period of months and, at its February meeting, voted unanimously to refer them to the Congregation for approval.

MAJOR CHANGES

So what are the *major* differences between the proposed *By-Laws* and the existing ones? Here they are:

* We propose to replace the old LABC Purpose Statement with the one approved by the congregation in our 2012-2015 Plan.

*We propose a new way for individuals to become church members in addition to the existing ways (baptism; letter of transfer from another Christian church; profession of faith/Christian experience). The proposed additional way would be by formal recognition as a member of an approved Fellowship Group upon recommendation of that Fellowship Group and the Senior Pastor.

*The Vision Coordinating Council is proposed to be renamed as the *Church Council* and given updated roles.

*Five voting Trustees would be added to the existing six: the three church officers (Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer) and one representative each of our two formally recognized Fellowship Groups.

*Existing “ministries” would become “committees.” Committee names would become: Welcome; Nurture and Care; Resource Support; Christian Education; Mission; Worship and Music. Some committees will have sub-teams such as Scholarship, Planned Giving, Personnel, Budget, and Endowment.

*A formal way of recognizing Fellowship Groups is proposed:

“The Church Council shall propose to the congregation the official recognition of a Fellowship Group upon receipt of a formal request from the Group and a recommendation of the Senior Pastor. To be officially recognized by the church, the Fellowship Group must be functioning as a worshipping

community with an elected leadership structure, lay or ordained pastoral leaders and clear policies or financial management in accordance with Lake Avenue Baptist Church financial policies and practices. The Fellowship group must also be contributing time, talents & financial support to the church for at least two years, submit a membership list and whenever possible, be a member of the American Baptist Churches/USA or an affiliated organization.”

NEXT STEPS

To prepare us for the May 17 vote at a congregational meeting, we will have a **BY-LAWS review session on Sunday, April 26** during the second hour class in the conference room. Please join us for this important session in the life of our church.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

●**Ekaterina Gorlova** and **Ben Escobar**, our soprano and bass section leaders, will be having a recital at 7:00 pm on Sunday, May 3rd at Hatch Hall of the Eastman School of Music. Ekaterina is a voice major at Eastman and Ben is a piano major. A “pre-recital” performance will take place on Friday, April 24 at 3:30 pm at Lake Avenue Baptist Church.

●We welcome our latest member, **José Torres** who was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015.

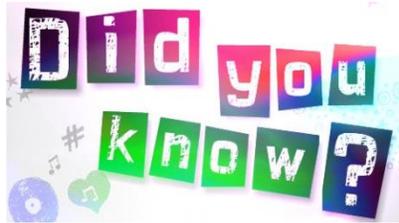
●Please keep in your healing prayers **Eh Mwee Paw** who has been dealing with recent health issues.

●Congratulations to **Nay Thorn** and **Mar Ri** who celebrated the first birthday of their twins at the church on Sunday, April 19.



As a Christian community we are called to pray for one another, and to pray without ceasing. We know many of you are very faithful in praying for each other and share concerns and celebrations in our worship and in our newsletter. We are calling upon members of Lake Avenue Baptist Church to commit some time to pray for one another, especially in times of trials, joys and sorrows, as part of a Prayer Chain Ministry. If you are

led to make this commitment, we would ask that you give your contact information to Debbie Bennett Reynolds by calling 458-5765 or emailing revdbr@rochester.rr.com. If you want to be contacted by phone, please give us the best time of day to be called. We will organize this into a Prayer Chain list and begin sharing concerns and celebrations each week and when special needs arise.



Everything we have in the sanctuary is there for a reason.

A few weeks ago the congregation of LABC was presented with a crucifix that was lovingly created by **Pastor Day Chit** and **Sha Paw**. In its creation and presentation we know how significant this symbol of the cross and the crucified Christ is to many in our community. In recent weeks it has been placed on the Communion table and most recently in a subtle place at the front of the sanctuary. We thank them for this thoughtful gift to our community of faith and appreciate the time and skill that has gone into making this visual symbol of an event that holds significant importance to so many in the LABC family.

A Worship Planning Experience

At our most recent VCC meeting I asked all of those present (trustees and representatives of various committees and ministries) to share something exciting. Too often we are bogged down by the challenges of ministry that we don’t take time to celebrate the blessings and successes; the things that bring us joy.



My particular celebration was around worship planning for Easter.

In past newsletters I have shared a basic theology of worship – our response to what God has first done for us. This is an open definition that is not bound by particular approaches to worship or particular styles. What it does is keep the activity of worship focused properly on God. We

gather and we worship because God has first called all things into creation and has blessed us with so much, with the ultimate gift being his Son, Jesus Christ, and the celebration of his life, death and resurrection.

