

# Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH   FEBRUARY 2024   VOL XIII: ISSUE 2   LBCPC.org



God's Love  
is Sufficient

# A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

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My mind has been inundated with concerns and prayers for all those who are currently suffering in their bodies or minds. It seems of late that we've had more than our fair share of those in need of healing. From cancer to dementia and Alzheimer's, and other surgeries in between, my heart goes out to those in need. I am consistently lifting them to the Lord in prayer asking for their healing according to His great power and will. As I continued to pray and ponder the great promises of Scripture, God reminded me of one of the greatest promises in the last book of the bible.

Revelation 21 foretells the coming of the New Jerusalem where God will take up permanent residence with His children. There will be no more separation between God and man and we will be able to look upon Him and behold His glory. What a day that will be! However, there's more detail that is equally exciting, especially for those who are suffering in mind or body right now. I'd like to quote from Revelation 21:3-4; *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying; "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away."*

God promises the perfection of all things. Verse 5 says; *"He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"* Nothing is better than new! That new car smell and freedom from the worry of breakdowns. The newness of youth that is free from pain, stiffness, and soreness. The possibilities of a new birth and a new life are endless. Can you imagine? First, God will dwell with us. The invisible God will become fully visible. The holy inapproachable God will live among us. We will no longer be separated by our sins and we will be fully glorified becoming fully like Christ, able to be in the presence of Almighty God, face-to-face. What a day of rejoicing that will be! Second, there will be no more tears. From our earliest days on earth as an infant, we are filled with emotion and respond with tears. As we age, things don't get much better, and the more we struggle, the more we respond with tears. Yet, there is a day promised when all tears will be wiped away. Whatever causes us physical or emotional grief and pain will be ceased. Think about that. No more arguing, fussing, divisions, bitterness, stress, disease, or sickness, there will be nothing that makes us sorrowful. No more hunger or thirst, no more regret and failure, no more falling short, and no more disappointment. Wow! This will be a wonderful day!

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Finally, there will be no more death. For the believer, death is just a doorway into eternal blessing, but it often comes as a result of sickness, pain, and suffering. Sometimes, there are times when death itself is a grace from God that ends our suffering. However, we are promised in Revelation the end of death. Remember that the penalty for sin is death, and since sin is no more, death is also no more. When death is no more we will no longer mourn. Nothing hurts more and brings more pain and tears, than the loss of a loved one. One day we will never lose anyone again. Add to that, we'll be reunited with those that we have lost in the Lord. What joy will flood our souls! Being constantly in the presence of the Lord, having no more sickness, disease, pain, or stress, and never experiencing death along with a reunion of the saints. I can hardly imagine!

This gives us the perspective of the Apostle Paul, who also suffered greatly, when he wrote the following by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 4:16-17; *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles (afflictions) are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."* We must remind ourselves of these promises and admonitions from the Word of God when we suffer for they will keep us centered on Him. These keep us from losing heart in our time of trouble or heartache. May the grace and peace of our God comfort all those within our body who are suffering in one way or another. May He bring each healing according to His will. May He alone receive all the glory, for He alone is worthy! God bless,  
drew  
John 3:30



**A capital campaign is an effort to Renew, Restore, and Rejuvenate the Lakewood Baptist Church campus with the goal of continuing a vibrant and inviting church for current and future generations.**



**Providence Canyon Hike**  
**Saturday, February 17th**

**Men & Boys of all ages**  
**Leave church by bus at 8:30 am**  
**Return by 2:00 pm**

**Bring a picnic lunch**

*Contact Israel or David if you would like to attend*



**Mission Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 25th**  
**5:00 pm | FAC**  
**Reveal 2024 plans**

**Attendance does not  
commit you to go,  
mainly informational**



★ ★ ★

**Super Bowl  
Sunday  
Tailgate**


FEBRUARY 11TH AT 6:00 PM EST

★ ★ ★

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
FAC

BRING A FINGER FOOD TO SHARE!

**Girls Brunch, Board Games  
& Bible Study**  
**Saturday, February 17th**  
**10:00 am in the FAC**





# A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Hey everyone!

Can you believe it's already February? January flew by with lots of exciting events centered around Christ. From our "Saturday is for the Boys" game day to an awesome D-now weekend and restarting our Feed the Homeless ministry – we've been busy!

Throughout January, we dug into a series discussing the importance of prayer, reading the Bible, and having a dedicated time, place, and plan for each. Moving forward, we'll be exploring the significance of friendships.

In February, we're going to have even more fun! We've got a girls' event, a guys' hike, our SWO purity retreat, a Super Bowl party, and another Feed the Homeless. Plenty of opportunities for our youth to jump in! And mark your calendars for our summer youth Merge camp at Shocco Springs June 12th to 15th – it's going to be epic!

As we reflect on everything we did and accomplished in January, I'm reminded of the lyrics from Steven Curtis Chapman's song "The Great Adventure." The song speaks of embracing life's journey with Christ, living fully in His love and purpose. In Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV), Solomon writes, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." As we dive into February, let's carry the spirit of

adventure into the new month, anticipating the friendships we'll form and the joy we'll experience. In every event, whether a hike, retreat, Bible study, or party, let's remember that each moment is a part of God's grand plan for us. So, buckle up for the great adventure, and let's see where God takes us next!



# Lakewood Happenings

## February 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	10:30am Amen Choir 5	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 6	10:30am VK/WMU 7	8	5:30pm Senior Game Night Hot dogs 9	10
5:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:00pm Super Bowl Tailgate 11	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister 2 Sister Becky Aderhold 12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	8:30am Men & Boy's Hike 10:00am Girls Brunch, Games & Bible Study 17
18	10:30am Amen Choir 19	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 20	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting 21	6:30pm JEG/BW F/H 22	23	11:00am Feed the homeless 24
5:00pm Missions Meeting FAC 25	10:30am Amen Choir 26	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 27	28	29		

## December Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/3	\$20,100.26	\$130.00	\$4,174.50	\$558.20	\$24,962.96
12/10	\$24,728.00	-	\$5,564.00	\$2,611.75	\$32,903.75
12/17	\$31,836.79	-	\$3,615.00	\$1,875.35	\$37,327.14
12/24	\$10,863.30	-	\$1,653.50	\$125.00	\$12,641.80
12/31	\$44,508.79	\$20.00	\$1,893.08	\$530.00	\$46,951.87

### Ongoing Activities:

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

# A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



*Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 CSB)

Valentine's Day is when we think about our loves past and present. We celebrate that special someone that God has placed in our lives. For those who are married we look at our spouse and treasure the gift that God gave us. For the singles among us we pray for that godly spouse. As a church family we love our brother's and sister's in Christ in all things. We grieve with our family members in the valleys just like we celebrate with each other on the mountain tops. We love because He first loved us. We are nothing, but He is everything. In His "everything" we can be something. We can be people who love without conditions. In His "everything" we can see people and love them in all their mess. Because we are messed up people, and God used messed up people all throughout scripture.

One evening this past month I was sitting in my living room with my wife talking. We do this a lot. Maybe it's because we like being together just talking, for hours, and hours. Comments have been made by other family members about us talking for very long periods of time. During one of these times, Lesley ask me to give my 'top of my head' snap shot on Jacob from the Old Testament. She had just completed a more detailed character study on him. I gave her my quick Jacob analysis, and then our talk went into comparing the relationship between Jacob and Rachel vs. Jacob and Leah. See, Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, and this was a problem for Leah.

Genesis 29:35 CBS reads; *'And she conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said "This time I will praise the Lord."* Therefore, she named him Judah.

Then Leah stopped having children." Prior to this verse and Judah being born, Leah was focused on gaining love from an earthly man. With Judah her focus has shifted to receiving love from her heavenly Father. Jacob was a flawed man, Judah also had some issues himself, but this is the line that brought us our Savior, Jesus. All this to say our primary love relationship must be with our heavenly Father. When the failures of man come, and they will, this love never fails. Our ability to love Jesus, translates into our ability to love our spouse and other people. Jesus gives us our example of how to love. Love is an action, and it rejoices in the Truth.

We are given beautiful gifts from our heavenly Father in our love relationship on earth, and we must celebrate these gifts. When we celebrate the loves in our life, we must celebrate Him first. Ultimately, He numbers our days, and our capacity to love is mirrored by our capacity to grieve. Because we love big, we grieve big. But, when our love of God is bigger we can rest in His sovereign plan for all of His creation. Jesus wept because he loved!

Let's show the next generation that we are not afraid to love like Jesus did. Enduring the hurts, trudging through the mess, bearing the burdens, walking in humility, showing kindness, being patient, burning records, speaking truth in a loving way, and pointing to the hope that is Heaven.

Have a blessed month. Thank you for all your prayers, and continued support.

## February Calendar Dates:

2/17- 8:30am – 2 pm

Men and Boys Hike

Little Grand Canyon

3/1 – 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Kids & Youth Ministry Volunteer

Appreciation Event

*In Memory of:*  
**Freddie Messer**  
For Lottie Moon  
From Glenda Medley

**Wayne Allen**  
For Amen Choir  
From Glenda Medley  
Brenda Slappey  
For Mercy Med  
From Gail Brantley

**Betty Johnson**  
for LOAF  
From Carole Ray

**James Langston**  
For Amen Choir  
From Carole Ray

**Arthur Burrows**  
For Homebound  
From Carole Ray

**Jim Ormond**  
For Children's Ministry  
From Sue Melton

**Lois Gray**  
For Students  
From Sue Melton

*In Honor of:*  
**Betty Burrows**  
For Homebound  
From Carole Ray

**Rick Aderhold & LOAF Team**  
For LOAF  
From Margaret Wilson

**Becky Aderhold & Clothes Closet Team**  
For Clothes Closet  
From Margaret Wilson

## WELCOME

### New Members:

Phillip & Pam  
Chandler  
&  
Allen, Debbie &  
Landon Casey

### Senior Game Night

Friday, February 9th  
5:30 pm in F/H  
Hot Dogs

#### MINISTERIAL STAFF

- **ANDREW SPIRES**  
LEAD PASTOR  
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG
- 
- **Charles Keown**  
WORSHIP & SENIOR  
ADULT PASTOR  
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG
- 
- **Israel Jane**  
INTERIM STUDENT &  
YOUNG ADULT PASTOR  
ISRAELDJANE@GMAIL.COM
- 
- **David Stephens**  
CHILDREN'S PASTOR  
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG
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#### OFFICE STAFF

**Melissa Costello**  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT  
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

**Carol Breault**  
OFFICE & PASTORAL  
CARE ASSISTANT  
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

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

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