

Connections

//////
LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

VOL XIII: ISSUE 1

LBCPC.org

HAPPY

New Year

2023



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



As this New Year begins it is natural to reflect on the past year. Each New Year brings new hope of a better year than the last. After all, humanity thrives on hope, as we get up each day assuming today will be better than yesterday. Yet, many people seem hopeless around us. The church should be that beacon of hope to the nations, yet we see many churches with aging and dwindling populations, and many churches have even shut their doors. We've seen many laypeople backslide and many pastors deconstruct from the faith. The Gospel is the Good News for all mankind, yet for so many its life-saving message is viewed as old-fashioned or ignorant. For believers, it is becoming increasingly hard to live a life that glorifies God. There is incredible temptation and pressure placed on believers to conform to societal norms, and the accessibility of sin seems to be ramping up like never before. We see societal change being introduced at an alarming rate. It feels as if the world is spinning out of control and we are all headed down the drain. Then, I stop and remember; what's new is old, and what's old will be new again. The Word of God is clear in Ecclesiastes 1:9-11; "What has been will be again, what has been done

will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them." When we look at this world and worry that this world is spinning out of control, that churches are dying and people look far more like sinners than saints, let us remember the words of Job 42:2; "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted." Job, who faced immense personal turmoil, pain, betrayal, and loss, was reminded of the steadfastness and awesome power of our God. Job's God, and our God, is still on His throne, not one of His promises has ever failed, His people will endure to the end, and it is by His strength and power that we stand. What this New Year holds is uncertain to us. Yet, we have a God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What might be unknown to us is absolutely known to Him, and we can depend on His plan and His immutable nature.

God bless,
Andrew
John 3:30

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

PASTOR EMERITUS



We are beginning a new year, and not a one of us knows what it will bring. However, there is one thing about which we can be absolutely certain, and that certainty will give us courage, confidence, and comfort as we face each new day. It's a statement from the Bible, Romans 8:28 to be precise, and it gives us this assurance: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Let's notice several things about this promise of God.

1. It's Certainty. This promise is something that "we know." It's not conjecture or surmise or supposition. This is a word that God has spoken, and God cannot lie. All the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

2. It's Completeness. "All things" work together for good, not some things, not a few things, not most things. There is nothing outside the sphere of this promise. It's easy to believe that good things will contribute to our wellbeing, but how about the bad things? God even uses bad things for our good. Sodium is a deadly poison and chloride is a deadly poison, but compounded together, they become something good and tasteful, commonly known as salt. There are a lot of things that in and of themselves are not good, but downright terrible, but God takes those bad things and compounds them in the crucible of His omnipotence, mixes them with the hand of His love, and they become to us that which is good. If you don't believe that, then read again the story of Joseph and see in Genesis 50:20 the result of the bad things that happened to him. Read also in Jeremiah 24:5 about how God brought good out of the captivity of Judah and in Psalm 119:71 about God

teaching David more when he was sick than when he was well. God even uses Satan's efforts to cause destruction as opportunities to bless us, as exemplified in Paul's experience, described in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

3. It's Cause. Why do all things work together for our good? A more accurate translation is, "We know that God works all things together for good . . ." Things in themselves don't work together. God is the one who brings order out of confusion and orchestrates harmony out of discord. When it seems that circumstances rule, God overrules.

4. It's Condition. This promise is not automatic; there is a condition, and that condition is that we love God. Romans 8:28 does not apply to those who do not love God. In fact, the promise is reversed. All things work for bad to those who don't love God. The word of God is a two-edged sword. Where it does not cut to heal, it cuts to wound. If it does not bless you, it will convict and judge you. The same wind that blows one ship into the harbor is the same wind that blows another ship upon the rock.

5. It's Consequences. How do things work together for good? Underscore the phrase "called according to His purpose." The next verse identifies God's purpose, which is to transform us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. God's plan for you is that you be like Jesus, and He works all things together in your life to achieve that purpose.

This promise has been a mainstay in my life, and it has brought me victory in every circumstance. As I write these words, I am facing monumental challenges, but I have perfect peace, knowing that God loves me and that He directs all things toward my good. I pray that is your testimony as well.

Lakewood Happenings

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
New Year's Day 1	Office Closed 2		10:30am VK/WMU 6:00pm AWANA resumes 4			
Lord's Supper 5:00pm Deacons Meet 8	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister 9	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 10	10:30am VK/WMU 7:00pm Finance Team 11		5:30pm Senior Game Night 13	
6:00pm Member's Meeting (Ch. Conf.) 15	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 16	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 17				
Sanctity of Life Sunday 6:00pm Deacon Ordination for Zack White 22	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 23	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 24		6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Sandy Carter 26		
6:00pm Annual Missions Meeting 29	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 30	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 31				

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/6	\$36,186.10	\$260.00	\$16,125.00	\$4,970.00	\$57,541.10
11/13	\$13,887.54	-	\$1,466.00	\$1,437.65	\$16,791.19
11/20	\$15,517.20	\$100.00	\$1,640.00	\$250.00	\$17,507.20
11/27	\$6,828.54	-	\$285.00	-	\$7,113.54

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 **Israel Jane**

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

.....

