

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 2023

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LBCPC.org



## *HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY*

*Charm is deceptive,  
and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who  
fears the Lord is  
to be praised.*

*Proverbs 31:30*

# *A Message from* **Andrew Spires**

LEAD PASTOR



I don't know how much experience you may have had with an axe during your lifetime. The first one I ever purchased was nothing more than a small camp hatchet that I thought looked cool to take in the woods and cut small pieces of wood for a campfire. As I got older I started my first job as a surveyor's assistant. This sounds like an amazing position for a high-school kid who worked on the weekends, but all that title meant was that I got to carry all the heavy equipment and cut a lot of trees. This was my first exposure to a real axe. I learned a very important lesson quickly, a dull axe works you to death! This reminds me of a story I once heard.

Once, many years ago before the advent of chainsaws, there was a young man who needed a job and approached the foreman of a logging crew to ask for a position. The foreman handed the man an axe and told him to cut down a tree. The young man showed impressive strength and stamina and made quick work of the tree which crashed to the ground with a great thud! Impressed, the foreman hired the young man on the spot and put him to work the following week. Weeks went by, in the beginning, the young man was one of the most efficient lumberjacks they had. However, soon the average number of trees he processed daily began to shrink. Soon, the foreman called him over to his truck and told the young man it just wasn't working out. Shocked, the young lumberjack pled his case; "I come in early, I work through my breaks, I stay late, I do whatever it

takes to get the job done." The foreman explained that his numbers had fallen off which was usually a sign of apathy or laziness. The young man took off his hard hat, wiped his brow, and scratched his head. Suddenly, something occurred to the foreman and he asked the young man; "Have you been sharpening your axe?" The young man immediately felt stupid as he responded that he had been too busy to even think about it. He was busy, working himself to death with a dull instrument, and his performance was suffering.

Life becomes a lot like this story. We get so busy that we don't take time for the most important things. We seem to be busier than ever but less content and happy than ever. We all need time to focus on what really matters. In our study of the book of Ephesians (5:15-16), we are reminded; "*Be careful, then, how you live—not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.*" We are also told in Proverbs 27:17; "*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*" In the busyness of this life, let's not forget to sharpen ourselves on the Word of God, through prayer, through corporate worship, and fellowship with other believers. We all need a time of refreshing that reminds us of our ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ until He comes.

God bless,  
drew  
John 3:30

# Upcoming Events

## For Seniors

*Amen Choir Concerts*

**Tuesday, 5/2**

**Terra Bella Riverplace**

**Monday, 5/8**

**Covenant Woods**

**Monday, 5/15**

**Calvary Gardens**

**Monday, 5/22**

**Spring Harbor**

*All begin at 10:30am*

*Seafood Buffet - Eufaula*

**Friday, May 5**

**Leave at 5:30pm**

**Cost is \$30**

**Call Gail to sign up @**

**706-315-1744**

*Game Night*

**Friday, May 12 @**

**5:30pm**





# A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



This Month in our AWANA assembly we are "Crushing Candy". So what is this all about? We are talking about fear and that we have the ability to "crush" it. I don't know anybody who is afraid of candy, especially children. There are many things that people have phobias over. Fear can be overwhelming to very good Godly people. We think of Isaac in the Old testament. He feared for his life going into a foreign land because of the beauty of his wife. He lied about their relationship. Here we have a Godly man who made a bad choice. Fear can be powerful. People fear not fitting in, potential bad consequences, rejection, punishments, this list goes on and on. We have to ask ourselves in that moment of fear; Where is God? Is he "BIG" in that moment? That answer is a resounding "NO". We have to practice bringing God with us and making him large in ALL situations. We can talk about our historical founding fathers who conquered fear and risked much to create the country that we have today. Fear is powerful. Yes, but, the power of our Creator God is so much more than anything we can even ask or think of. So, are we going to "Crush" fear? We understand that God's Truth is greater than fear's lies. We know that God can help us overcome our worry. We know that our victory comes when we trust in him. We will be found immersed in his word. It is enough for all that we need for right living. If we have said Yes to Jesus allowing him Lordship of our life then we are secure in his sovereign plan led by the spirit to become more and more like Jesus who we are united with for all eternity. We do have a hope, and this spirit of power helps us to be bold. Our God wants us to be bold in our proclamation of the Gospel, in our discipleship, in our defense of the widow and the orphan. It doesn't matter how many people, systems, or cultural moves oppose us. If God is for us than who can be against us and we know that God will work it out for his good. It is fantastic when we are able to see that

it worked out good. But, what if we don't, this side of heaven? We still must be bold, and we can because our father is greater than our fear. We are going to be controlled by something, so let's be controlled by the spirit not the flesh. Are your thoughts leading you to you or are your thoughts leading you to the Spirit? Will there be suffering, most definitely, but know that the fire makes us more like Jesus. Let's dig in this season and Crush fear.

