Dear Church Family,

One of the questions that has most seriously divided Christians down through the ages is the nature of baptism, especially whether it is appropriate to baptize infants and small children. Broadly speaking, there are two major traditions – one “catholic” and one “Baptist” (or anabaptist).

The “catholic” tradition says, Yes, it is not only appropriate to do so, it is virtually expected that Christian parents will have their children baptized. Not only Roman Catholics, but many of the “mainline” denominations rely on promises such as Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (KJV) They point out that God has always acted through families. Isaac, for instance, was included in the covenant God made with his father, Abraham. Isaac was circumcised on the eighth day of his life; he had no say in the matter. They point out that baptism, for Christians, is directly parallel to circumcision for Jews – with the difference that baptism is for both men and women, boys and girls, whereas circumcision is for males only.

The “baptistic” tradition says that in the New Testament, baptism always follows conversion and personal commitment; “Repent and be baptized,” was Peter’s answer to the question, “What must we do to be saved?” (Acts 2:38)

At LOWC we say we are “a church for all believers,” and we emphasize that we are “Multi-denominational” (not “nondenominational”). This means we try very hard to emphasize what we have in common, as followers of Jesus, and where we have differences we do the best we can to honor our various traditions and backgrounds.

Thus, when we come to the matter of baptism, we want to provide baptism for infants and small children for those families that request it. And adult baptism for those who prefer to wait until they – or their children – have made a mature decision to accept Jesus as their savior and Lord. Usually (but not always) infant baptism is done in the church, on a Sunday morning. And usually (but not always) adult baptism is in the lake, at the Clubhouse point.

Occasionally someone will say something like this to us: “My parents had me baptized when I was a baby, but it didn’t mean anything to me; I want to be baptized as an adult.” I want to share with you the response we give to that kind of a request.

First, while it may not have meant anything to you consciously, be careful not to negate what it meant to your parents, to others who may have been there, to the Lord himself, and – though you could not have understood it at the time – what it meant to you in your spiritual history. You are here now, wanting to express your commitment to Christ; don’t discount the ways God has been acting in your life from long before you became aware of them.

Secondly, to “re-baptize” you would be precisely to discount the reality of what happened previously. How can that be an honoring of different traditions?

We understand the desire to give an expression to one’s decision to become Christ’s follower, and we encourage that! There are many ways to do that. Most of the churches that do practice infant baptism also encourage confirmation at a later age (roughly equivalent to bar- and bas-mitzvah for Jews). “Coming forward” and “asking Jesus into my heart,” at an evangelistic service is for many exactly such an expression. Regular participation in the Holy Communion is another. Note that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are both expressing exactly the same thing: that Jesus died for my sins, and I accept with gratitude the gift of his forgiveness and new life.

Sometimes people say, Yes, I understand all that, but I still want to be baptized as an adult. We suggest putting it differently: “I want to renew my baptismal commitment.”

I liken this to what long-time married couples sometimes do on their 25th or 50th anniversaries. They repeat their wedding vows. They are not “getting married;” they have been married for all these years previously! But they are reiterating promises made long ago, promises they still want to live by.

Continued on page 2
Continued from page 1

Often visitors to the Holy Land want to renew their baptism in the Jordan River. It is exhilarating to be immersed in the same place that John the Baptist exercised his powerful ministry, and the place where Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit to begin his ministry, as well.

We are grateful for the opportunity and privilege of sharing in the lives of the faithful here at LOWC in all these various ways.

Love to you in our Lord,

[Signature]

Small Groups

It is commonly said that Jesus spent about 80% of his time with the twelve men he called his apostles. He taught large - sometimes huge - crowds, and he had many one-on-one encounters, as well.

But by far he invested most of his time in a small group of disciples.

And for the next two millennia the Church has known that for celebration, “the more the merrier” - it is wonderful to be part of a congregation of hundreds or even thousands worshipping together. But for that deeper fellowship, where we learn from each other, and share our lives and prayers, the safety and intimacy of a small group are essential.

LOWC has about a dozen such groups that meet regularly, mostly centered on studying the Bible or other Christian books or teachings. Often, they share a meal, or refreshments together, and thus follow the pattern of the earliest Christians who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

Unfortunately, most of these groups can’t get much larger than they are already.

We find we sometimes must tell people who ask about small groups that there simply aren’t any available for new members just now.

We want to change that. Our hope is to begin a network of new small groups to include many more parishioners and friends in the Locust Grove/Orange County area.

