



The Laveen Baptist Church Builder

Volume XLV, Number 9

September 1, 2024

Notes from Pastor Jim

“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, ‘For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ (Psalm 44:22) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:35-37)

Nobody likes trouble. Most folks desire a life of peace and calm. We perceive difficulties as something to be avoided. When hardships are encountered, people tend to believe something has gone wrong.

For the disciple of Jesus, there is the added thought that maybe, in some way, God is displeased. Internal questions begin to be asked. Have I done something wrong? Am I being punished? Is God mad at me? Given the earthly life we know, these questions are natural. Natural, that is, to human behavior and experience.

The first fact disciples must embrace is that God is not as we are, human. He does not act or react as we have experienced in this life. He is not flawed and sin-filled. He is perfect. His nature and, therefore, His actions are characterized by love (1 John 4:8).

Second, this sin-dominated world hates God. It also hates His people. This is why Paul cites Psalm 44:22. Jesus also asserted this fact (John 15:18-25). As followers of Jesus, we must accept that as Jesus was hated and acted against; people, the world system, and the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2) will also act against His saints.

This is Paul’s point to the believers in Rome. People tend to look at life events and imply Who God is or what He is doing from what we see. In backwards fashion, we attempt to deduce Who God is based on what is taking place. Instead, Jesus’ people need to begin with Who God is: to accept that He acts in a manner that is consistent with His nature, and then, and only then, attempt to make sense of life.

Ella Fitzgerald's song said, “Into each life some rain must fall,” That rain and the accompanying wind, lightning, thunder, and potential flooding, comes upon the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). We live in a fallen world. As Jesus-followers, we sin and we live in a world of people who sin. This all results in an abundance of problems. Some of our own making. Some as a result of others.

But in the midst of this Paul asserts that “nothing,” absolutely “nothing” (notice how Paul’s list of distresses goes from the simple, “tribulation” to the severe “sword,” death?), separates disciples of Jesus from God’s love and commitment. Because of God’s love and dedication to love and His people, the disciples of Jesus are not abandoned but, instead, are overcomers.

Let Who God is influence your view of life. Not the other way around.

Pastor Jim

Notes from the Associate Pastor Harry

Hello, Laveen Baptist Church. September (until recently) was always the back-to-school month but, also, the traditional start of apple season and the fall season. Due to our global economy, we can now get apples all year long. Of course, the ubiquitous apple (erroneously) also has a place in the Adam and Eve story in the Garden of Eden, but apples are an amazing fruit.

The old adage of 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away' actually has some truth to it. Even though apples are mainly composed of carbs and water, due to their high fiber and polyphenol counts, these fruits often have a low GI (glycemic index) score which makes them a good weight-loss-friendly food. They're also a good source of vitamin C and potassium. And I haven't even mentioned that they're simply delicious. Globally, there are around 7,500 different varieties, which means that there's probably an apple variety that appeals to everyone.

This is just one of the trees that God designed that 'bears fruit with seed' which God placed in creation. God's design in nature for the welfare of mankind is incredible and certainly not boring. Now, consider that in the book of Revelation we read that God is going to make a new heaven and earth (chap. 21). I for one can hardly wait for that: to be like Adam and Eve before the fall with all kinds of fruit-bearing trees that God designed. Now I know that it can be hard to keep our focus on that future when the present times can seem so difficult and out-of-control. But when I do then I have found that it makes the current difficulties, whatever they are, much more bearable. I know that that time is coming because I have God's word that it is, and He's never failed to keep his promises.

So, if your kids engage in the age-old practice of taking the teacher an apple, it's a way of ensuring their good health, but, more importantly, it's a way of sharing and reminding us that God is the source of all of our provisions. And, when we take in what God's designed for us, it's for our good and our enjoyment. When you're in the store and see that big bin of apples, give God thanks for what He's done for you.

In His service,
Pastor Harry

2024 ARIZONA MISSION OFFERING
CONNECT
200 CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER TO GIVE \$200,000
SEPTEMBER 2024 * EPHESIANS 4:16
Our Goal: \$5,000

- CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE
- DISASTER RELIEF
- HISPANIC MINISTRIES
- PLANTING CHURCHES
- REVITALIZING CHURCHES
- STUDENT MINISTRIES
- PASTORS & WIVES RETREAT
- MINISTERS IN CRISIS

Find out more
Arizona Mission Network
YOUR GIVING IMPACTS

CHURCH WORK DAY
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Saturday, October 5th, 7:30 am - 12 pm
Let's keep our facility looking great

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints
2nd and 4th TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH
September 10th & 24th
9:30 AM
BLDG B Room 2

women on mission

LBC Missions
LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Monthly Meeting
After AM Service
Room 9
Join Us
Sept 8th

Notes from the Youth Team

By Diane Williams

Welcome to September 2024! We had a wonderful, busy summer full of events and service opportunities, but most of our students have already been back in school for about a month – some even longer than that. Some of our students graduated and are now officially college students.