I have also shared with you how we typically plan our weekly worship services. I have emphasized that we do try to be as diverse and inclusive as possible. Though I realize there are limitations to that diversity. In order to be truly reflective of our diversity (at least our cultural and linguistic diversity), we realize the need to seize opportunities to plan collectively for at least some of our worship services to ensure various ideas are reflected in the prayer, planning, and practice of our worship experiences at LABC. We did that at Easter.

A few weeks before Holy Week we asked all of our communities (English, Karen, & Burmese) to decide on a few representatives to meet to discuss Holy Week. These people did not need to be worship leaders per se, but people with a heart for planning inclusive worship.

We met on Sunday afternoon for an hour or so and explained why the group was present, and set to work planning our Holy Week services (in particular our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services). We spent considerable time with the music that we selected, identifying hymns that for our Karen and Burmese truly represented Easter and were used in the countries from which they have come in their individual Easter traditions. We explored the aspects of worship that were important. A good example of this is that with all of the other business of Easter Sunday we initially discussed moving Communion to the second Sunday in Easter, but learned that for our Karen community Communion is a very important part of Easter and so we included it in the Easter service (and for future reference we know that no matter what Sunday Easter falls on – even if it is not the first Sunday of the month – we will ensure that we include communion from now on Easter Sunday).

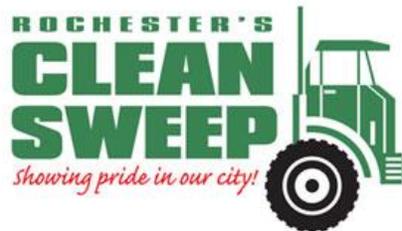
The final product was a worship service that was planned in community that reflected our community.

I take this as a very profound example of our desire to work together not only in worshipping together but in planning together. It takes a lot of work but is worth the effort. I do need to be clear that this is not the first time we have done this. During Rev. Susan Maybeck's tenure as worship planning associate during the interim period she was dedicated to working on this type of planning

with some regularity and we used many of the logistical things that she learned to return to this model. We are grateful for her many efforts in not only showing the church the possibility of this model but for developing an approach that we could model for our return to this practice. Thanks so much Susan!

The reason I say all of this is that as we move forward in worship we plan to build on this approach. We will not use it weekly, but we will use it regularly. For Pentecost, Summer Worship, Church Year Kick-Off (Rally Day?), Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent and Holy Week, we plan to develop diverse teams to explore worship together, planning together for our time of praising together.

Please be involved if you can. You don't need to be an expert at planning worship (if you are then you'll be the only expert around the table ... including those of us who do it weekly 😊) All you need to be is dedicated to helping us express our diversity as we worship the God who brings us together in worship. We need you, helping us to gather, worship, and praise our God ... together!



Rochester's Clean-Sweep will take place on Saturday, May 2nd from 7:45 am to 12:00 pm. Anyone who would like to participate join us at the church and let us

know if you need a ride. We will then go to the kick-off at the Red Wings baseball stadium. After the kick-off we will go to our work area which is in the church neighborhood. Wear work clothes and **NO OPEN TOED SHOES** or **SANDLES**. We can take you home when finished. Light breakfast food will be served at the stadium and tee shirts distributed when we first arrive. You will also receive a ticket and food voucher for the afternoon baseball game that begins at 1:05 pm. Please contact Bill Gibbs at 317-2895 if you plan to attend.



The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will have its annual summer conference or Peace Camp "No Longer Strangers, Crossing Borders for Peacemaking" on July 6-11, 2015 at Eastern Mennonite University,

Harrisonburg, VA. If you would like to register you may obtain a form at http://www.bpfna.org/gather/sm_files/SC_Registration_2015_final.pdf. Registrations must be received by June 15, 2015 and all payments must be in by June 29, 2015. You may obtain a brochure of this event at http://www.bpfna.org/gather/sm_files/2015_sc_brochure.pdf. The keynote speaker for this event is Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington who is the president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group, a Multicultural Organizational Development Firm in Baltimore, MD. He is an internationally known speaker, consultant, trainer, and writer on diversity, leadership, spirituality, organizational change and community development issues. He has received several awards both in and outside the church for his leadership and commitment to the Ministry of Social Justice.

Community, sponsored by American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region, Faith Community Alliance, Baptist Ministers Alliance and the GRCC Faith In Action Network. We will honor our beloved mentor in this work, the Rev. Roy Hedman. We believe that the Beloved Community already exists and that we can discover it when we come together. Lunch is provided, so let us know if you plan to attend. You'll meet some of the greatest people on the planet. Thank you to the Department of Community Development, the College at Brockport who will host us at the Metro Center. The cost of this event is \$5.00 and you can register at: www.belovedcommunityrochester.org.