Over many years I have shared with people how to lead such groups. The issue isn’t whether you are a great Biblical scholar. The issue is: can you lead the kind of discussion that will help a small group of friends discover for themselves what a passage of scripture is saying and how it applies to our lives?

Beginning on Saturday, September 15, I will be offering a four-week seminar: How to Lead a Small Group with an eye to starting several such groups centered in fellowship, study and prayer.

We will meet at 10:00 AM, for about an hour each Saturday, in the Charter Room. If you are interested in joining, or leading, a small Bible Study/fellowship group, please give Chris Wagoner a call and register (540) 972-9060 – so we can plan for the appropriate number.

John W. Howe
Senior Pastor
In 1983 Phill McHugh penned the classic song, “People Need the Lord”. Grammy Award, and Dove Award singer Steve Green carried McHugh’s song to fame performing “People Need the Lord” live as he toured the country and included it in a couple of his albums. The song reminds us of the need all around us.

“Everyday they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes. Empty people filled with care, headed who knows where? On they go through private pain, living fear to fear. Laughter hides their silent cries, only Jesus hears. People need the Lord, people need the Lord. At the end of broken dreams, he’s the open door. People need the Lord, people need the Lord. When will we realize, people need the Lord?

The next verse of the song continues to present the need to carry the light of Jesus to a world that is hurting and desperate for help. This year, we have chosen the theme, “People Need the Lord” for our mission’s focus, and we are very blessed to have Singer and Songwriter Steve Green as our keynote speaker at this year’s Missions Conference in May 2019. As we dedicate our minds and hearts to this mission, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul’s words from Romans 10,

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “whoever will call on the name of the LORD will be saved.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News of great things!”

How can you be involved in bringing the Lord to men, women, young people and children? This month Pastor Medas’ article focuses on MOPS and how you can be involved in this exciting ministry. Youth Minister John Higginbotham reflects on the wonderful summer of reaching teens for the Lord and how you can volunteer to serve this fall in the youth dept. Children’s director Sherri Gaskill reflects on what God is doing in the lives of our little ones. Could God be calling you to help reach children for Christ. You will also read articles about the many community and world missions we are involved in. Spend time this month reflecting on the words “People Need the Lord”. What might God want you to do to be a part of his mission?

We Have a Story to Tell......

This year’s Stuff the Bus School Supply Distribution was a huge success! More than 280 families in Orange County received the needed supplies to send their children back to school. The distribution for east Orange County students, held in the RISE Center on Route 20 from August 6th - August 14th, and staffed by community and church volunteers, distributed more than 125 backpacks. Without generous donations from all of you, we would not have been able to meet the needs of these children. Thank you for your continued support and helping us to send the students back to school ready with what they need to be successful!
As our Mother’s of Preschoolers ministry and Wednesday night activities for Children, Youth, and Parents resume, our MOMSNext ministry mentor, Diane Rivenburg, has a message for the Moms in our community.

ATTENTION ALL MOMS
This is the year we will tend the fire in our hearts. We will stop inhaling the fumes of our mistakes that tell us we are not enough, not a good enough Mom, not pretty enough, not brave enough, not smart enough, not wealthy enough. Instead, we will choose to tend our God-given fire. We will love our children and our homes with an all-consuming love and use our words to warm the world. We will hold the torch up high and shed light on what matters most.

When our homes feel cold, we’ll light a fire. When a friend has lost her spark, we’ll fan her flame. When the world seems dark, we will be an ember of hope.

Our MOPS and MOMSnext theme this year is “Find Your Fire.” In order to do this we will:

LIVE EXPECTANTLY: This is the bold reminder to think about what could go right. We will renew our minds and choose to trust that God is good. Hope will be on the tip of our tongues. Passion will flow from our hearts and we will pray big prayers.

SURRENDER DARINGLY: This is a bold reminder to let things go. Fire is a tool of Transformation and often the most life-improving thing we can do is surrender. We will let go of unhelpful expectations and the need to control people and situations in our lives. When we surrender, we become in tune with the perfect timing of God. We will become women who trust that God is fighting for us so we need only to be still.

BREATHE FREELY: This is the bold reminder to let ourselves be loved. Even though we sometimes feel that we are not enough in our own minds, we are enough in the mind of God. There is nothing we can do to ruin or fracture God’s love for us. Breathe freely and joyfully, and be refreshed and we will be MOMS who stand out because we live loved.

Some Women Fear the Fire, others tend their God-given Fire and use it to light up their Hearts and the World. LET’S BE THOSE WOMEN, THOSE MOMS! MOMS: Please join us!

MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers - meets Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in Founders Room of LOWC - Nursery for children birth to 5 yrs old is available.

MOMSnext - Mothers of School Age Students - Kindergarten thru College - meets Wednesdays for dinner at 6 pm in Fiendship Hall and our meeting is held in Library from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Call LOW Church for more info, 540-972-9060.

It is with great sadness that we announce the resignation of our Children’s Ministry Director, Sherri Gaskill. Sherri has faithfully served in this capacity for eight years and in her letter of resignation, she stated, “I have always considered teaching children about Jesus of great importance, of eternal value and a high privilege. I am eternally thankful to LOWC for allowing me to serve as director...I have loved the children and their families, the staff and our church family.”

Please join us in thanking Sherri for her eight years of service and let us make this next month a time of celebrating her faithful service to The Lord through The Lake of the Woods Church. If you are interested in applying for this position please contact Pastor Medas.
**Visitation & Senior Care Ministry**  
Mike Lemay, Minister

**Worship, Grow, Serve, Share,**  
**Opportunities are here.**

*“Love one another as I have loved you” John 13:34*

**Walk with Hope** – Cancer Support group for women and their care-givers meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Charter Room.

**Grief Share** meets every Monday through November at 7:00 p.m., and will run for 12 weeks. You can enroll on line at www for more information you can contact Carol Twedd at carol@twedt.org or Mike Lemay at mike@lowchurch.org or contact the church 540-972-9060. Griefshare can be started at any point during the 12 weeks, however, if you want to start with session 1, the next 12 week session of Grief Share will begin Monday January 14, 2019.

**Grief Share Leaders are needed**  
We will train you to be part of a great grief care support ministry. Join us by contacting Mike Lemay or Carol Twedd or www.lowchurch.org/support groups.

**2nd Half Bible Study** – begins a new study on Heaven meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the Charter Room. This is a study group for anyone 60 +.

**Drivers needed.** We have residents in our community, that would like to come to our church and cannot drive. Would you please consider bringing a person to church at the service you attend each Sunday? Contact Mike Lemay or Missy Liebold 540-972-9060.

**Shepherds:** Help our mission to Make Christ Known. Shepherds are people who feel called to the care-giving ministry. Shepherds are not necessarily elders or clergy, but persons with spiritual gifts of mercy, compassion, and nurturing, who want to be involved with the care-giving ministry by making visits to members of our church and greater community. Contact Minister Mike Lemay, mike@lowchurch.org, Janet Bocook 540-972-9023 or Becky Malampny 540-972-2954 for more information or to join the Shepherds.
With summer behind me, I have been thinking over our summer children’s ministry events. Our process at the end of each event is to pause…and think about it. Our ministry team spends time calculating attendance, evaluating the good and bad of each event, and make notes of future changes. Each year, we have experienced great success in numbers and accomplishing our goals, and all our teams and volunteers have done a wonderful job. But when I spent time on my own to pause and think about it, I was overwhelmed by the discipleship that was accomplished this summer. The verses, bible lessons, songs and bible truths for each event either built upon, meshed together or repeated the previous event’s verses or bible truths. None of this was planned by the ministry but was God orchestrated. Selah

This summer has been like no other and the revelation of what God has done is something that I wanted to share with each of you. Over the summer the verses, the children have heard, learned and studied have been key verses, not just to learn but to also hide deep in their hearts that will help them in their spiritual journey. From all that I have been involved with from CentriKid, Goods Across Sports, VBS and Teen Camp, I have witnessed how God has been at work in providing a summer filled with discipleship for our children and teens (both as a volunteer and a teen). I know God’s work does not end with the end of summer but He continues to do His work in all of us that read His words. So pause and think about it as I share our summer verses and biblical truths. I pray that God brings new knowledge, hope and healing to your soul as He has done for us. Selah

For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10
(We were designed, not just created, for GOOD Works.)

Children’s Ministry Events

September 2 – 1st Sunday Family Worship
September 2 – Children’s Ministry and Youth Training
September 5 - LOWC Kids Club begins
September 12 - LOWC Kids Club
September 19 - LOWC Kids Club
September 26 - LOWC Kids Club
The Child Care Center children and staff had another great summer, even though it was a little short! We had a lot of fun activities planned and went on some pretty cool field trips with the school-age children. The preschoolers had their own fun back here at the church. They enjoyed special activities that included making their stuffed animal, outside play, and water days.

