

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY & AUGUST 2022, ISSUE 7, VOLUME 85

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Notes from Your Pastor's Desk

Last week (Thursday June 23, 2022) I had the absolute joy of joining with family and friends to celebrate the graduation of my son, Holden. What an incredible time it was, seeing him cross the stage to receive his diploma, and to see him introduced as the winner of a special award for his efforts in biology (top mark in the graduating class). I cannot explain in words how proud I was to be part of this momentous day.

One of the things that was mentioned time and time again was that the graduating class this year experienced a high school time unlike any others before them. They were part of the class of Covid. For Holden, and his classmates, they had a "normal" grade 9 year, but that quickly changed. Their experience from grade 10 to grade 12 involved a combination of in school classes to online learning to in school classes to online learning and back and forth. They were forced to shift on a dime in order to complete their classwork and graduate on time. It was a challenging journey to be sure.

In his address to the students, the principal said to the students that "as the class of 2022, if you can complete high school in the midst of a pandemic, you can do anything." That statement brought raucous applause. It was true. If they could do what they did, they could do anything. The students go out into the world with this sense of hopefulness, and this sense of possibility.

Imagine if we as a church could come at things in a similar way. We have "done church" and been the people of LABC through a time that is unparalleled in history. We have moved through Covid in a way that hasn't happened in history (and yes, I know that there was a pandemic 100 years ago, but they didn't have to pivot online and things like that). If we can journey through this time in history, we can do anything ... with God truly "all things are possible."

As we come to the end of this church year and move into the summer, I invite you to join me in this time of intentional reflection. Let us look back on the past two years. Let us see this is a period where God has moved in the life of the church and not bemoan what has been, but see those moments where God has clearly been part of the life of the church. And let us celebrate those moments.

As we move into the summer and then into the fall, I hope that we truly are able to hear the voice of the principal move in our ears and in our hearts: "as the class of 2022 (of the church), if we can complete this past year of worship/education/community/pastoral care/etc. in the midst of a pandemic, we can do anything." What is God leading us into, and how can we each be part of this time in the life of the church?

I am so proud of Holden, and I am so proud of each of us in the life of LABC. As I feel privileged to see where Holden goes from here, knowing the world lays before him, I feel privileged to see where God is moving in the life of LABC. Let us all look at the world as a place of opportunity and may we boldly go into the future that lays in our midst.

Blessings for a wonderful and peaceful summer,

Michael

RADICAL. REDEEMED. READY.

CELEBRATING MINISTERING WOMEN

By Your Assisting Minister, Rev. Susan Maybeck

We were ready. Five ministering women climbed into the mini-van with one suitcase each ready to drive to Green Lake, Wisconsin. American Baptists were celebrating 40 years of Women in Ministry at the Green Lake Conference Center and we were driving there.

Well, I really should tell you that we weren't driving, Sandy Hasenauer, our Region Executive Minister, was driving. The rest of us were chatting both in English and Burmese, eating, napping, and laughing. We stopped overnight both ways at Sandy's favorite motel. And visited Shipshewana, a charming town in Indiana. Many Amish people live there and we had a delicious (and filling) Amish meal. It was worth the stop.

Besides Sandy the riders were Hkadin Lee, Soe Win, and me, Susan Maybeck, from LABC. Joining us was Bawk Lahtaw, the pastor's wife from the Kachin church. On the way home we picked up Ja Ing, who taught a Bible study and preached in English and Burmese when we got back to LABC.

I attended the first conference for women in professional ministry 40 years ago. I had graduated from Seminary in 1979, but had not been called to serve in a church. It was a difficult time for me. At the conference we had an opportunity to share our stories, and support one another as many of us searched for a placement. We sang and prayed and laughed through our tears. The mood of the time was being glad to be together, but so discouraged about the few opportunities for those who were called to serve in churches and church related ministry.

At that time Women in Ministry had no official role in ABC. The women at this first conference challenged the denomination to make women in ministry a priority. Rev. Dr. Margaret Cowden became the first director of the Women in Ministry Project, in 1982. This continues today as American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM). The goal continues: "To recognize the gifts women bring to ministry and the need for continued support and advocacy."

This year, we explored these ideas through workshops (awakenings), Bible study, singing, and preaching, side conversations, supporting each other, and laughter. It was so powerful being with the women and men as we shared our dreams, hopes, accomplishments. The mood, compared to 40 years ago, was much more joyful and thankful for our many ministries.

Just a sidebar from a personal side. My daughter, Cindy, was both a workshop leader and a participant in the final worship. Cindy is a Biblical storyteller, and she was able to teach and demonstrate the power of telling Bible passages creatively. We roomed together and enjoyed this special time of ministry as mother and daughter.

ABC has come a long way in the past 40 years. We currently have ten women who are Executive Ministers. Our leadership at the Conference was diverse. Each woman brought her own gifts of preaching, teaching, and demonstrating how we are **Radical, Redeemed, and Ready!**

The days were stimulating and uplifting, supportive and being supported, fun and serious. We all returned home nurtured by our companionship and our gathering.

NOTES FROM OUR MISSION COMMITTEE

MISSION TEAM'S CELEBRATION OF LABC'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

The "150 Book Project" for School #5 has been a great success with the highlight being the visit to the school by one of the authors —our own Jestine Ware! ("Our own" since she grew up at LABC!) The books were delivered to the school library in May; Jestine visited in mid-June with a bundle of the books

on which she collaborated. She met with 3 groups of children in the school library and encouraged the students to look over the collection she had brought. After reading a story from one of the books, she took children's questions. The older students, in particular asked excellent questions and were keen to get her autograph! In the afternoon Jestine visited Cameron Community Ministries to meet with an afterschool group and to present one of her books to those children. Cameron's executive director, Olivia, contacted her after the visit to get another copy (autographed, of course!) of the book for the teen center.

Jestine's travel from Chicago was funded by a special LABC fund, formerly known as the Jorolemon Fund (now called the Special Fund for Children and Youth). Many thanks to the benefactor who began this special fund.



MISSION TEAM'S DIAPER PROJECT

The collection of diapers for an Afghan family was concluded at the end of May. The following note was received-

"Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity. You collected such a large quantity of diapers and more for an Afghan family in need.....I was very concerned, as the diaper coordinator, about meeting their needs, as well as the needs of over 30 other families. Your many packages will keep the triplets supplied for months! The new mom is doing a remarkable job of caring for three babies, and I am sure that not being stressed about basic supplies is giving her peace of mind. Blessings to all of you"—Helene Newman (volunteer for "Keeping Our Promise"—the local volunteer group helping Afghan arrivals in Rochester)



●**Eh K'lu Tau:** Graduated from MCC and the GM ASEP General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program. He has been hired by West Herr Chevrolet in Henrietta. He has also passed the test for certification as a car inspector.

●**Jusrena Soe** graduated from Bishop Kearney High School. Future plans undecided.

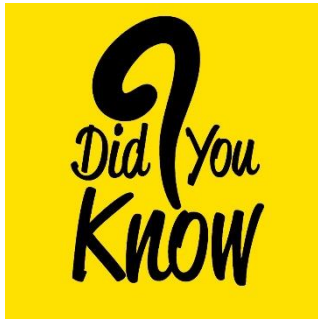
●**Saw Lo Mue:** Graduated from MCC. Uncertain of future plans.

●**Prosper Likoke:** (son of Jose Likoke and Carole Muanda) graduated from Greece Olympia High School and will be attending R. I. T. in the

fall. He plans to major in mechanical engineering.

●**Holden Ford:** Holden graduated from Elmira District Secondary School in Canada, and is going to University of Waterloo. He will be majoring in Biomedical Engineering

●**Emelie Mekoyo Dakou** (daughter of Bonaventure Moulogho and Sylvie Mpiere) graduated from East Rochester High School and will be attend Albany State School of Nursing.



Each week our Nursery is open and available for children ages birth-2 years. We have volunteers who “staff” the nursery each week and are ready to provide safe and loving care for your children. Whether you need to pop in to change a diaper or want to drop your children off during the service so you can attend worship and know they are cared for, we hope that you take advantage of all the nursery has to offer. It’s full of safe and educational toys, books, and games, and from what we understand the kids love being there **just ask David!!**



Scholarships from LABC

A Note from Your Pastor

LABC has a commitment to education. We have a long history of helping to further the educational dreams those associated with our church community through a variety of LABC scholarships. This has been, and continues to be, a way that we are able to live out our dedication to being a church focused on community transformation.

We are excited to share that more and more of our young people are attending colleges and universities in our area and beyond. In fact, more than ever before! This is incredibly exciting. For many years LABC has had a variety of scholarships for which people can apply. Our scholarship committee evaluates these applications and determines how to allocate the funds we have available. Thank you to our committee for their diligence in this task.

This June we are experiencing remarkable interest by members of our church for applications to our LABC scholarships. We trust that we will be receiving a large number of completed applications and in preparation for the work of the scholarship committee, we would like to invite you to help us increase the base of funds available for distribution. In other words, if you are willing and able, we invite you to make a contribution to the scholarship fund this year. Donations can be made to the church office via check made out to Lake Avenue Baptist Church (as with all donations) but with “Scholarship Fund” in the memo line. For distribution this year all contributions would need to be in by July 31, 2022. However, the scholarship fund can be added to at any point, and all donations are greatly appreciated.

In recent years we have seen the impact that our scholarship recipients have had on their school communities, their eventual workplaces, and the community as a whole. Your contributions make a difference. Together we are excited to see our young people flourish and be part of this journey with them.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. With appreciation,
The LABC Scholarship Committee

NOTE: Scholarship application forms may be picked up at the Welcome Center on Sundays or from the church office. The deadline for submission of completed scholarship forms is Friday, July 22. Announcements of scholarships will be made in the month of August.

The "Be You" Movie Series

On Saturday, July 16 at 6:00 pm the "Be You" movie series is will present
Philadelphia

Summary: Hard-working, meticulous, and above all, devoted, the young attorney, Andrew Beckett (Tom Hanks) sees his efforts pay off, as he rises through the ranks of a prestigious and powerful law firm in Philadelphia. However, right after earning a promotion, the shocking early signs of AIDS will lead to his ignoble dismissal, on account of alleged incompetence. Suspecting

that the deadly disease and homosexuality are the only reasons that got him fired, Andy summons up the courage to sue his cruel former employers, enlisting the help of an improbable and reluctant ally: the homophobic African-American lawyer, Joe Miller (Denzel Washington) Now, two men alone struggle to crush ignorance--the root cause of injustice and prejudice. Can they make a difference? Tom Hanks won his first Best Actor Oscar for his role.

The comedy, **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** will be presented on Saturday, August 20th at 6:00 pm. This film is a 1994 Australian road comedy film written and directed by Stephan Elliott. The plot follows two drag queens, played by Hugo Weaving and Guy Pearce, and a transgender woman, played by Terence Stamp, as they journey across the Australian Outback from Sydney to Alice Springs in a tour bus that they have named "Priscilla", along the way encountering various groups and individuals. The film's title references the slang term "queen" for a drag queen or female impersonator.

The film was a surprise worldwide hit and its positive portrayal of LGBT individuals helped to introduce LGBT themes to a mainstream audience.^[3] It received predominantly positive reviews and won an Academy Award for Best Costume Design at the 67th Academy Awards. This film has become a cult classic both in Australia and abroad.

This series will continue indefinitely with a different LGBT themed movie presented on the third Saturday of each month. **These movies, by their nature are usually rated "R" and may not be appropriate for younger audiences.**



Traveling with Jesus is a free vacation Bible school for all children entering Kindergarten to fifth grade in September 2022. It will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm beginning July 6 and the final evening on August 3. It will be held at Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14626. For more information email office @greecebaptistchurch.org or call (585) 225-6160. Registration forms are also available in the Lake

Ave Baptist Church office, at the Welcome Center in the church, and from Jane Grant.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS! Our playground is a fun spot for storytelling, snacking, and playing! Our children of LABC are wonderful and they would love to spend a Sunday morning with you. **BENEFITS:** Benefits include instant Hero status, all you can eat goldfish crackers, unlimited high-fives. A sign up poster with a list of Summer Sunday dates is located at the Welcome Center. Take a look at the dates and pick one that suits your schedule!



LILLY AND THE SNAPPING TURTLE

Luke 9:34

While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

Lilly and I happen to live near a fairly large pond with all sorts of life living on it or by it. On one of our early morning walks we came across a snapping turtle who had decided to leave the pond. When Lilly saw it (something she had never seen before) she noticed its head moving and realized it was a living thing. She started to bark at it, but, unlike the rabbits she chases this turtle did not budge. She would attempt to get closer to it but when the turtle moved its head she would scurry back several feet. She was afraid of it yet very curious. Why wasn't it afraid of her? Why wasn't it running away?

I am sure that we have all come across something in our lives that we encounter that we may not understand and become frightened of it. We just have to look back at early 2020. Coronavirus 19? What was it? How

could we deal with it. We feared it and rightfully so. We started donning masks, avoided people, were sent home from work and school, stayed at least 6 feet away from each other. We used a lot of hand sanitizer and sprayed everything with disinfectants. I came to the office during the initial outbreak, wore a mask, and sanitized all the door handles, sink handles, toilets and toilet handles and anything else people might touch. When I left I used hand sanitizer on my hands. We sprayed chairs and made sure that anyone that entered the office was at least 6 feet away from us and wore a mask. In early 2021 the vaccines arrived and most people stood in long lines at vaccination centers to receive their initial vaccine. Then we went for our booster shots. We later found out that this virus was not transmitted by touch but only through breathing it in. We stopped disinfecting everything that we or others touched. Now, by being vaccinated and still wearing the correct type of mask, we had become much more comfortable. We go out again, have parties, go to restaurants and the movies, and in general, our fear of this virus has dwindled. But, we can't be complacent.

It is predicted that another surge of the virus, the Omicron variant, is possible this fall and winter. So, we have to keep our guard up. A fourth booster of the vaccine is also currently available to strengthen our immune system.

As we are all aware, in this world there are many more unknowns that we may fear. So, rather than dwell in "fear" keep faith in the Lord and rely on the spirit that God has given each of us. "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7 And to this I say, "Amen".



- We keep in our healing prayers **John Ganze** who is home recuperating from recent surgery. John is feeling quite good and expects to be back to church in a couple of weeks.

- The following is a shortened version of a recent post by **Eric Shoen** on CaringBridge.org who has undergone surgery for melanoma.

The wound on the top of my head is finally showing some skin growth which gives me hope that it will keep healing ahead of schedule. By Thanksgiving, the doctors said the entire spot should have skin again, but won't ever have hair (entertaining fun tattoo ideas). Have to keep it covered in Vaseline, can't swim, and have to be careful about showering till then.

I've got some great moments of energy but can also sleep 12 hours and struggle to stay awake for more than 5 or 6 hours at a time. Naps in my car at work are becoming a new reality.

I got my first haircut and the barber was very gentle. I can't feel most of my head except for that open spot which is itchy and aches a lot. The medical team explained that the nerves will take a year to grow back. The doctors are impressed that I'm healing faster than most patients and have less side effects. They credit my good health and attitude. My next pet scan to see if there is more cancer growth or spread is in two months. The doctors are hopeful that we will not see cancer again on my scans & so am I.

We, at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, continue to keep Eric in our healing prayers. Eric would enjoy hearing from you and you can write a note to him at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ericshoen/journal>

NEWS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST FROM OUR EXTENDED COMMUNITY



Labyrinth Walks

Trinity Episcopal Church
3450 West Ridge Road, 14626

The Labyrinth Walks at Trinity Episcopal Church will continue to take place on the following Tuesdays during July and August; July 12 & 26 and August 9 and 23. The walks begin at 12:00 noon. Please bring a picnic lunch with you for the time of fellowship and

discussion following **the walk**. The walk usually takes about 20 to 30 minutes and is a time for meditation and prayer. For more information please call the church at 585-225-7848.

A.B.O.V.E (Achieving and Bringing our Vision to Excellence) is proud to announce its 14th annual Pan Afrikan Festival. It is a one day event and this year's theme is "One Love". The date is Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Highland Bowl, 1137 South Avenue. It will be a day of live music, food, vendors, cultural history, art displays and health activities. The performers include the Ghanaian Womba African Drumming and Dancing, Mambo Kings Latin Music, Jimmie Highsmith Jazz Band, Jay Baba Afrobeats Music, Latritste Fulton and the Frequency Blues Band, Ignite Reggae Music, Wala Afrobeats Music, ReVibe Neo Soul Music, KT Rap and Hip Hop. The headliner is the Freelance Band R & B Music. The Pan Afrikan Festival brings together the Diverse Rochester Community to Celebrate and Share the Afrikan/Afrikan American Heritage. This year our Health Tent is "Health Matters" which will be overseen by Dr. Wilhelmina Sizer partnering with the Rochester Black Nurses Association and other agencies. There will be discussions on health risks that affect communities of color along with disbursement of literature. Healthy Food and Snacks will be provided to individuals and families that participate. Lastly there will be various activities that promote healthy living, exercise and physical activities such as Zumba, Dancing, and much more. This event is FREE and all are welcome!

RESEARCH ON LGBTQ+ INCLUSION IN CHURCH: Are you an adult (18 years or older) member of Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church who identifies as LGBTQ+? If so, please consider participating in a research study being conducted by Dr. Megan Yost, a professor at Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA). The purpose is to learn about LGBTQ people who have found a home in a welcoming congregation, because most other research on this topic has examined LGBTQ people who have *left* churches due to experiences with sexual prejudice. To learn more about the study and for the link to participate, please see the video at <https://tinyurl.com/3b3srway> or the written information at <https://tinyurl.com/2p93xy5t>

GETTING INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS: How you and your church can make a difference in the world. This special program will take place on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. It is a free Zoom conversation brought to you by American Baptist Churches of the Rochester Genesee Region. How can you and your church be more involved in international missions? Exciting opportunities abound. Explore ways God may be calling you individually or your congregation. Register by going to the ABCRGR website.

BLESSED TOMORROW CLIMATE AMBASSADOR TRAINING: Americans are growing more concerned about climate change. As they witness and experience the impacts to their health, livelihoods, and communities, they are increasingly looking for guidance on solutions, from leaders in their daily lives - faith and community leaders like you. ABC and ecoAmerica are partnering to offer the Blessed Tomorrow Ambassadors Training Program on August 11 at 12:00 pm. This free interactive training will cover the links between climate, faith and humanity, the spectrum of solutions, speaking effectively on the topic, and opportunities to act and advocate. Register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7Zcud-6orjkuHtRylgdeMW...> If you have a problem getting to this website, please contact the ABC/RGR office who will be able to help out. ABCRGR.ORG



DIRECTOR OF NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES

Description

The Director of Next Generations Ministries will be a champion for the children, youth, young adults and their families as a part of the whole of the community and ministry of Lake Avenue Baptist Church. This person will give leadership, encouragement, vision, and oversight to the various ministries related to the position.

The Director of Next Generations Ministries will be responsible for ministries of children and youth from birth to Grade 12 and their families and will report directly to the Senior Pastor. This is a relational ministry position and priority must be placed on building healthy relationships amongst children, youth, parents and staff. This position requires someone who enjoys seeing others succeed and grow in their leadership abilities. The Director of Next Generation Ministries must be creative, flexible, and energetic.

To see a full posting, including an overview of the church community, further description of the job responsibilities, and position requirements, please see lakeavebaptist.org

The position is part-time (15 hours/week flexible) at \$17 per hour to start

Interested applicants are invited to send a cover letter indicating interest/suitability and a recent resume to Rev. Dr. Michael Ford (Senior Minister) revmichaelford@gmail.com.

The deadline for applications is July 15, 2022. Only selected applicants will be contacted though all applications are appreciated.

Please feel free to share with anyone you feel may be interested in this position!

