

Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street, Rochester, NY 14608

[www.lakeavebaptist.org](http://www.lakeavebaptist.org) [lakeavebaptist@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lakeavebaptist@rochester.rr.com), 585-458-5765, Fax 585-458-5766

## Lake Avenue Baptist Church

E-MAIL:

[kenadmin@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kenadmin@rochester.rr.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 am: Worship for all, & Chin  
Worship  
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

Chin Lay Pastor  
Peter Naing

Burmese Lay Pastors  
William Lahtaw & Simon Kui

Office Manager  
Ken Setera

Custodial Services  
Lloyd Cuyler



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8. DON'T FORGET  
TO SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR  
AHEAD (SPRING FORWARD) ON  
SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 7.

## UPCOMING LABC SERVICES

*March 1, 2015: Second Sunday of Lent* 10:00 am Worship & Communion for all; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship & Chin Worship. Cameron Bowl-a-Thon in afternoon.

*March 8, 2015: Third Sunday of Lent* 10:00 am Worship for all, Chin Worship in downstairs sanctuary; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

*March 15, 2015: Fourth Sunday of Lent* 10:00 am Worship for all, Chin Worship in downstairs sanctuary; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

*March 22, 2015: Fifth Sunday of Lent* 10:00 am Worship for all, Chin Worship in downstairs sanctuary; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Adult education, Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

*March 29, 2015: Palm Sunday* 10:00 am Worship for all, Chin Worship in downstairs sanctuary; 11:15 am: Fellowship; 11:45 am: Karen Worship, Burmese Worship.

## UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, March 1, 2015 & Sunday, March 8, 2015: Burma Report** Join Hkadin Lee, Don Lee, Sandy Hasenauer and Jane Grant who will share their trip to Burma with us on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> during Adult Education time 11:45 – 12:30 p.m. March 1<sup>st</sup> they will share photos and stories of their tourist travels. March 8<sup>th</sup> they will be telling about their visit to the Camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Kachin State

and want to be sure they have plenty of time to share the stories they heard and all they learned. To allow everyone to be comfortable staying a little longer, the Kachin members of LABC will provide a simple lunch after the presentation.

**Sundays, March 15, March 22, & March 29, 2015:** We will use the lectionary Bible passages for these Sundays of Lent. This year's readings focus on the theme of God's covenants with us and how we put our faith into practice. Please plan to join us as we reflect and discuss together the Bible passages that have been used in that Sunday's worship.

### **MID WEEK ADULT EDUCATION WITH MICHAEL FORD**

Please join us on Thursday, March 5 at 1:00 pm for our continued discussion of the book the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

#### **PRE-K REGISTRATION**

If you have a child who will turn 4 years old before December 1, you may register them for Pre-Kindergarten. The Rochester Pre-K program is a half-day program that prepares your child for Kindergarten. It is especially important to help develop language skills and social skills. You may register at the City School District, Central Office, 131 West Broad Street, Monday through Friday between 8 and 4. Not all schools have a pre-k program and sometimes space is limited. So, it's best to sign up early. Please remember to take your child's birth certificate, parent's photo ID, and parents proof of address. Also, for recent immigrants, take any paper work concerning your immigration status.



Please join us for our Lenten Soup Suppers beginning at 6 p.m. every Wednesday evening through March 25<sup>th</sup>. The hot soup and bread is provided by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please let Kha Tom Sorrells know.

This year we are exploring spiritual practices – what are they, what their purpose is, and how we find ones that help us grow in our intimacy and love of God. We want to expand our definitions of spiritual practices, try some practices we may have never done before, and honor the ways different practices are meaningful for different people. Please join us for this time of sharing and spiritual growth!

---

## **A NOTE FROM PASTOR**

---



"from our friends at University Baptist in Minnesota regarding winter... perspective indeed"

Sometimes it's good to keep things in perspective. I've learned that this past week. For those of you in the Rochester area (or over much of the North East it would seem), you know we've had a challenging winter. Lot's of snow and cold. As I write this sitting at my dining room table it is -7°F outside with a wind chill of -25°F. The snow is just below my windows and I can see the snow blowing across the yard.