One of the things I remember about school is all the reading I had to do for all my classes; science, English, history, Sociology, etc. It was an integral part of almost every class, but it was necessary in order to learn what I needed to know.

Reading has also been an integral part of my Christian life for as long as I can remember. Of course, reading the Bible, the very words of God breathed out and written down so we can know Him and benefit from them, is a priority. No other book has the divine origin and power that the Scriptures have. But, throughout my Christian life, there have been many books along the way that not only helped me understand and apply biblical concepts, but also reminded me of and strengthened me in what I already know and believe. It is amazing to me that I can pick up a book and read the thoughts of someone else I've never met, but that have an impact on the way I think, believe, and act.

In Matthew 22:37 we are called to, "...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." The closest people in our lives, our most intimate friends and family, are those we know the most about and who know us most deeply. To accurately know and love God, we must learn more about God; we must use our minds. Of course, the main source of the knowledge of God is His Word, given to us to reveal Himself. But there are many additional resources that we can also use: books, articles, podcasts, etc. that help us think rightly about God and His Word. And, very often, you don't even have to read them yourself; you can listen to them. Just be careful that what you're reading or listening to is in agreement with Scripture.

I would recommend one of these two books to begin with: "More Than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell or "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. Both men were skeptics when it came to Jesus Christ and who He claimed to be. Both men did extensive research hoping to disprove His claims, but, in fact, proved just the opposite. We have copies of these available in the church office, along with many other books and resources. Stop by Monday – Thursday, between 9am and 3pm if you'd like to browse.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

September 7th: Lake Day

September 8th: Parent's Meeting – 11:45 am in the Youth Room

September 14th: Rio Vista Service Opportunity (churchwide)

September 20th – 22nd: DNow Weekend

riovista center
1431 E Southern Ave, Phoenix AZ 85040
Help pack & distribute food boxes
Sat, September 14th
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Questions/To Sign Up - Contact
Lisa Valdivia (602) 403-3301



ADVENTURE CLUB
For children 3 years old through 6th grade
Sign-up begins August 10th
Club starts Wed, **September 4th**



Please scan one of the codes below to sign up:
Volunteers: 
Kids: 

Cost: \$35 - scholarships available

Notes from the Worship Leader

It's coming! The beautiful weather is coming, and I hope you are as excited as I am. We are at the end of the hot season, and many of you are coming back from summer vacation.

Church, it's going to get busy. Buckle up, because there are many things to do, and, as a church, we need to do this together. Not just a few, not just the pastors, not just the elders, not just the office staff, but every single one of us. God has brought us to Laveen Baptist Church to share and reflect the light of Jesus to others. I sound like a broken record player, but our community continues to grow. Houses are being built every single day, and people from many parts of the country and the world are moving to Laveen. We get new visitors every Sunday, and we thank God for that.

Church, have you asked yourself why God brought you to Laveen Baptist Church? Was it because you liked the sermons or songs? The honest truth is this is not about us and what we get out of it. This is what we give to others through Jesus. Matthew 5:14-16 reminds us, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." LBC, we cannot light a lamp and put it under a basket! Show the light, like the song we learned as children, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!! In Romans 1:5, Paul tells us, "through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,". In other words, we have received His grace and apostleship, which means "he who is sent out", to share the light to the world: not just between the four walls of LBC but to those outside the four walls, to those who have never heard the gospel of Jesus.

What we are doing is pointing them to Jesus. You are like a human sign showing them the way to eternal life with God and away from a eternal place of punishment, torture, and separation from God. Don't forget, we were shown the way, too. We ourselves are walking testimonies that despite our flaws, our sinful ways, and falling short of God's grace, He forgives us of our sins. We have seen God's power and beauty throughout our life, and we have seen God that takes care of his children to the smallest detail.

What an honor and a gift we have. Why not share that gift with others? Church, we cannot be selfish, and we cannot be disobedient. Share Jesus.

Answer these questions yourself. What did Jesus do? Am I doing what Jesus asks of me?