## Children's Calendar:

### AWANA Celebration night

Wednesday, May 17 from 6PM- 7:30PM  
(all are invited to come and support our kids and all their hard work)

### Vacation Bible School June 4-8

#### \*Keepers of the Kingdom\*

(we will have a volunteer sign-up in church lobby)



# WOMEN'S EVENTS

## SISTER 2 SISTER

Monday, May 8 @ 6pm  
Home of Mary Kay Wilson

Virginia Kennedy/WMU  
Wednesday, May 3 @ 10:30am

## *Mother/Daughter Brunch & Paint Party*

Saturday, May 13th 10am in the FAC  
Women of all ages are welcome

Jane Ellen Gaines BW  
Thursday, May 25 6:30pm



# A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Greetings from the youth department.

Graduation season is here! People are graduating from high school, college, graduate school...and kindergarten. All ages, all walks of life. Soon, students will be walking across the stage to receive what they've worked so hard for.

But then what? What's next? We start out in pre-K knowing that elementary school is next, then middle school, then high school and then college. But what now?

Sometimes in life we may feel like we're walking in the dark, just trying to figure out where to put our foot next. But, God knows what's next, and He has a plan for each and every one of us that is above and beyond anything we could ever ask or imagine.

*Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

We just need to trust Him, keep our focus on the light, and heed the advice that Paul gave Timothy.

*2 Timothy 3:13-15 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom[a] you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Trust in God, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, walk by faith, and see where God takes you. Wherever that is, just know that God loves you and has your best at heart. Just sit back and enjoy the adventure.

*2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.*



# Lakerwood Happenings

## May 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir  1	10:30am Amen Choir Concert @ Terra Bella Riverplace 6:15pm Alleluia Choir  2	10:30am VK/WMU  3		5:30pm Senior Adult trip to Seafood Buffet in Eufaula  5	6:30pm The Man Church @ S'Ville  6
7	10:00am Amen Choir Concert @ Covenant Woods 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister Mary Kay Wilson  8	6:15pm Alleluia Choir  9			5:30pm Senior Game Night  12	10:00am Mother/ Daughter Brunch & Paint Party in the FAC  13
Mother's Day Baby Dedication  14	10:00am Amen Choir Concert @ Calvary Gardens  15	6:15pm Alleluia Choir  16	7:00pm AWANA night in sanctuary  17			
11:00am Graduate Recognition 5:00pm Deacons Meet  21	10:00am Amen Choir Concert @ Spring Harbor  22	6:15pm Alleluia Choir  23	7:00pm Finance Team Meets  24	6:30pm JEG/BW  25		11:00am Feed the homeless  27
	Memorial Day Office Closed  28	6:15pm Alleluia Choir  30				

## March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/5	\$29,386.54	\$560.00	\$3,263.66	\$1,009.00	\$34,219.20
3/12	\$21,359.10	-	\$2,115.00	\$1,219.00	\$24,693.10
3/19	\$38,051.45	-	\$3,230.00	\$5,437.00	\$46,718.45
3/26	\$12,896.64	\$59.08	\$1,484.00	\$595.00	\$15,034.72

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

<b>SUNDAY</b>	
9:00am	Contemporary Worship
10:00am	Bible Fellowship
11:00am	Blended Worship
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
6:00pm	Bible Study
6:00pm	AWANA
6:30pm	Youth Worship

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Rick Dellinger**

For General Fund  
from Mrs. Nancy Boyd  
The Villas at McIntosh Creek

For Gideons

from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

For Building & Grounds

from Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Smith

For Bereavement

from Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

For Student Ministries

from Mr. & Mrs. Steve Argo

**Lou Kay Carter**

For Samaritan's Purse  
from Pat Holland

**Jim Ormond**

For Children's Ministry  
from Pat Holland

**John Evans**

For Bereavement  
from Judy Evans

**Jean Medley**

For Annie Armstrong  
from Glenda Medley

**FRIENDLY  
REMINDER**

~

First service begins  
**@ 8:45am**

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

Jonathan Strength  
Nigle & Linda  
Matthews  
Tim Quakenbush

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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FRI 8:30AM-12PM