● **A Pilgrimage to Taiz  in France (included Chartres and Paris), May 21 – June 2.** This trip is primarily created for ages 17-29 though everyone is welcome. The Taiz  community in France has become a gathering place for young adults from all over the world. If you or someone you know has questions about the trip, don't hesitate to email bridget.holmstrom@abcusa.org.

● **The Judicial Process Commission is looking for volunteers who would be willing to mentor those who are returning to the community from the Monroe County Correctional Facility.** The volunteers attend a two day mentor training session (in the evening from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.) As we see the number of shooting incidents in our community raise to unprecedented numbers, we all must do more than pray. The JPC is in desperate need for male mentors to assist young men in making better decisions and lead them to God for healing, hope and a future. For further information contact Valerie White-Whittick at 325-7727.

● **Collaboration to Overcome Lead Poisoning – The 2015 Upstate NY Lead Conference, Friday May 15, 2015, 10 am to 3 pm at the Helen Wood Hall Auditorium, 255 Crittenden Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14642.** Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15.00 per person and includes lunch and parking. For more information and online registration go to www.urmc.rochester.edu/center-experiential-learning/cme/Types-of-activities/Collaboration-to-overcome-Lead-Poisoning.aspx. Keynote speaker is John Paul Wright, University of Cincinnati, Criminal Justice and Human Services. Dr. Wright will present new information describing the connection between lead exposure and antisocial behavior, delinquency, violence, and incarceration.

● **You are cordially invited to a Local Department of Social Services Medicaid Symposium.** This will be an



AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 31st

We want to recognize all our new American Citizens from the past year in our 10:00 am worship service on May 31st. Please give names of those who became citizens this past year to us and please plan to be with us on May 31st. We would like to have everyone stand up and be honored for their hard work in reaching this important accomplishment. American born members will host the fellowship time after worship to celebrate this achievement! Please sign up with Jane Grant and Carol Gardner if you can help.



The Women's Society meeting on Tuesday, May 19 will be held at the home of Barbara Gates, 28 Country Gables Circle, 14606. The program will be "Aging Gracefully" by Garth Brokaw. Young women are welcome to join those of us who are "actively aging." A dessert and beverage will be served.

OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY

● **On May 2 the Coalition for the Beloved Community is hosting Deepening Relationships in Our Beloved**

opportunity to gain one time education, and updates from six local counties; Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, and Genesee on the latest changes at the local Medicaid offices and their Medicaid processes. This symposium will take place on Wednesday, May 20th at the Unity Hospital Education Center, 1550 Long Pond Road,

14626. Registration and refreshments will begin at 11:30 am. You can register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/medicaid-symposium-tickets->

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

LABC offers three scholarships through the generosity of donors. The Scholarship Committee reviews applications and makes final decisions on who is awarded the scholarship. The amount of each scholarship is determined annually and scholarships may not be awarded if there are no qualified applicants. Please review the information on the cover page of the scholarship application 9 (see chart) to determine if you qualify for one of the three scholarships. Applications are available at the Welcome Center. Your completed application must be received by the church office **no later than Friday, June 19th, 2015 at 5:00 pm. Late submissions will not be considered.**

	Hafer Scholarship Fund	Vinton Memorial Scholarship Fund	Dr. John J. Wilkes Educational Fund
History	Initiated by Sue McMeekin in 2002 in memory of her parents, Perry and Ethel Hafer, who were American Baptists. Ethel Hafer was a graduate of Denison University, once an American Baptist college.	Initiated by Roger Vinton in 1976 in memory of his parents, Margaret and George Vinton, long-time members of LABC. The original funding of \$10,000 has been increased through Mr. Vinton's generosity.	Initiated by the Board of Mission in 2000 to assist persons with vocational and other educational needs. Named for Dr. John J. Wilkes, LABC pastor 1973-1979.
Applicant Eligibility	Church members and participants.	Church members and offspring.	Church members and participants, with special emphasis on those with demonstrated need.
Acceptable Use	Study at an American Baptist affiliated college. Eligible schools at http://www.nationalministries.org/education/colleges_and_universities.cfm	Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (or other recognized seminary) or Colgate University.	Post-secondary education or for other educational proposals.
Scholarship Value	Approximately \$500	Approximately \$500 to \$1,000	Approximately \$100 to \$500
Additional Notes		If no LABC candidates apply, applicants suggested by CRCDS or Colgate financial aid offices will be considered.	May be used for educational experiences not leading to a degree upon approval of the committee considering the vocational benefit.

Application Submission: Applications must be submitted to the church office by the due date listed below. 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:
Friday, June 19, 2015
by 5:00 pm

Awards will be announced during July. Late submissions will not be considered.

A COLORING PAGE FOR OUR KIDS



THE GOOD SHEPHERD