God Bless,
Cesar Aleman



HYMN SING
&
Ice Cream Social
Sunday, September 15th
5:00 pm

The graphic features a boy playing a guitar on the left, a girl singing into a microphone on the right, and a bowl of ice cream at the top right. The background is a sheet of music with the lyrics "I was through grazing" visible.



DELIVERING HOPE
FREE MUSIC EVENT

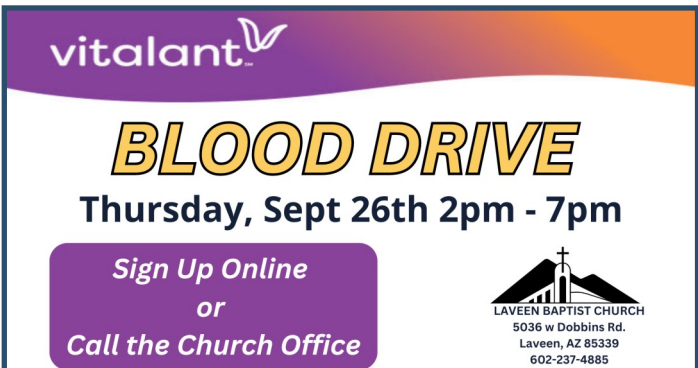
Bring your chairs, blankets, and enjoy the event!

Live music from local church worship teams
Resources from various community organizations

Everyone is welcome!
Saturday, October 19
1pm-5pm
Laveen Baptist Church Lawn

Free food provided for all attendees

The graphic includes a central logo of a crown with musical notes and a cross, and a group of stylized figures.



vitalant

BLOOD DRIVE
Thursday, Sept 26th 2pm - 7pm

Sign Up Online
or
Call the Church Office

LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH
5036 w Dobbins Rd.
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-4885

The graphic features the Vitalant logo at the top and the church logo at the bottom right.



SEPTEMBER

1st Willy Kiyogera

Jonas Wolfe

4th Mark Seavers

7th Jayden Konki

9th Dennielle Shelton

13th Phyllis Trussell

Emily Aleman

16th Jesse Minjarez

17th Ann Florez

18th Shania Ikirezi

Alan Stotts

19th Karen Tolmachoff

21st Samuel Thompson

22nd Donna Marston

23rd Darrel Johanning

Jennifer Lane

25th John Carroll

Heidi Estes

27th Elijah Downs

28th Senyor Cannon

Mark MacDougall

30th Noa Stotts



SEPTEMBER

9/1 Stephen & Nin Gose

9/7 Richard & Donna Gajdowski

9/13 Rick & Tina Freeberg

9/21 Rick & Rosanna Hornback

9/24 Ruben & Janis Villa

9/25 Alan & Tessa Stotts

9/26 Bruce & Donna Marston

LADIES WED PM BIBLE STUDY

Ladies we have something special for you this school year. You will be following the same study that your kids are.

Starting Wed, **September 4th** 6:30 pm

Building B, Room 3

Ladies you can join at any time.

Contact the Office if you have questions.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

SEPT 13, 2024

6:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish to share



September

Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes 8:30 am
 Worship Service 10:05 am
 Evening Study (ALL WELCOME)
 Bldg B Rm 4&5 5:00 pm

MONDAY

Ladies AM Bible Study - 1, 2,3 John 8:00 am
 Ladies PM Bible Study - Acts 5:45 pm

TUESDAY

Victorious Overcomers Support Group 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Dinner 5:00 pm
 Adventure Club (New Kids Program) 6:00 pm
 Youth Bible Study 6:00 pm
 Prayer Hour 6:00 pm
 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm
 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm

THURSDAY

Griefshare (August - November 7th) 10:00 am

FRIDAY

AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Special Events

SEPTEMBER

Mon, Sept 2nd

Office Closed Labor Day

Sat, Sept 7th

Youth Lake Day

Sun, Sept 8th

Personnel/Search Committee Meeting 11:30 am

Mission Committee Meeting 11:30 am

Tues, Sept 10th

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints 9:30 am

Fri, Sept 13th – Ladies Fellowship 6:00 pm

Sun, Sept 15th

Hymn Night / Ice Cream Social 5:00 pm

Fri, Sept 20th – Sun, Sept 22nd

Youth DNow Weekend

Tues, Aug 24th

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints 9:30 am

Thurs, Sept 26th

Blood Drive 2 – 7:00 pm

Welcome New Members



Caleb, Claudia, Bonifacio Ramirez



Isaac Chavez, baptized by his grandfather and mom Gabriela read his testimony.