I went out to shovel a few days ago (a task that I have done time and time again this winter). I put on my coat and my hat (toque in Canadian), my mitts and my boots. I grabbed the shovel and spent an hour outside shoveling the driveway, the sidewalk, the front walk and the steps. I put the shovel away and went back inside for a cup of coffee. I turned on my computer and saw that we were expecting another storm, and I realized I would have to repeat this task the next day. I was muttering to myself about how much a challenge this winter has been, and then it hit me. Perspective.

I have a house to live in and take care of. I have a warm place to go from to shovel and return to when I am done. I have a warm jacket and hat and mitts and boots. I have a shovel that I can use to accomplish the tasks at hand. I have good food in my refrigerator to eat when I come in from an hour of hard work. I have a way to make coffee (electricity), and a dining room table I can sit at in front of a fire. I am truly blessed. So

many people lack these things, and even more. There is so much need for clothing, food, shelter and peace in this world.

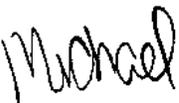
Perspective can be a very sobering thing. And to be completely honest I did what many people do when smacked with such perspective. I started to feel guilty about all that I have, when so many people are lacking even the basic necessities of life. I think that's a common middle class response to economic inequalities in our world. However guilt doesn't do a whole lot of good. Guilt can actually incapacitate us. It can cause us to freeze up and spend all of our time in a state of virtual paralysis. And so after a few moments of guilt ridden reflection, I decided that I couldn't let my self-reflection stop me from doing something, however small, to try to make a difference.

I went upstairs and went through my closets and put aside clothes I no longer wear that I can donate to Cameron Community Ministries (our partner in mission who run a wonderful clothing house). I went through my cupboards and pulled out some food (not the stuff I don't want but instead the stuff I enjoy hoping that others will like it too), and I went back outside and shoveled beyond my property line to help out a neighbor who I know wouldn't be able to do his own shoveling.

I'm not changing the world, but I'm trying to let my shift in perspective help to motivate me to do something better for our community. Perspective can lead to paralysis or progress.

How can you make a difference in the community where you live? I invite you to spend a few moments and think about the many blessings you have in your life. Big or small, how have you been blessed? And then, how can you give of those blessings in our community? How can you reach out and bless someone out of the blessings you have first received.

There is a phrase "pay it forward." Let's see what we can do as a community of believers who choose to give of our abundance to share God's light and love to a community in need.

Blessings, 

---

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Debbie Bennett Reynolds

---

**Holy Week Drama** – On Palm Sunday, March 29, we will experience the events of Holy Week with all our elementary-aged children. Beginning with palms waving in the worship service, we will re-enact together the events of this most sacred week of our Christian faith. This is always a powerful experience of entering into the story that touches both children and the adults who lead them. Any parents who are not teachers but would like to join us are welcome to participate.

**Children's Music** – "Mr. Lee" Foster continues to work with our elementary classes. This past Sunday in worship they sang a song they have been learning, "Shalom to You," which we will now sing each week as a congregation. This will be our way of sharing Christ's peace with each other during the coming weeks. Instead of saying the words, "May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you," and replying, "And also with you," we will sing the words of "Shalom to You" and then

share Christ's peace by greeting one another individually.

**Palm Sunday** – March 29<sup>th</sup> – Our children's choir will sing in the 10:00 a.m. worship and also process with palms.

**Easter Sunday** – April 5<sup>th</sup> – Our Easter Egg Hunt for preschool through elementary-aged children will take place at the end of Sunday School time. Donations of plastic eggs filled with small toys or treats will be gratefully accepted! You can also volunteer to help fill eggs with items we provide. We need to plan for 60+ children so we need 300 - 350 eggs. Please contact Debbie B Reynolds if you will bring eggs or are willing to help fill eggs!

---

## Art and Worship

By Michael Ford

---

When I was called to serve at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, I was provided a document that was the product of a series of forums on Music and Worship. This document, a worship framework, helped to define who we as a church are as a worshipping community. One of the things that this

document identified as a need was to incorporate more art in worship.

We currently use art in a number of ways. First, Ken Setera spends considerable amounts of time creating meaningful worship bulletin covers. I have personally seen him choose an image that he feels represents our worship for the week, and then looks for quotes or ideas that he can incorporate onto the cover. He takes great pride in creating visually appealing and theologically meaningful worship covers.

We have a number of beautiful pieces of art throughout the church, many created by Bing Thayer, a local artist and the late wife of member Vern Thayer. They represent a variety of artistic styles and are worth spending time looking at and thinking on. If you look in the display cabinet across from my office you'll see a wonderful drawing done by Sae Sae, which shows a pastoral image and the Karen Flag.

Also, in our sanctuary we have some beautiful banners that express the sentiment "we are one in the spirit" in some of our many languages. In addition we have a banner that expresses the rainbow colors used to express joy in our welcoming and affirming LGBT community. Finally, we have a quilt at the front of the sanctuary created by Sandy Hasenauer's mother and which many have remarked upon over the years, expressing both their appreciation for the quilt and it's beauty.

However, sometimes art in our worship space goes unnoticed, and so I've written this short article to encourage you to attend to it. Look at the ways we have already incorporated art in many forms into the worship space. And look for ways that we can incorporate more. In the next few days we will be mounting two new banners that we have ordered to bring more color into our sanctuary. These are made to look like stained glass and hold two theological images (I'm not going to say which ones, just encourage you to take a look and see what you see).

Art is very individual. What one person likes another may dislike. The joy of art, however, is that there is room for all pieces in our community. We can express artistic diversity in much the same way as we express our cultural diversity. We look forward to exploring and sharing our artistic sides with our community at LABC.

---

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

---

●**Jim Wandling** just celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on Sunday, February 15. For those who would like to send him well wishes and cards, his new address is The Maplewood Nursing Home, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY, 14580.



Meh Ri

Jim

Marie Emily

●Please keep **Roy and Evelyn Shafer** in your prayers. As of Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Roy remains a patient at Unity Hospital.

●Our prayers and well wishes are with **Jean Bartlett** who is recuperating at home with a broken pelvis.

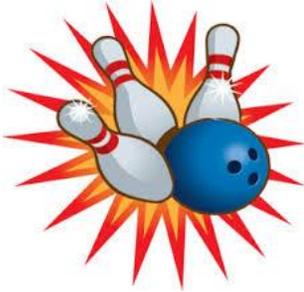
●Our Youth Leader is no longer as "youthful" as he used to be...(in age, not energy). When you see **Bill Gibbs** please wish him a happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bill's birthday was Monday, February 23.

●**Lodi Frank** has recently moved to a senior home in Cooperstown, NY. It is a smaller facility with only 15 members. Her phone number is 607-547-7090. Cards and letters to Lodi can be sent to the attention of her daughter Jeanne Dewey at 15 Eagle Street, Cooperstown, NY, 13326.

●**Vern Thayer** is moving to the Culver Blossom Legacy, 100 McAuley Drive, APT 283, Rochester, NY 14610.

## CAMERON COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

This year the Cameron Bowl-A-Thon will take place on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 pm and again at 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The entry fee is \$25.00 per person or \$125.00 per organization/company. Your contribution entitles your group to two games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda and many great prizes! The location will be Clover Lanes Bowling at 2750 Monroe Ave. Our team has registered and have begun collecting pledges and donations to bring with them to the Bowl-a-Thon. Each bowler that raises \$50.00 plus will be entered into a drawing to win the grand prize of a pizza party for their team! There will be a winner on each shift. Donations and pledges can be given to Bill Gibbs on Sunday morning. We hope you will take part in sponsoring our youth in this fun fund-raiser for Cameron Ministries.



for all ages. We will have games of all types – board games, card games, and active-move-around games. Bring a favorite game if you like. Please also bring snacks or other food you'd like to share. Pizza and drinks will be provided.



The Invitation and Welcome team is asking for your help by signing up to be a host/hostess at our Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. This is an easy (and fun!) task which expresses LABC's welcoming spirit. There is a sign-up sheet at the counter on which we would love for you to sign. We want to reflect a broader representation of our congregation. Providing a welcoming presence for a short time (10-15 minutes) before and after the 10:00 am worship service is the main job requirement. (Additional guidelines are posted on the inner Welcome Center counter.) If you have any questions, please see Julie Carter. **By the way....MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CURRENTLY SERVE AS HOSTS!**

## Cameron Community Christopher T. Allen Memorial Golf Tournament.

Believe it or not, the weather will change and soon people will be flocking to the golf courses. So, we want you to mark your calendars for this special Cameron fund-raiser which is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2015 at the Penfield Country Club. There are still sponsorship opportunities, available. Please visit <http://cont.cc/1CBlive> and consider participating as a sponsor. And, if you are a golfer, please consider golfing in the tournament. If you need some help with your swing or if you feel a bit rusty, ask Michael Ford to show you how to do it!

## GREAT SCHOOLS FOR ALL

One of the great privileges of serving as Senior Pastor at Lake Avenue Baptist Church is the opportunity to compliment my pastoral work within the church and our



The American Baptist Women of LABC will meet at the church on **Tuesday, March 17 at 1:00 pm**. The guest speaker will be Garth Brokaw, our church historian. He will talk about another missionary, Ruth Makeman that was commissioned by

Lake Avenue Baptist Church. Ruth was assigned to Home Mission in Youngstown, Ohio and stayed there for 20 years. She later became assigned to the Boston Baptist Center. We hope you can make it to this informative program. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

## GAMEDAY

Tired of the cold? Shake off those winter blues and come have some fun and food! Come one and all, from age 0 to 101 on the first official day of spring, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Social Hall. Our Nurture & Care Ministry is hosting a day of games and fellowship

congregation with community service. One of the groups I've worked with the past year, and which I've written about previously, is focused on educational reform within the city school system. Now named "Great Schools for All," we originally took a trip to Raleigh, NC to examine how they reformed their school system with the implementation of a county wide school system. Although we know that is not an option for Rochester, we wanted to learn about the various opportunities and challenges they faced in identifying what was needed to bring about reform in Raleigh, and to implement what they eventually did bring into existence. It was an eye opening exploration.

Since our trip to Raleigh we have held a community conference with leaders in various sectors of our social fabric, from politicians, educational leaders, community executives and business leaders. It was a wonderful day of learning from our Raleigh experience, and starting to talk about the challenges and opportunities in Rochester.

In the last few months since that event we have identified five areas for further exploration. These include: county wide magnet schools, summer-learning, urban-suburban programs, outreach and diversity, regional planning, and legislative issues. Working groups have been developed and we are starting to explore what can be done in Rochester to address these areas of interest and need.

We are working towards another conference in May that will involve reporting on these working-groups and deciding on next steps. Our goal is to work with those in the city who want to provide Great Schools for All, and to provide a positive voice to encourage change that will be long-lasting and significant.

If you'd like to learn more, please visit [www.gs4a.org](http://www.gs4a.org) which has information about our beginnings, efforts, and vision. And thank you to the congregation at LABC for permitting me the time needed to serve as a public voice on your behalf to help build our community both within the walls of LABC and in our broader community.

## **BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP AT LABC**

On the Baptism of Jesus Sunday we spoke in worship about the meaning and practice of baptism. After that service, and in the weeks since, some of you have approached Pastor Debbie or Pastor Michael and expressed interest in exploring baptism a little further.

Some of you have also expressed interest in being baptized in the near future. We are planning to hold baptisms again on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015. If you would like to explore the possibility of being baptized on that date, please make sure to speak to Pastor Michael or Pastor Debbie and they would be more than happy to discuss it with you in advance of that day of celebration.

---

## **TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PILGRIMS AND REFUGEES**

By Dr. Jerry Cain (from Winter 2015 Primary Source, a publication of the American Baptist Historical Society)

---

On November 16, President Obama flew east for an Asian summit and a planned visit to Myanmar while I hosted a group of displaced citizens from Myanmar, all Kachins, who were on a pilgrimage through Kansas City.

The Kachins are a tribal group in northern Myanmar (also called Burma) that have embraced the Christian message due to the faithful witness of American missionaries. While the over-whelming majority of Kachins are Christian, about 10 percent of them are living in displaced person camps across Myanmar.

During World War II the Kachins were loyal allies of the American forces. They rescued and sheltered over 500 U.S. fliers shot down over Burma while conducting raids on the Japanese invaders. The courtyard of the American embassy in Yangon honors the Kachins for their fierce fighting against the Japanese. I have been to the region several times, most recently in August of 2014.

Modern day Kachins are out of favor with the current government of Myanmar and, if they can get out of the country, often become refugees in the United States. Some 2800 have settled here and in 2002 they founded in Omaha, The First Kachin Baptist Church in America.

The first missionary to contact the Kachins was **Eugenio Kincaid** who visited northern Burma in 1837 at the behest of **Adoniram Judson** the venerable American missionary. At Kincaid's insistence, Ola Hansen, settled in northern Burma, codified the Kachin language and translated the Bible. One hundred seventy-five years later this tribal group has embraced the teachings of Jesus, and though ostracized in their native land, have become our immigrant neighbors in the heartland.

In appreciation of missionary Eugenio Kincaid, 37 Kachins, displaced from their homeland in Myanmar, became pilgrims in November and made the trip from Omaha to Girard, KS, where Kincaid is buried. On the way back to Omaha, I met with these pilgrims for a debriefing on their journey.



They reported on Kincaid's retirement from mission work and his decision to settle in Kansas in 1857. The Kincaid Memorial Church in Girard, KS, was founded and named for him during his lifetime. He died in 1883 and was buried in this tiny Kansas town where his legacy was lost, his grave was ignored and the church changed its name.

But the Kachins revere this nineteenth century missionary and are now working to revive his story in the Midwest. I was deeply touched by these pilgrims who did their research and then searched out the last remaining evidences of this pioneer missionary who brought the story of Christ to northern Myanmar.

In similar fashion, Kachins, Chin, and Karen refugees make pilgrimages to the American Baptist Historical Society in Atlanta, where they can see some of the writings and translations of their earliest missionaries.

## ***OUR LARGER COMMUNITY***

●**Creating Equity in Our Community:** Metro Justice presents: A Racial Justice Workshop on Saturday, February 28 from 9 am – 3 pm at the School Without Walls, 480 Broadway. A \$10.00 donation is requested to cover lunch. You must pre-register and seats are limited! To register, contact Pat Mannix by email at [girafepm@aol.com](mailto:girafepm@aol.com) or by calling 585-469-8249.

●**Faith and Medicine Conference: Working Together to Eliminate HIV/AIDS on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at Asbury First United Methodist Church.** The Black Leadership Commission on AIDS of Rochester invites all who would like to attend this special one day conference. Lunch is included in your registration cost. Registration is \$15.00 per person before March 16<sup>th</sup> and \$20.00 per person after March 16<sup>th</sup>. For a group of 10 people the registration cost is \$100.00. The Conference Theme is "Write Your Own Story". Topics to be covered include epidemiology and prevention, substance abuse, STDs & HIV, diabetes, high blood pressure, culture and religion in medical decisions, health ministries, & ethics of hepatitis C treatment. To register, please contact LaTricia Johnson at 585-721-9250 or email: [lajohns@acmlab.com](mailto:lajohns@acmlab.com).

●**A Call for Freedom: Community Responses to Human Trafficking.** Human Trafficking is a local and global tragedy impacting millions of men, women, and children. You are invited to attend a special one day seminar on March 25, 2015, 8:30 am at the Cultural Life Center at Roberts Wesleyan College. The keynote speaker will be Shayne Moore, author of "*Refuse to Do Nothing*". He is the co-founder of the West Chicagoland Anti-Trafficking Coalition. The registration fee is \$25.00 which includes lunch (students are free). For more information call 585-594-6420. You can register at [www.nes.edu/symposium/bt-roberts-symposium-human-trafficking](http://www.nes.edu/symposium/bt-roberts-symposium-human-trafficking).

