

# Connections

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LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH      FEBRUARY 2023      VOL XIII: ISSUE 2      LBCPC.org



LOVE GOD  
LOVE PEOPLE

*Obedying the Greatest Commandments*

— MATTHEW 22:37-39 —

# A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



## The war rages on!

We might be tempted to think that it is harder to be a Christian today than it ever has been. There are many contributing factors that lead to this thought; *the ease of access to sin, the secular society of our time, the degeneration of the traditional family unit, and the hyper-busyness of everyone's schedule*, just to name a few. While all of these factors are true and apparent, our enemies are actually still the same as they have always been. I think we can separate our adversaries into three usual suspects; 1.) worldliness, 2.) ourselves (our sinful nature), and 3.) the enemy (devil). Let's break down each of our enemies.

Worldliness; Romans 12:2 says; *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."* The world is always imparting its values upon us. These "values" are most often taught through media sources (social media, TV, streaming apps). We are constantly bombarded with shows and advertisements that quietly and deceptively lure us into a worldly mindset. We can also be enticed by conversation and comparison with other people. Seeing what other people have and hearing what other people treasure can be detrimental, to say the least. If we are not careful, we can easily be lulled into chasing after the things of this world. Chasing success and possessions are enticements that have always been problematic for those who are seeking to follow the Lord because they deflect our focus from the eternal to the temporal.

Ourselves; James 1:13-15 says; 13 *"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor*

*does He tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."* Everyone who has been a believer for any length of time should know that this is true. The simple truth is, we don't need much enticement to sin. As long as we live in this body (flesh) we will battle our sin nature. Even as Christians, we can be tempted to take advantage of God's grace and merciful forgiveness by continuing in sin. Many believers are mired in secret sins that master them and they cannot seem to break free. Yet, the bible is full of commands and reminders about fighting for holiness and purity. Yes, every sin is forgiven, and covered by the blood of the Lamb, but we must get into the fight for personal holiness. We do this through prayer, seeking accountability, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. We fight temptation and sin one thought, and one action at a time. Fight this way and you'll experience more victories than losses.

The enemy; Ephesians 6:10-13 says; 10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."* Adam and Eve didn't notice the craftiness of the enemy until it was too late. The devil got them to question God's Word, doubt God's goodness, and believe his lies. The formula is still the same, but the cure is sure.



(Drew's Article Cont.)

We are not to fight the enemy with our strength on his battlefield. We are to fight the evil one with faithful prayer and the Word of God. 1 Peter 5:8 says; *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* The devil may prowl like a lion, but we have the Lion of the tribe of Judah and He fought the enemy and overcame Him. We stand on Jesus' finished victory.



We can see that the world around us is in rough shape. We can see that overall the Church is shrinking in number, with some closing their doors. We can see that many who once claimed faith have fallen away and deconstructed from their faith. We can see that many who do truly believe are mired in distractions. However, we remember God has a plan and His purposes will prevail. Let all of us who are born again remember that Christ has already won the victory. Our job is to obey His commands, to display Him to others, to love as He loved, and serve as He served until He returns. Until then, let us echo Revelation 22:20b which says; *"Amen, Come, Lord Jesus."*

God bless,

drew

John 3:30



**SISTER 2 SISTER**

Monday Night

February 13th @ 6PM

Home of Tammy Smith

Sharing | Caring | Praying

**Women's Bible Study**

Tuesday morning at 10:30am

Feb. 7th - March 21st

South Building Top Floor

**REDEEMED**  
by Angela Thomas-Pharr

This is a 7 session study

# *A Message from* **Dr. Jerry Horner**

PASTOR EMERITUS

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This is the final article that I will submit to Connections. Each month I have tried to apply biblical principles to contemporary issues or to offer clear expositions of Scripture to foster spiritual growth. Except for the Scripture reference at the conclusion, this article is a slight exception, given the deep personal nature of its topic, which is an expression of my love and appreciation for you and my heartache at leaving you. However, I am resolved not to grieve because my time with you is over, but to rejoice and praise God for the opportunity that Annie and I had to have been with you for so long. No distance of place or lapse of time can weaken the strength of the bond of fellowship that we knew. Actually it's the blessings that we have received from that fellowship that makes saying goodbye so difficult. God brought us together at a crucial point in the life of Lakewood, and we experienced together the wonder of His power to heal and restore. I have been in Christian ministry for almost 70 years, and the brief period in which I served as your interim pastor was the most enjoyable time of that ministry.

From the very beginning of our association, you have been a vital part of my extended ministry. The apostle Paul thanked God for the partnership in the gospel that he experienced with the church at Philippi (Phil. 1:5), and I have the same gratitude toward you. As you know, I have spent a great deal of time preaching and teaching the gospel around the globe. Your support helped make it possible. I was your missionary, and through my instrumentality you carried the gospel to

scores of nations on many islands and on every continent except Antarctica.

Therefore, "as for me, far be it for me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (Phil. 1:23). I especially pray that you may "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," that God will give you spiritual discernment, that you may be attuned to His will, that you may gain a greater understanding of His word, that you will receive a greater empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and that you may love one another with the love of Jesus Christ.

I want to thank you for the love and many acts of kindness you showed to Annie and me throughout our stay with you, culminating in the reception on the evening of January 15. I was completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection that I felt, so much so that uncharacteristically I was almost speechless. I am grateful beyond expression for the monetary gift of the church, and deeply humbled by and appreciative of the cards, calls, and gifts of so many individuals. Please continue to pray for us, especially for Annie, whose health continues to deteriorate. Our new address is 203 NE Abshere, Lawton, OK 73507. It would be a true blessing to receive a visit from you, and as a subtle hint to Andrew, I want to assure you that I'm always open to an invitation to preach at Lakewood.

Finally, I'm going to adopt a farewell address by Paul as my own expression of farewell to you.

You'll find it in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-23.

# Lakewood Happenings

## February 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU			
			1	2	3	4
9:00am Bible Fellowship 10:30am Combined Worship 5	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 6	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 7			5:30pm Senior Game Night Pizza & Salad 10	
8				9		11
Baby Bottles Due 5:00pm Super Bowl Party 12	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister 13	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 14	7:00pm Finance Team 15		6:00pm Father/Son Campout 17	
				16		18
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 19	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 21		6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Lisa Woodburn 23	6:00pm Kids Ministry Volunteer Appr. Event 24	8:00am Yard Sale for Missions 11:00am Feed the Homeless 25
6:00pm Ordination for Zack White 26	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 27	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 28				

## December Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/4	\$33,184.10	\$260.00	\$6,769.87	\$1,477.00	\$41,690.97
12/11	\$19,933.54	-	\$3,771.00	\$1,277.00	\$24,981.54
12/18	\$17,151.10	\$200.00	\$2,053.18	\$353.00	\$19,757.28
12/25	\$70,227.50	\$130.00	\$3,334.10	\$10,678.00	\$84,369.30

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship  
10:00am Bible Fellowship  
11:00am Blended Worship

#### WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting  
6:00pm AWANA  
6:30pm Youth Worship

# A Message from David Stephens

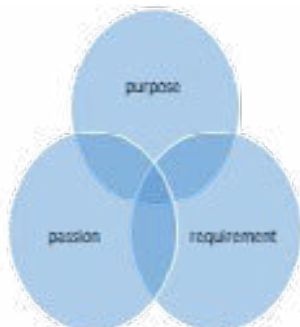
CHILDREN'S PASTOR



It's that strange time of the year, when you are feeling the pressure to remain steadfast in your new year's resolve to only drink diet soda. Or maybe, you just had that regular Coke for the 1st time last night and there is a sense of shame you have put on yourself. But, it was so good. Moving to that sugar substitute is going to be hard.

Many people will start off the new year with a 'word' for the year. Lesley and I have done this, and found it to be very helpful to remain focused. In 2020 a word for me probably would have been travel and adventure because that year we moved from Phoenix, AZ to Phenix City, AL. It definitely was an adventure, but once Covid hit, I traveled from my bedroom to my couch or the church. Then 2021, we worried over should we meet up, go to the restaurant, go back to the office etc. Then 2022 seemed to be a blur, transitions, health scares, and everything costing more money. This year 2023, no words, no proclamations. I'm just going to wait it out for a couple of months and see what happens. It's not that there are no goals, challenges to grow in and hills to take. There are, for sure!

I was lead to Matthew 6: 25 - 34 . I had to remind myself not to worry about my life what I will eat, drink, cloth myself. I see how God takes care of the birds. How much more will he take care of me? Where is my faith? Why do I allow myself to fall into the trap of worry? Do we need to make good choices and steward well the resources God has given us? Most definitely! When we don't, we pay the consequences. Our father knows that we need these things. It's not a bad thing to have desires and to pursue them, as long as these desires are not placed above God. We must seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and stop worrying. I drew myself a diagram to help me refocus. Here it is. Super simple!



What is our purpose? Our purpose is to know God, know others, to work, and to use our gifts to build up his church. Adam and Eve had to tend the garden before the fall. Work is not a consequence of the fall. Work just became difficult after the fall. What is required of me? I have a job at our church, there are requirement of me to perform certain duties that I receive compensation for. One of them is writing this article for ya'll to read. I am required to take my children to school or daycare every morning. What about passion? I have a desire to work with families and to disciple children. I have a passion for missions. I have a heart to help people who are hurting. I love being outside in nature. Wouldn't it be AWESOME if what I'm doing all comes together in the center of my diagram? If I'm honest there are times when I don't have passion to do what is required of me. There are days I'd rather sleep in and not take the kids to school.

ALERT! We are required to know God. If we don't, we are not saved. We need to be passionate in our pursuit in knowing God. As I put myself into the simple Venn diagram (for the educators), I want everything that I'm doing at all times to be in the center. This is worth fighting for. Your talents, personality, aptitude has lead you to the work that you do. Are you passionate about what is required of you? Are you seeking to get to know the Father? Is the Kingdom of God before the Kingdom of me? Are you open to the spirit to move within you? Are you willing to perform kingdom tasks, big or small? Maybe it's the mission field, or maybe it's just that person checking out your groceries. Know the Father, know each other, work hard, and let's know and use our gifting to build his church.

Be encouraged.

I love you all.

David.

**February Calendar:**

**Father / Son Campout**  
**February 17-18**  
**6PM – 8:30AM**

**Kids Volunteer Appreciation Event**  
**Friday, February 24th.**

# *A Message from* **Israel Jane**

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Greetings and salutations from the Youth Department. We have had a very busy month here in the month of January, entering into a New Year, and looking forward to all that the Lord has for us. Can you believe we are already in 2023?

So far in January, the College and career students had their annual SWO college retreat in North Carolina, and they had a great time worshipping the Lord together and hearing from some amazing speakers. God did a great work in their lives.

On January the 7th some of our youth and some of the men from our church gathered together at Central Baptist church here in Phenix City for a discipleship service. The guest speaker Mitchell Dean encouraged us to keep fighting the good fight and to be men of faith and vision. It was a great night and the message will stay with us for a long time.

My wife Erin and I had the opportunity to go to a Youth Pastor training conference in Tennessee called Conclave. The was a great time for us to meet with other ministers from around America as together we refocused, reset, and recharged. Some of the classes we were to learn from were;

1. Simple strategies to reach more students.
2. The forgotten keys to apologetics.
3. Creating a culture of disciple making in student ministry.
4. Retrain your brain.
5. Getting better at youth ministry organization and administration.

We learned so many valuable lessons that we hope to continue to use to fulfill the calling "To Know Jesus Christ and to Make Him Known."

On Sunday Mornings we have been continuing our study of the book of James and on Wednesday nights we have talked about...

1. The danger of hidden sin - Numbers 32:23
2. We had a missionary from Israel speak to us about Holiness.
3. And we started a series called Predetermined talking about deciding now what we will do when we face temptations in the future. Proverbs 16:3

We are gearing up for our first Feed the Homeless of 2023, Jan 28th and we are making preparations for the youth SWO Pure and Holy retreat at the start of February.

Please continue that God will use us and give us the wisdom to reach the youth and pray that the youth will have eyes that see and ears that hear. We are praying and believing for God to do some amazing things.

In Christ,  
Israel Jane



**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Allison Hightower**  
for Lottie Moon  
from Carole Ray  
for General Fund  
from Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Whitehead

**Becky Smith**  
for Lottie Moon  
From Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Roberts

**IN HONOR OF:**

**BUM & CAROL CLEGG**  
for Bereavement  
from Margaret Wilson

**Betty Burrows**  
for Lottie Moon  
from Carole Ray

**Gary & Donna Bradshaw**  
for Music Ministry  
from Carolyn Jones

**SENIOR GAME  
NIGHT**

**FRIDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 10TH**  
**@ 5:30PM IN F/H**

**MENU:**  
**PIZZA & SALAD**

**MINISTERIAL STAFF**

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LEAD PASTOR  
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

**Charles Keown**  
WORSHIP & SENIOR  
ADULT PASTOR  
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CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

**Linda Keown**  
WORSHIP & MEDIA  
ASSISTANT  
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

**SOUND CHOICES**

**Return Baby Bottles**  
by February 12th

**LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE  
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867  
O: 334.298.6433  
Fax: 334.298.4873  
LBCPC.org  
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM