



Lafayette Federated Church
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APRIL 2009

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

6:00 p.m. Easter Musical, "SOVEREIGN LORD"

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2009

7:30 p.m. Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2009

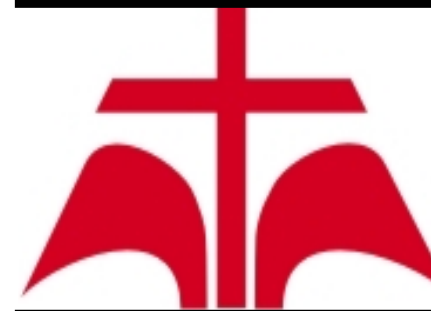
7:30 p.m. Service

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2009

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service (Back Pavilion)

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services



L A F A Y E T T E
 F E D E R A T E D C H U R C H
 Q U A R T E R L Y N E W S L E T T E R

APRIL 2009

A WORD FROM PASTOR RICK...

To the Wonderful Family of God,

A new report reveals that children in America spend 45 hours a week immersed in the media! *USA Today* stated:

Parents and policymakers need to take action to protect children from being harmed by TV, the Internet and other types of media. Researchers have done individual studies for years to learn how media affect children. A review analyzed 173 of the strongest papers over 28 years, [finding] that 80% agree that heavy media exposure increases the risk of harm, including obesity, smoking, sex, drug and alcohol use, attention problems and poor grades.

And these studies (can you believe 173 studies were done?) do not even measure the spiritual damages done by the media which are the most significant of all. Aside from the numbing, deadening affect on the mind, there is the seduction of the soul. It would be difficult if not impossible to find anything that has shaped our society more than the media communications.

In view of these things, I will be urging all of you to fast from the media for one week, April 20-26, this year. This coincides with the National TV Turnoff Week that is observed by some public schools to encourage students to read more. Our purpose in doing this is multifold. We hope that families will take the extra time and fill it with family activities such as reading a book, going fishing,

baking cookies, visiting a nursing home, having a picnic, planting a garden, having devotions, bike riding, watching a sunset, climbing a tree, etc. We hope people will wean themselves from the artificially induced virtual life of media and replace it with first hand experience of God's creation and real relationships with their family and neighbors.

In the past, when I have asked people to conduct this experiment of abstaining from media for a week, they are amazed, after the initial shock, at how much better and more enjoyable their lives are. A few decide to continue the fast from TV indefinitely, while others go so far as to cancel their cable/satellite service and some put their televisions in storage.

So, are you ready? Is it really possible to live without media? Is your heart already racing? Just remember that people lived very well for thousands of years without television and computers. In fact, THE greatest life ever lived, predated modern technology.

Take a deep breath . . . Now exhale. You can do it.

With love in Jesus,

Pastor Rick Cryder

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" A G R O W I N G C H U R C H F O R G R O W I N G P E O P L E "

FROM THE STUDY ...

REV. TIMOTHY J. BRINKERHOFF, ASSOC. PASTOR

“Idolatry.” As soon as we hear the term, we immediately, and often times unconsciously, separate ourselves from it because we associate the term with long gone, archaic cultures. We associate the term with man-made images that are crafted out of stone, wood, or metal. But in no way does God see or define idolatry in such restricted terms. In fact, what’s incredibly amazing, is if you take the whole Bible and strip it down to one fundamental principle, it’s not even the cross, as significant and pivotal as it is in Christendom; but rather, it is this—worship. If you take a look at the temptation account in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3), the issue is worship; who’s in charge; who is worthy to call the shots. Man, (Adam & Eve) attempted to trump and unseat God, and place himself on the throne...and we know the rest of the story.... The cross ends up being the “fix-it” agency that God implements so that we once again can get our worship right.

Today, we still are heavily saturated and engrossed in the practice of idolatry; it’s just that our idols are much more sophisticated.

practice of idolatry; it’s just that our idols are much more sophisticated; just the same, they are man-made and man-centered just like the days of old. We can love “the good life” too much; we can love financial security more than God; we can love accumulating things more than being content with God; we can love seeking and attaining an affluent lifestyle more than God; we can love earthly pleasures and feelings or experience more than God; we can love our comfort and ease more than God; we can love money more than God; we can love maintaining our image before men more than God; we can love our bodies (beauty/health) more than God; and we can love certain philosophies and ideologies more than God’s clear absolutes that are found in God’s Word; and we could go on and on and on....

But here’s an interesting point in Psalm 135:15-18 that points out that there is a very serious consequence that takes place when we choose to love something else other than God; it goes like this:

“The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ear, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.”

The point here? *First*, how convenient it is to fashion a god that has no binding authority over our lives; it’s a god that we can manage that can’t ask us to do anything we don’t want to do. *Second*, these gods are limited—in fact, lifeless limited—which means there’s no relationship to be presumed or pursued as well as no power that’s to be respected and even tapped which is rather significant as well. But then *third*, and the most important lesson here, is that those who subject themselves to them, “are like them” or, put another way, “become like them.” And what’s the point? Here we see incredible deception. Where we think we have a god that is worthy of our time, resources, allegiance, and as we’re loyal to them—all kinds of rewards and blessings and promises of happiness and freedom, etc., little do we know that the things we choose to love and be devoted to more than God, They actually begin to control and enslave us, and we end up *not* being actually happy and free at all. In short, we become the lifeless thing that de-humanizes us from being fully human and everything God intended us to be as ones created in His image. We end up becoming the very thing we love and worship—something lifeless and non-human.

When we read the 10 commandments given in *Exodus 20* and *Deuteronomy 5*, what is the first commandment that concerns God?

“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...”

When Jesus summarized the law in *Matthew 22* He said that this is the *first* and *great* commandment,

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

The issue in both of these passages is worship. John Piper is quoted as saying, if I can paraphrase, “*Evangelism will some day cease, but worship will never end.*” God has created us to worship Him in everything—24/7. And we learn in these passages, not jut the centrality of the principle and command, but also how *jealous* God is for our loyalty and affection and focus. He will share that central place with no one or any other thing. Knowing us far too well, God warns us about falling prey to temptation in loving other things that, in reality, replace Him.

Today, we still are heavily saturated and engrossed in the

(continued)

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 5:30 Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 Outreach Visits 6:00 Covered Dish Dinner 7:15 Sr. High Bible Study 7:15 Boys Brigade/ Pioneer Girls 7:30 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men’s Basketball 7:30 Young Adults Bible Study	6:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast 7:30 Jr. High Youth	7:00 a.m. Elder’s Breakfast 10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 7:00 Sr. High Youth
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 9:45 Sunday School 6:00 “SOVEREIGN LORD” Easter Musical	6:30 Women’s AA	9:15 Women’s Bible Studies 7:15 Celebration Choir 8:00 Men’s AA	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 5:30 Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 Outreach Visits 6:30 Covered Dish Dinner 7:15 Sr. High Bible Study 7:15 Boys Brigade/ Pioneer Girls 7:30 Prayer Meeting	7:30 MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion Service	6:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast 7:30 TENEBRAE SERVICE	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 7:00 Sr. High Youth
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6:30 Sunrise Service 7:30 Easter Breakfast 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 9:45 Sunday School EASTER SUNDAY	10:30 USTA Meeting 6:30 Women’s AA	9:15 Women’s Bible Studies 7:15 Celebration Choir 8:00 Men’s AA	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 5:30 Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 Outreach Visits 6:30 Covered Dish Dinner 7:15 Sr. High Bible Study 7:15 Boys Brigade/ Pioneer Girls 7:30 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men’s Basketball 7:30 Elders’ Meeting 7:30 Young Adults Bible Study	6:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 7:00 Sr. High Youth
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 9:45 Sunday School 6:00 Evening Service	6:30 Women’s AA 7:00 Trustees’ Meeting	9:15 Women’s Bible Studies 7:15 Celebration Choir 8:00 Men’s AA	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 5:30 Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 Outreach Visits 6:00 Covered Dish Dinner 7:00 Sr. High Bible Study 7:15 Boys Brigade/ Pioneer Girls 7:30 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men’s Basketball 7:30 Young Adults Bible Study	6:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast 9:30 MOPS 7:30 Jr. High Youth	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 7:00 Sr. High Youth
26	27	28	29	30		
8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 9:45 Sunday School 6:00 Evening Service	10:30 USTA Meeting 6:30 Women’s AA	9:15 Women’s Bible Studies 7:15 Celebration Choir 8:00 Men’s AA	10-1:00 Sunshine Shop 5:30 Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 Outreach Visits 6:00 Covered Dish Dinner 7:00 Sr. High Bible Study 7:15 Boys Brigade/ Pioneer Girls 7:30 Prayer Meeting	7:00 Men’s Basketball 7:30 Young Adults		

CARL'S CORNER

Grace

One of Pastor Rick's recent sermons touched on an issue I had been thinking about for Carl's Corner. I was going to save it for the last issue prior to my retiring from the position of Church Administrator the end of August, but then I realized that would not be fair to people who may want to comment directly to me about the subject, so here goes.

In my 6 ½ years as your church administrator, I have had the opportunity to serve you and our Lord in many different ways. One of those ways of serving is by being a listener. Sometimes people just need to vent, and sometimes they have legitimate issues on which to comment. Often it is difficult for me to discern which is which, thereby creating a bit of stress.

Unfortunately, many of those comments expressed to me are about someone else or someone else's ministry, and the comments are frequently critical or uncomplimentary. I have to say that it is rare for people to mention to me their own shortfalls or sin instead of the shortfalls or perceived shortfalls of others.

I am saddened by the frequency of these comments and the direction they too often take. Having attended here at LFC from the early days of Pastor Luthman, through Pastor Mangione and 6 years into Pastor Rick, I do not remember any of their sermons that would encourage us to be critical of each other. In fact, quite the opposite.

Scripture itself has a lot to say about this subject, and some of it falls under the subject of *Grace*, hence the title of this article. Some Scripture references follow:

Colossians 4:6 - *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

2 Timothy 2:1 - *You then my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

Proverbs 22:11 - *He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.*

Matthew 7:3 - *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*

Now my comments are not meant to be an indictment of everyone or anyone in the church. No doubt, I have been guilty of some of the same offenses against others. I only wish to share one of my experiences in this position and maybe give you something to think about.

I expect to be around for another 5 months, so please feel free to respond with your thoughts.

Carl Casterlin, Administrator

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE...

Please join us in congratulating Bob & Karen Wheeler on the birth of their 5th grandchild, Payton Mercedes Wheeler, born on February 10th. Payton weighed 7 lbs 12 oz and was 19.5 inches long. Joyous parents are Brad & Patty Wheeler.

Congratulations to Pete and Cheryl Pallis on the birth of their grandson, Braghan Mark Pallis, born on March 6th. Braghan weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 21 inches long. The joyous parents are Mark and Shannon Pallis.

The following children were baptized or dedicated last week. Please join us in congratulating the parents:

- Greta Andersen Leah Clark
- Jonathon Clark Sarrah Clark
- Danyael Clark

Congratulations to Herb & Diane Hockenbery on the birth of their grandson, Mason Tyler Sadowski, born on March 12th. Mason weighed 6 lbs 3 oz and measured 21 inches long. The proud parents are Justin & April Sadowski.

Steve and Pam Weber joyfully announce the engagement of their son, David, to Maryta Schoen of Wantage. The wedding is planned for October 3, 2009.

FROM THE STUDY...

REV. TIMOTHY J. BRINKERHOFF, ASSOC. PASTOR

(continued)

For example. If someone loves trying to remain young and beautiful, they will pour tons of money into cosmetic surgery or getting their botox shot. Apparently the "fountain of youth" has been found—not in a miraculous water source, but in a needle or going under the knife. The other night I happened to stumble onto a TV show that's called "The Apprentice" that was choosing to have as its guests a number of celebrities. And one of the celebrities was Joan Rivers, who I hadn't seen in years...and my mouth dropped open. I could hardly believe what I saw. Joan Rivers could hardly speak—her face was so taunt from so many surgeries and injections; how horribly sad that she obviously can't accept growing old gracefully. The obsession of trying to retain her beauty was and is obvious. Unbeknownst to her, she has become enslaved and controlled by her idolatry. It's clear that it's consumed more and more of her time and money, and in a very real sense, it has made her less than human; something fake; something "plastic."

So is there anything that you treasure more than your Lord Jesus Christ? Is the fruit of your life proving your loyalty and love of God, or is the fruit in your life making you into the very thing you love more than Him? If you love money, making money will obsess you; and it will control you; and you will become a slave to it; and your reputation will always be attached to its pursuit. You will become it, and it will become you. But if you love God, in a very real sense, you will radiate Christ—your calling and purpose; and He will embody and choose to fill you up with Himself. So in the words of John the Baptist, "He must increase and I must decrease."—John 3:30 May that be said of you and of me.

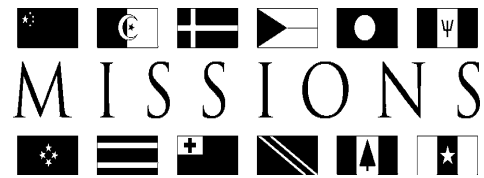
For the supremacy of Christ in His being the object of all of our affections, and may we see the idols of our age for what they are and be quick to denounce them. Colossians 1:18b.



BEHOLD, CHRIST HAS RISEN!

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Date	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School	General Offering	Missions Offering	Building Fund
03/01/2009	348	296	339	\$24,051.56	\$1,620.33	\$866.00
03/08/2009	294	316	308	\$24,989.69	\$120.00	\$1,311.00
03/15/2009	348	353	337	\$27,322.59	\$1,332.25	\$358.00



PASTOR S. DAVID JOHNSON

2009 Spring World Celebration May 1-3, 2009

We are planning an exciting cross-cultural mission weekend experience for our entire church. We are challenging our congregation to experience missions locally and catch a vision for sharing the Gospel in our communities. Our theme verse for the weekend is Acts 1:8, " *...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" We are going to take teams from LFC into the Bronx to partner with the Revolution Church in Hunt's Point to reach our area for Christ.

World Outreach Celebration

Friday Night, May 1st, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Join us for a pizza dinner and dessert. We will focus on training and practicing outreach with different tools, such as the evangicube, wordless books, puppet teams, balloon animals, face painting and other outreach tools. We will practice using these tools and then look forward to spending Saturday in the Bronx. Please sign up to attend this event and for the Saturday outreach.

Hunt's Point Outreach with the Revolution Church Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Buses will leave church at 9:00 a.m. for the Bronx. A continental breakfast will be supplied at church. Please bring a bag lunch. We plan to arrive in the Bronx by 11:30 a.m., and after a brief orientation, go out to the neighborhood in teams of 3 to do door-to-door questionnaires, street evangelism, and a park outreach with face painting, balloon animals, Evangicube outreach, the Redeemer play and more. After the park outreach, we will be fellowshiping in China Town for dinner. Buses will return around 9:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship and Sunday School

May 3rd, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services, S.S. 9:45 a.m.

Both worship services will include a message by Jerome Brackeen and testimonies from our Saturday outreach event.

Sunday School will have a special time to hear from two of our missionaries, Jerome Brackeen and Robert Mittuch, a new addition to our Missionary Families.

Sunday Evening Shepherding Groups Dessert and Presentations

We will have a presentation of the ministries of our missionaries in the Gym, followed by a time of prayer, and then share dessert together. Please bring enough dessert to share with 12 others.

Participating in the Weekend:

If you wish to participate on Saturday, you will need to come out Friday night and join a small team for our outreach efforts. We encourage everyone to come learn effective evangelism tools, practice balloon animals, face painting, puppeteers, etc. We ask that the small teams be at least high school age and above. Any families wishing to participate with younger children, please speak with Pastor David Johnson to let him know who you wish to include in your group.

Please sign up in the narthex for Friday night, Saturday and Sunday night events.

Praise God! Sam Sickle has 85% of her support to France! She only needs \$1400 before she spends the next year with Word of Life, France. If God is moving you to help support Sam, please send check to LFC marked for Sam Sickle.

Trip to Israel

We are currently organizing a trip to Israel for 2010. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor David.

Lafayette Federated Church

Celebration Choir & Orchestra

Present

SOVEREIGN LORD



***A Musical Proclaiming
The Risen, Conquering King***

**Palm Sunday, April 5th
6:00 p.m.**

(Refreshments afterwards, Nursery available)