We are ready and excited to start the new school year. Our Preschool Program began on Monday, August 27th. We are blessed to be completely full in our Preschool Program, as well as our School-age Programs. The School-age children went back to school early this year on Wednesday, August 15th.

As always, we would like to thank everyone for their prayers as we traveled to and from our field trips.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about our programs or be put on our wait list, please contact Belinda or Tracy at 540-972-2349 or visit us on the web at www.lowchurch.org, click on “Ministries” and then click on “Child Care Center.”
Greetings from the Youth Department!

After all the praying, the letter-writing, the training, the planning, the fundraising, the traveling, the early rising, the late nighting, the teaching, the digging, the building, the sharing, our hope as a church and as a youth group was to see souls saved. Our part was to be obedient; to go when asked, and pray to be used to fulfill the Great Commission. My heart is filled with joy as I report to my church family that God has indeed blessed our efforts and answered our prayers. The love and support that you all poured into our teens and our program has yielded much “fruit.”

In Navajo, we fed the community each evening and the money that was raised through the Faith on Fire Hunger Run was adequate to feed our entire missions team and the Smith Lake Community dinner each night. As a result, the Navajo knew they were loved by us, but more importantly, loved by God. During our last night of Sports VBS, a little Navajo girl received Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Locally, our teens coached and taught more than 275 elementary-age children during our Good News Across Sports camps. Each day, six camps were taught at various locations around east Orange. The teens exceeded expectation as they taught Bible lessons, Bible songs, and verses to the children. Each day they worked from eight o’clock in the morning to eight o’clock at night. God blessed their efforts and his Word did not return void. Over the course of the week, thirty-two children had received Christ as their Lord and Savior.

After serving at VBS the following week, our teens needed a week of refreshment. Forty-three teenagers experienced Teen Camp at Shenandoah Springs in Madison, VA. Pastor Tom Savage travelled back from Florida to be our camp pastor, and the teens loved re-connecting with him after supporting his church-planting efforts throughout the year with their Sunday offerings. Teens also spent an hour each day with Ed Lyons from Persecution Project, learning of the pain and persecution currently being experienced by Christians in South Sudan. The testimonies of current missionaries being jailed and persecuted for the sake of the Gospel were life-changing. We rejoice that two teenagers received Christ as Lord and Savior during this week and two others expressed the desire for baptism. Incredible! A total of thirty-five souls were saved this summer and countless seeds were planted. Join me in praising the God who does more than we could ever ask or imagine!

September 2nd Youth Leader Training will take place in the café after church. Lunch provided.

September 5th Annual Parent Meeting will take place during youth group. Parents and teens will eat dinner together at 6:00pm. Teens will go to youth group with their leaders while parents will go over policies, procedures, and opportunities to volunteer with Mr. John. We only have one parent meeting each year, so please make sure this meeting makes it to your calendar.

September 5th Praise Band Auditions will take place this night during youth group. All levels of talent are welcome to audition. We are looking to identify teens who desire to lead praise and worship in a corporate setting, whether downstairs each Sunday or periodically upstairs in the 11:00 service. While hoping to find a slot for everyone, it is necessary to establish a plan for each individual as well as for the praise team based on talent and experience.

September 24th The Fall Classic Golf Tournament will be held again this year at Fawn Lake Country Club and will benefit youth missions in the summer of 2019. Whether you are an avid golfer or just wish to support our teen missionaries, there is a way for you to get involved. Visit our church website at www.lowchurch.org to register to play in this four member scramble or to identify a way to sponsor this event.
The Farm Hands are one of the most exciting and talked about bands in Bluegrass Music. At the 2017 Bluegrass Music Awards, the Farm Hands were named ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR and for a third consecutive year bluegrass music’s GOSPEL BAND OF THE YEAR!

Since their inception in 2010, they have received over 50 national awards and nominations. Their YouTube videos, Facebook, and Twitter pages have thousands of followers. They are one of the busiest touring bands in bluegrass, performing over 150 dates per year.

For anyone who has seen them in concert, none of this comes as a surprise. The Farm Hands are one of the most exciting and talented bands in bluegrass music. The group features 4 award winning singers, musicians and songwriters, including two long time veterans of Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry.

In 2015, Grammy award winner Tim Graves was inducted into the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame. Tim has over 30 years of professional music under his belt, including 20 years as part of world famous Grand Ole Opry. Tim has toured extensively across the U.S. both as a sideman and with his own group. Tim plays his signature ‘Tim Graves model’ Beard resophonic guitar and is the reigning Dobro Player of the Year in bluegrass music, a distinction he has held 12 times and the last 9 years in a row.