I'm so excited to report to you that God is doing great things in our youth. In November we had the opportunity to go to Discipleship now, where we partnered with 3 other churches. Together we shared the love of Jesus by handing out turkeys and bags of food to those in the community.

We also joined together with other youth groups for a few worship services.



On Sunday mornings we have been studying the book of James.

The last few weeks we have focused on...

Faith on Display in Your Conversations

When you rely on God, your words reflect His character.

Faith on Display in Facing the Enemy

In Christ, you can have victory over sin, the world, and Satan.

Faith on Display in Your Priorities

No matter what lies ahead, continue to trust God.

And on Wednesday nights we discussed the following topics.

Can one person truly make a difference?

(Numbers Chapter 16)

Jesus Christ is a very different King.

(Matthew 2:9-12)

God has truly given us a wonderful life.

(Proverbs 14:30)

It has been a great few months of discussion and going deeper with our students. I can't wait to see what God does in and through our students in the coming year 2023. Please keep praying for our students.

Psalm 105:1 Give thanks to the Lord and call out to him! Tell the nations what he has done!



**Need help dealing with the
loss of a loved one?
Let us help!**

**Classes begin
Monday, January 9 from 6-8pm**

~

Register @ GriefShare.org

or

Reach out to David @ 309-404-3647

A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



We are beginning to look into what 2023 will look like for us in the Kids Ministry, and I am prayerfully setting goals for our new year. One way that I organize this is simple, Dreams to Goals to Do. What I mean generally is we have items that we are doing, and we have plans to accomplish a certain task and we do it better each time. There are things that maybe we have not done but now have a goal to accomplish for the first time. Then there are dreams. These are things that we would really love to do, but for various reasons nothing but chatter surrounds these items. It is super cool, when a dream begins to transition into a goal then becomes something that is a part of our doing. I challenge anybody who I work with to dream big dreams and to never stop. The dreams are the pipeline to big audacious goals that would never be put on the table for the team to work towards. Ok, enough on this topic.

January is a time of new beginnings, at least in the sense that our calendar has turned over and culture says fresh start with that weight loss, savings, relationship, ministry, career, new semester classes for our students etc...etc. I don't have a problem with new year's resolutions. For my home January is more of a time where my wife and I prayerfully talk about God's calling on our life, marriage, parenting, family, mission, and ministry. My prayer for you is that if you set new year's resolutions, that they are in alignment with your God given mission grounded in the word.

One personal resolution that for the past 3 months has been developing in me is a new focus on communion. A few thoughts. We have a symbolic relationship between salvation and our worship. It's like breathing. We have to breath in so that we

can breathe out. We have to receive grace in salvation to breath out our worship. This is communion. As we partake in the elements of corporate communion it cannot just be a box that we check off, but a moment where we are to be with God. We are communing with the almighty God of heaven and earth in a corporate setting. My prayer for myself and for you is that we have not gone to church too long, come to worship too many times, and we've lost the heart of being amazed at our core by the King of Kings who came to earth as a baby, put on flesh and lived among His beloved creation. He sat down at a table prepared for you and me in the midst of our enemies, in the middle of the storm, in a broken world. We take His body and blood symbolically at this table prepared for us. We must remember it's not what is at the table but who is at this table. This is communion. I am planning to incorporate communion in a deeper way in my life and my family.

Okay, now that I've been all serious, here's some levity. As I'm writing this, I've almost dyed my hands blue. How so, You ask? End of year, de-clutter and reorganization of Kids Ministry building. I didn't know we had so much blue paint, and somehow a large broken bottle of blue food coloring was hiding in the blue paint. Yes, it broke and I had blue hands for Christmas.

Calendar

**Awana starts back up January 4 from
6PM-7:30PM**

GriefShare Class January 9 from 6PM-8PM

**Kids Ministry Volunteer Appreciation
Event February 4 at 6PM**

IN MEMORY OF:

Monte & Clyde Miller
for Lottie Moon
From Clara Jean Watson
Margaret Clark
for Lottie Moon
From Pat Holland

Allison Hightower
for General Fund
From Pat Holland

From Steve & Nancy Stainsby
for Bereavement
David Mathews

From Stephen & Nancy Stainsby
for Homebound

Rita Nevels
Becky Smith
Dot Oliver
Mary Ann Pickett
Billy Norris
Yvonne Melvin
Pansy Slocumb

IN HONOR OF:

Pastor Search Team
for General Fund
from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

SENIOR GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY
JANUARY 13
@ 5:30PM IN F/H

GRIEF SHARE
CLASSES BEGIN

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH
6-8PM

Register@GriefShare.org
or Call David
@ 309-404-3647

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

Jerry Horner
PASTOR EMERITUS
HORNERJERRY@GMAIL.COM

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
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
Fax: 334.298.4873
LBCPC.org
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM