

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2023

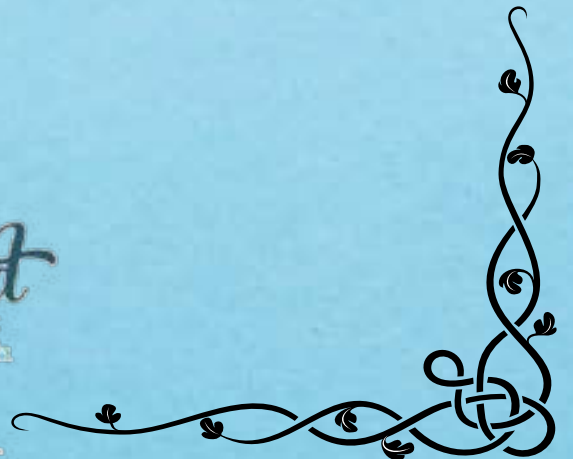
VOL XIII: ISSUE 6

LBCPC.org



Happy
Father's Day

We Love You Dad !!



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



John F. Kennedy is attributed to have once said that a rising tide lifts all ships. In the past, this has been used as a political statement by both Republicans and Democrats to defend their political policies. However, I believe there is also another rising tide today, and it will actually sink a lot of ships, instead of lifting them. All believers have noticed the disturbing trend of the culture war against traditional Christian values. At a time when the world and its leader (Satan) seem stronger than ever, the Church seems weaker than ever. We see study after study that points out the fact that many who were once raised in the Church, have walked away not only from church but from their "faith". We see the trend of aging congregations in most American churches that are shrinking instead of growing. We look at historical data that shows how this trend once invaded Europe in decades past and has left the Church as a shell of its former self and almost completely ineffective. We've seen the trend in the Northeast United States with so few believers and so few active Bible-believing churches that it now qualifies that area as an unreached people group. We have also put our feet on the ground in such areas and seen church buildings that once housed active and vibrant congregations, turned into apartment complexes, community centers, and retail spaces. We might think that the best days of the Church are behind us.

Yet, I believe what the Word of God says in Matthew 16:18 where Jesus tells Peter;

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Church is God's instrument to take the Gospel to the nations and nothing the enemy does will destroy it all the way to the end of time. God supernaturally preserved faithful men and women throughout the ages when darkness seemed to reign. The enemy thought he won the war when he got Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word and fall into sin. Yet, God initiated His plan of redemption through the second Adam (Jesus). Satan thought he won the war when humanity had become so sinful that God justly flooded the earth and destroyed all life because every inclination of their hearts was only set on evil all the time. Yet, God led a faithful man (Noah) and his family to build an ark, and through that man and his family God repopulated the earth and created for Himself a people group to call His own. Satan thought he had won the war when the Son of God came to earth on a redemption mission and the devil incited one of Jesus' closest followers to betray Him and for God's chosen people to crucify their Creator. Yet, three days later, the Author of Life rose from the dead conquering death and hell, and when Jesus said; *"It is finished!"* it truly was! Satan thought he had won the war when he used apostate Judaism and the Roman Empire to do all they could do to stomp out the early New Testament Church. Yet, God used the faithfulness of a few to reach the many, and the Roman Empire was eventually moved from pagan to Christian before it

fell apart as an empire.

I imagine Satan believes again that he has won the culture war, and that sin rules by running rampant in every society all over the world. We see what the Word of God calls sin promoted here in our own country as good and normal as never before. What are we to do? Are we to fade into obscurity? Should we throw up our hands in despair and quit? Should we fade into apathy and apostasy as our culture has? Should we shrink back, lock our doors, and worry about ourselves? *Or, should we trust God and remain faithful, proudly proclaiming the Word of God to all we meet?* As mentioned earlier, God always preserves a faithful remnant. He sovereignly preserves a faithful remnant throughout time in Israel and He will sovereignly preserve a faithful remnant in this Church age as well. The outward pressure will always be to conform, to sit down and shut up. You will feel the pressure to be silent, and to

change what you believe by denying the accuracy and inerrancy of holy scripture. You will hear the voices calling you old-fashioned or bigoted and there is a tide coming here in America when it will become more dangerous to be a Christian. Yet, remember, every time the Church is persecuted it is refined, and only grows stronger and more Christ-like. *Your job is to stand, not in your own strength, but in the strength of the Lord and to speak the truth in love.* I pray that we all will be found faithful to endure whatever persecution may come. That we will wear it as a badge of honor as the early Church did, and see that God has honored us by allowing us to suffer in some small way, as our Savior did. It is time to either sink into the culture or to swim to and stand upon the Rock. Which will it be?