Two-time Songwriter of the Year Daryl Mosley has several #1 songs to his credit, including the southern gospel classic, ‘(Ask the Blind Man) He Saw It All.’ Daryl has written songs featured on ‘American Idol,’ ‘The View’ and other TV shows around the world. Gospel music icon Bill Gaither calls Farm Hand’s bass player Daryl Mosley “a poet—and we don’t have many poets left.” Daryl is also a six time Male Vocalist of the Year nominee.

Three time Guitar Player of the Year nominee Keith Tew has toured with High Strung, Vassar Clements of the Grateful Dead, Rock County, and performed on the Grand Ole’ Opry as a member of Rhonda Vincent’s band. Keith is a Grammy nominated singer/songwriter and is a 2 time Song of the Year winner- one for the Lonesome River Band classic “Am I A Fool” and again for The Farm Hand’s “Dig In The Dirt”

2017 Bluegrass Banjo player of the Year nominee Don Hill has the distinction of being named state champion banjo player in several states including Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Don is a Tennessee native and has worked with many of the major artists in bluegrass music including Grand Ole Opry stars Bobby Osborne and Jesse McReynolds. These 4 talented individuals have come together to become one of the most versatile and entertaining ensembles in the industry. Their fans and their peers agree that the Farm Hands has earned all of the accolades they receive. Talented singers, gifted musicians, award winning songwriters equals experience and entertainment personified.

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Join us in the Friendship Hall at 5:00 PM before the concert for a BBQ dinner, with proceeds to benefit the Children’s Ministry ~ CentriKid Camp
September’s Featured Ministry Partner

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) - The world’s largest Bible-centered organization teaches boys and girls the Gospel of Jesus Christ, discipled the children in the Word of God and establishes them in a local, Bible-based church. In 2017, CEF reached over 20 million children around the world. CEF is operating in every country except North Korea and has a plan in place to enter North Korea in the future.

Key Ministries of CEF – Good News Clubs are conducted weekly in local neighborhood settings throughout the school year. The 5-Day Club is a one-week summer program consisting of fun-filled Christian learning activities. The 5-Day Club program engages adults and teens who have completed the Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) training program to work with children aged 5 through 12.

Research indicates that children aged 14 and under are 80% more likely to receive the life-giving salvation of Jesus Christ than those who are older. The Good News Clubs and 5-Day Clubs are designed to introduce and teach the Gospel to children on their level and in their environment. These programs operate worldwide, taking place in primary schools, elementary schools, local community centers and private homes.

Local CEF Programs - Under the dedicated leadership of Ministry Stewards, Martha and Vinnie Sukites, several adults, teens and children of The Lake of the Woods Church participate in the Good News Clubs and 5-Day Clubs in the Locust Grove Primary and Elementary schools. Eighty-one children in the surrounding community were enrolled in our Good News Clubs last year. Both the LOW Church Missions and Community Outreach Ministries provide financial support to CEF.

The Great Commission - Heeding God’s will in Matthew 28:18-19 “to make disciples of all nations,” Child Evangelism Fellowship is presently calling on Christians worldwide, especially children, to pray that God will throw open the doors of North Korea to Good News Clubs which are currently illegal in North Korea; however, CEF has a strategy in place and is ready to enter the country with effective ministry when the doors are opened.

Read more about this exciting story and other CEF news and information on the CEF website: http://www.cefonline.com.

Good News Clubs in our local schools will begin in October. Information will be sent home with children attending the Primay and Elementary schools.

Prayer for Missions

Lord Jesus, you invited little children to come to you when others would have pushed them away. And you said that all must become like children to enter your kingdom. So, please help us to welcome these little ones through our Sunday School and youth ministries, and through our Good News Clubs and the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship. We ask it in your Name. Amen
Love manifested by action is life-changing - for the recipient and the giver.

Last May the Home Helps Ministry held its tenth mission weekend, providing home repairs, yard clean-up and other services to home owners who have physical or financial limitations. A woman, whose husband had recently died, wrote, “How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?” (1 Thes 3:9)

Our next Home Helps mission weekend will be held on October 12th and 13th. The format is similar to previous years. We will meet at the church at 8:15 a.m. on that Friday and Saturday to pray and divide into teams. Teams of 2 – 6 people will proceed to homes to clean, repair, rake, paint, build, install, whatever is needed, and to listen and share! Teams will return to the church for lunch and to share the morning’s experiences. Afternoon work should end by 4:30 p.m..

Will you put your love into action? Registration will be held in the Gathering Place on September 9th and 16th, or you may register at the Community Mission kiosk.

Identifying home owners who need help is not always easy. If you know someone who needs help with home projects please contact Dave Blackistone, 540-972-3555 or dblackistone1@verizon.net. The ministry will pay for all materials used.

Matthew 22:37-39 ESV   And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Growth: We are averaging 9 and 10 patients per night and we’ve had a couple of nights with 11 and 12. Success. The word is getting out we are here for our community. But success always brings new challenges. We will open a Saturday a month as soon as we have one more healthcare provider onboard. Again, if you know a provider, ask them if they would volunteer. Just tell them about your experiences - that’s the best way to tell the story and ask. Let them know it only involves 3 or 4 hours each month.

Possible Time Change: We are actually starting to push some patients to the following week because we don’t have enough patient appointment times. Until we are able to open another day (like Saturday), we are looking at increasing our hours on Thursday.

Fund Raisers:
Consignment Sale Fund Raiser – Profits will benefit the Clinic. September 22, 2018. This will be in the parking lot adjacent to RISE Center (Suite O). More information to come.

Our Annual Trees of Life is scheduled for Friday, November 16. We are looking for volunteers to help with planning, etc. Have our first tree offered up. We are seeking community members to serve on the planning committee for this annual event. You do not have to be volunteers at the Clinic to assist with this event. For more information, please contact Debbie McInnis 540-220-5358 or debmcinnis@yahoo.com

New Programs:
• Dental Program: Dr. John Sellers, a retired Dentist now living in our community, is taking the lead on helping to build the Dental Program. We have been blessed with donations of $55,000 to date for this program.

• Smoking Cessation – Betty Collins led a 6-week course and she did have one participant. Looking forward to the next session.
Why Small Group Ministry?

Why does our church have an active Small Group Ministry? We currently have 12 Small groups with a total of approximately 130 participants. Small groups are the place to learn how to put into practice the biblical lessons we have learned. It is also an opportunity to share with fellow Christians our problems, our joys, our sorrows, our life experiences and our questions.

A small group is one key tool to enhance the sharing of our Christian experience. Regularly meeting with a committed group of believers allows us to reinforce what we believe so we can put our beliefs into practice, learn more about God and His Son, our savior Jesus Christ, and provide the opportunity to share with others.

Our small groups afford us the opportunity to connect with other believers in a small, friendly environment. In the small group format, members find a place where they can grow in their relationships with God and also other members of the Church family. It is in these small, intimate meetings that life-long friendships can be established.

In a small group you will enjoy...
Building new friendships with members of our Church
Opportunities to share life experiences
Ask questions about and discuss spiritual matters

Most of our groups meet in homes with 10-15 people, usually but not always, on Wednesday evenings. If you would like to participate in a small group, please contact: Sparky Watson (972-4522; ebwatson1@comcast.net) or John Sellers (488-4877; jsell3879@aol.com). We will find a place for you.

Card Making Now to be Included in Faithbooking Workshops

Beginning on Thursday, September 27 the Faithbooking workshops will include card making instruction. Both types of papercrafts give an excellent opportunity to include one’s faith in the journaling and sentiments. Deborah Keene, who has shared her love for Faithcard making with several women’s groups at LOWC, will be leading the card making while Nancy Bowles continues with the faithbooking group. Watch for a display table in the Gathering Place in mid-September.

Come on September 27 and get a feel for the projects, try your hand using the leaders’ supplies, and then decide whether to join. Workshops are held in the Friendship Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 10:00 until 2:00 and early birds may come at 9:00, if they would like. Consider bringing a bag lunch and stay for fellowship over light food. If you have questions, call Deborah 540-399-1210 or Nancy Bowles 540-972-9593.
The LOWC Flower Guild Ministry is blessed to glorify the Lord’s house with the beauty of flowers. Since its formation 15 years ago, the members of the flower guild have been inspired to arrange flowers for Sunday services to enhance worship and to cheer those who receive the bouquets made from the church flowers each week after services.

How does the Flower Guild work? Have you noticed the Flower Guild’s sign up posters in the Gathering Place? You may sign up for the Sunday when you would like to give the flowers in memory of, celebrations for, or in Thanksgiving. You may choose to place it in the Sanctuary ($65) or the Worship Center ($45 – includes the 2 arrangements or in the Sanctuary Baptismal Font ($50). Simply make your check payable to LOW Church and mark it for the “Flower Guild”. The Flower Guild is totally financed by your support through the subscription of flowers. The Flower Guild also provides a flower arrangement for funeral receptions.

After services the Sanctuary arrangement is rearranged into three bouquets. Donors may choose to take any or all of their dedicated flowers. A delivery team, coordinated by Carol Twedt, delivers the remaining bouquets to cheer home bound parrishioners. Donors sometimes want to take one or both arrangements in the worship center to keep or to personally deliver to folks who need a lovely blessing. The flowers on the Baptismal Font may be taken by the donor or offered for delivery by the team.

Please consider joining a Flower Guild Team. The 4 arranging teams meet on Saturday morning once a month to prepare flowers for Sunday services. One way to get involved in the guild is to help rearrange the Sanctuary arrangement into three bouquets after the 9:45 service.

To that end, Louisa Rucker will lead a fall flower arranging class on Saturday, October 6 from 10 to noon in Friendship Hall. The $25 class fee includes all materials and flowers. Contact any team captain to make your reservation.

Team Captains: Nancy Bowles - 972-9593 Diana Duffy – 972-8109 Brenda Rogers – 972-8117

The Women’s Guild of Lake of the Woods Church will hold its fall kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Adam Colson will speak about the church’s current outreach projects and new areas of mission work the church plans to undertake. The meeting will conclude with a lunch of fried chicken, salads, and sides. All women are welcome, so grab a friend and join us for worship, fellowship, and fun.

Registration is not necessary, and there is no cost to attend. However, if you need childcare, please contact Sherri Gaskill by phone at the church 540-972-9060, or by email at sherri@lowchurch.org by the Monday preceding the Guild meeting.

Women’s Guild meets regularly on the first and third Thursday of every month September through May. Each meeting consists of a short devotion, prayer, and a featured speaker, plus a light lunch and time for fellowship.

Each month, the group undertakes a community service project. In September, in conjunction with the local chapter of Blue Star Mothers of VA, we will collect items for care packages to send to our troops overseas (primarily Afghanistan).

Women’s Guild is a multi-denominational program open to all women in the community. It is the Guild’s desire that each woman participating would come to know the love and blessings of Christ and experience personal spiritual growth through Bible-based devotionals, inspirational speakers, prayers, and fellowship provided at each Guild meeting, as well as through the many community service projects that we support.

Coming up in October:

October 17: Brooke Chumley, from SAFE House in Culpeper, will speak. SAFE house provides shelter and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

October’s service project is to collect needed items for SAFE house.
09/01 Abigail Ripley
09/01 Don Fisher
09/02 Barbara Strain
09/02 Betty Gosnell
09/03 Dee Thompson
09/04 Brenda Lackey
09/04 Jack Kelley
09/04 Jack Curnow
09/04 Jan Davis
09/05 Larry Graves
09/06 Barbara McWhirt
09/07 Annette Ferguson
09/07 Belinda Divelbiss
09/07 Lee Couch
09/07 Robby Johnson
09/08 Gideon Abasontey
09/08 Ruby Horvath
09/09 Daphne Klein
09/09 Melissa Daly
09/09 Sparkle Capitano
09/09 Stacy Kalder
09/10 Janite Hamilton
09/10 Michael Raguckas
09/10 Vivien Wofter
09/11 Dan Schofield
09/13 Jerry Davis
09/14 Ray Massie
09/15 Ralph Ericksen
09/15 Ruth Downs
09/15 Ted Gregg
09/16 Carol Rankin
09/16 Orville Dee
09/17 Hilda Seary
09/18 Carrie Browning
09/18 Dawn Leighty
09/18 Mary K. Altman
09/18 Michelle Sjolinder
09/19 Kevin Ward
09/19 Luke Rossi
09/20 Barbara Robinson
09/20 Liz McFadden
09/20 Sarah Bernd
09/20 Susan Dyer
09/21 Anna DuBois
09/21 Patrick Rave
09/21 Stephanie Austin
09/22 Frank Kalder
09/22 Marthellen Hoffman
09/23 Elaine Shirkey
09/23 Joy Poole
09/24 Bree Davis
09/25 Bonnie Martin
09/26 Kathi Martin
09/26 William Nowers
09/27 Christie Leitz
09/27 Nancy E. Brooks
09/27 Sandy Pounsberry
09/29 Jack Stratford
09/29 Janet Lyons
09/30 Angela Couch
09/30 Carla Everhart
09/30 John Baer

09/01 John & Karen Howe
09/01 Ralph & Pat Watterworth
09/01 Tim & Pat Carson
09/02 Ed & Ruth L. Taylor
09/02 Chip & Sarah Goodrich
09/02 Pete & Linda Hutton
09/04 Eldon & Louisa Rucker
09/04 Jack & Julie Phend
09/04 John & Kathy Baer
09/04 Lee & Nancy Moore
09/05 Darrow & Barbara Strain
09/05 Mike & Kathy Hughes
09/06 Alex & Laura Fermin
09/07 Jack & Judy Curnow
09/07 Bert & Egida Heffernan
09/09 Jack & Margie Stratford
09/09 Ossie & Audrey Schmidt
09/10 Jim & Penny Medley
09/14 Jim & Jan Moore
09/16 Tom & Lois Northam
09/20 Mike & Angela Neely
09/22 Joe & Liz McFadden
09/23 Robert & Charlotte Baker
09/24 Bobby & Jan Oliver
09/24 Stephen & Debbie McInnis
09/26 Bud & Gwen Goodsell
09/27 Timothy & Robin Riffe
09/28 Hunter & Tracey Williams
09/28 Kerry & Linda Sipe
### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bell Choir - Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>TUESDAY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Pastor’s Bible Study for Men</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>LOWC Crafters Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ladies Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Good News Clubs (Resumes in the fall)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Senior Singles</td>
<td>call Carol 972-8196 or Joyce 972-4023</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shining Hands Ministry</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Praise Team Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
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<th><strong>WEDNESDAY - CONTINUED</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MOMs Next</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kid's Club</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Elective Education Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA “Big Book” — Rt. 20 - Suite O</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Shepherds Meeting (3rd Thurs)</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Prayer Group —</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Women’s Guild (1st &amp; 3rd)</td>
<td>(Resumes Sept. 19th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Second Half of Life Bible Study (1st &amp; 3rd)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Living Water Community Clinic</td>
<td>Medical Office Appointments</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>RISE Special Needs</td>
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<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Malachi 3:16 Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group — Rt. 20- Suite O</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>SATURDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Bible Study Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Restoration Dance Ministry</td>
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**Discovery Class for New Members**

**Sunday September 9**

**11:00 AM - Founders Room**

**Membership Sunday**

**Sunday September 23**
2018 Board of Elders

Chairman        Bud Moody (540-972-3552)
                 bmoody@comcast.net

Admin & Budget  Barbara Crawford (540-972-6390)
                 mseaman@comcast.net

Adult Education Sparky Watson (540-972-4522)
                 eowatson@comcast.net

Buildings & Grounds Bob Lingo (540-972-0896)
                 rlingouva@comcast.net

Congregational Care Lee Merrell (540-422-6800)
& Fellowship      lamerrill@comcast.net

Missions         Dave Blackstone (540-972-3555)
                 dblackstonel@verizon.net

Community Outreach Bill Fetzer (703-856-3685)
                 william.fetzer@gmail.com

Worship          Dan Schofield (540-972-7514)
                 dan@lowchurch.org

Youth            Shannon Smith (540-972-6758)
                 thebridghams@comcast.net

Young Families   Tim Hall (540-849-9362)
                 www.humbcce@verizon.net

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Traditional Sanctuary
Traditional Sanctuary
Blessed Worship Center
Contemporary Worship Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE
Adult 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00
Youth  Higher Grounds  9:45
Children and Nursery 9:45 & 11:00

EUCARIST
Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

Pastors in Worship
September 2018

September 2 - Communion Sunday
8:30 Traditional                       Dr. John W. Howe
9:30 Blended                           Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional                      Rev. Jordan Medas
11:00 Contemporary                    Rev. Jordan Medas

September 9 - Discovery Class
8:30 Traditional                      Dr. John W. Howe
9:30 Blended                           Rev. Adam Colson
9:45 Traditional                      Dr. John W. Howe
11:00 Contemporary                    Rev. Adam Colson

September 16
8:30 Traditional                      Dr. John W. Howe
9:30 Blended                           Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional                      John Higginbotham
11:00 Contemporary                    John Higginbotham

September 23 - Membership Sunday
8:30 Traditional                      Dr. John W. Howe
9:30 Blended                           Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional                      Rev. Adam Colson
11:00 Contemporary                    Rev. Adam Colson

September 30
8:30 Traditional                      Dr. John W. Howe
9:30 Blended                           Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional                      Rev. Jordan Medas
11:00 Contemporary                    Rev. Jordan Medas

CrossCurrents is a publication of
The Lake of the Woods Church
1 Church Lane
Locust Grove, VA 22508
(540) 972-9060
www.lowchurch.org

“The Lake of the Woods Church”