God bless,
drew
John 3:30

COMBINED WORSHIP
SUNDAY, JULY 2ND

9:00AM | BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
10:30AM WORSHIP

**COME AND SEE FRIENDS YOU
MAY NOT NORMALLY SEE**

Lakewood Happenings

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
5:30pm VBS 4	5:30pm VBS 5	5:30pm VBS 6	5:30pm VBS 7	5:30pm VBS 8	5:30pm Senior Game Night Hot Dogs 9	10
5:00pm Deacon's Meeting 11	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister - Home of Elizabeth Giles 12	13	14	15	16	7:00pm Faith & Family Nght @ Golden Park 17
Father's Day 18	10:30am Amen Choir 19	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 20	7:00pm Finance Team Meets 21	6:30pm JEG/BW 22	23	11:00am Feed the homeless 2:00pm Jamaica Mission Team Meeting 24
25	10:30am Amen Choir 26	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 27	6:00pm Wet Wednesday 28	29	30	

April Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
4/2	\$20,676.54	\$375.00	\$1,802.08	\$821.00	\$23,674.62
4/9	\$20,954.56	\$25.00	\$3,998.75	\$2,904.25	\$27,882.56
4/16	\$20,509.08	\$245.00	\$1,736.00	\$1,202.00	\$23,692.08
4/23	\$12,804.97	\$70.00	\$1,760.00	\$1,044.00	\$15,678.97
4/30	\$14,369.15	\$150.00	\$2,384.56	\$1,700.00	\$18,603.71

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY	
8:45am	Contemporary Worship
10:00am	Bible Fellowship
11:00am	Blended Worship
WEDNESDAY	
6:00pm	Bible Study
6:00pm	AWANA
6:30pm	Youth Worship

A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Greetings True believers!

In youth we have been studying the 7 letters of Revelation. These letters were written by the apostle John to the seven churches, but they hold timeless truths for us, even today.

• Love First, Always (Ephesus):

Jesus wants our hearts to be filled with love for Him and for others. When we put Him first, His love will overflow into every area of our lives, making a lasting impact on the world around us.

• Stand Strong (Smyrna):

In a world that may oppose our faith, we are called to stand strong. Jesus assures us that He knows our struggles and is with us always. We must remain steadfast, trusting in Him, and His love.

• Stay True to Your Calling (Pergamum):

We will face distractions and temptations that can lead us astray. But we're called to hold fast to the truth and not compromise our beliefs.

• Embrace God's Word (Thyatira):

We need to fall in love with God's Word and allow it to shape our thoughts, decisions, and actions, as we grow in wisdom and understanding.

• Keep Your Passion for God Burning (Sardis):

Jesus wants us to be alive and passionate in our faith. We should daily examine our hearts, and live a life that shines His light.

• Be Zealous for God's Kingdom (Philadelphia):

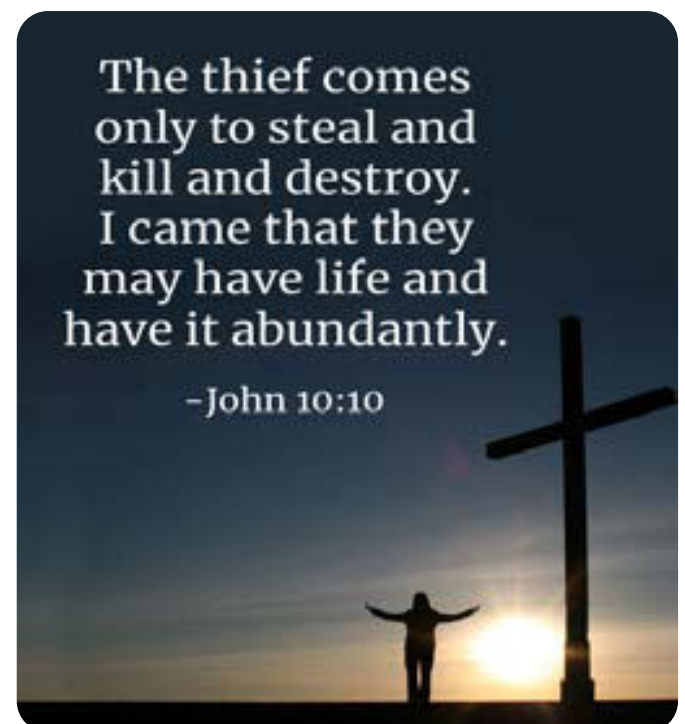
To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Our world needs the hope and forgiveness found in Jesus. Through our words, kindness, and love for others, let's spread the good news of the Kingdom.

• Overcome and Receive the Ultimate Reward (Laodicea):

Let's have nothing to do with lukewarm faith. Jesus invites us into a relationship with Him. John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. He challenges us to overcome complacency and dares us to dive deeper, into a more intimate walk with Him.

As we live out these truths, may our lives be a powerful testimony of God's love and grace. Keep shining, keep growing, and keep trusting in Him!

In Christ,
Israel Jane



In Memory of:

Annie Horner

For Amen Choir

From: Bum & Carol Clegg

Mr. & Mrs. Don Cowan

Barbara Moore

Jeff & Gail Gentry

Christain Life School of

Theology Global Inc.

Gary Newsome

Glenda Medley

Frank & Sharen Serikaku

Myra Currier

Debra Huling

Brenda Slappey

Jerry & Gail Head

Dana Greene

Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

William & Connie Putman

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

Lewis & Lisa Hunt

Steve & Margie Argo

For Bereavement

From: Clara Jean Watson

Brenda Evans

Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

For Circles of Influence

From Janice Noble

Rick Dellinger

For Bereavement

from Clara Jean Watson

For Samaritan's Purse

from Gail Brantley

For Student Missions

From Mr. & Mrs. Bill McCarley

Jim Ormond

For Bereavement

from Clara Jean Watson

For Merge Kid's Summer Camp

from Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hollon

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Graham

Lorene Parker

For Amen Choir

from Myra Currier

Glenda Medley

Roy & Marion Krege

For Bereavement

from Brenda Evans

For Builders for Christ

from Joyful Servants

Margaret Wilson

Debbie Roberts

For Youth Summer Camp

from McCraine/ Whitehead

Bible Fellowship Class

Motsie Parkman

For Bereavement

from Clara Jean Watson

Gene Cameron

For Amen Choir

from Mr. & Mrs. Eddie

Hightower

For Children's Ministry

from Robbie Cameron

Stella Hughes

For Loaf

from Patricia Thomas

Margaret Weaver

For Student Missions

from Bereavement Team

In Honor of:

Mike & Kay Murry

For Building & Grounds

from Pat Holland

Ruth Drinkard for her birthday.

For Builders for Christ

from Joanie Matlock

A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



It's summer time! And what does that mean for you? Maybe some traveling, church camps, sport camps, family vacations, mission trips, grilling out on the pool deck. Here in the south we have the never ending battle to keep the grass cut, and those crazy vines that seem to grow 10 feet overnight. As we develop and work out our summer calendar what's that saying? "We make plans and God laughs". I'm all about making plans and we need to so we will actually accomplish something. When the project seems to be overwhelming and we are completely lost as to where to begin, what do we do? I was recently reminded of a piece of scripture that has helped me with this struggle. Proverbs 6:6, 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! What do ants do? They pick up one grain of sand at a time and then over time they build an entire ant city. So, this summer when we have all kinds of projects to accomplish look to the ant and start moving one grain of sand at a time, make one phone call, order the necessary material, schedule the time for the work, get helpers lined up. When I look at people who are successful, every one of them acts like an ant.

Also remember that we tend to not see our own accomplishments. We have a tendency to dwell on the things we have not done yet. We think that other people are created to do things and we are not. These people have something special that enables them to accomplish what we believe unattainable. We forget the truth that our successes may cause us to appear like this to others. Give yourself credit where credit is due, and like the ant work towards those desires that you once thought were impossible. Because, with God nothing is impossible. With our work, we must remember there are only 2 things that last, the Word of God and the souls of men. We must stop and ask ourselves; with all of our activities, our successes and failures are we pursuing things that impact eternity? Do we have a drive to never

stop pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus? I don't want to sit on the porch and read about Paul's missionary journey's. I want his journey's to inspire my journey. I want to always be renewing the passion to reach the souls of men with the Word of God.

Calendar Comments:

VBS is here.

We are looking forward to record numbers of children experiencing a unique God experience on our campus.

*We can always use helping hands
with our VBS*

Merge Summer camp is right around the corner. We do have a few spots left to fill, so if you know of a camper who is interested in coming, please direct them to me.

We keep the camp cost as low as possible to enable as many kids to go to camp as possible. We do have a few campers who are in need of help. The cost for camp this year is \$220.

If you are interested in sponsoring a camper let me know.

Calendar

VBS June 4 – 8 | 5:30PM – 8:30PM

Wet Wednesday for this Summer
6PM -7:30PM

June 28, July 26, August 30

Merge Summer Camp: July 10-13

VBS | Sunday thru Thursday | June 4-8 | 5:30-8:30pm



**SENIOR
GAME NIGHT**

**Friday, June 9
5:30pm in F/H
Menu: Hot Dogs**

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

**Sharon Vincent
Joel Vincent**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Andrew Spires
LEAD PASTOR
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown
WORSHIP & SENIOR
ADULT PASTOR
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Israel Jane - Interim
INTERIM STUDENT &
YOUNG ADULT PASTOR
ISRAELDJANE@GMAIL.COM

David Stephens
CHILDREN'S PASTOR
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello
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MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault
OFFICE & PASTORAL
CARE ASSISTANT
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Linda Keown
WORSHIP & MEDIA
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM**