

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JULY 2023

VOL XIII: ISSUE 7 LBCPC.org

eurobrass

music that goes beyond

Tuesday July 25 7:00 LBC Sanctuary



Since 1978, the eurobrass ensemble has captivated German concert audiences with its unique combination of beautiful music and a message of hope and joy in Jesus Christ.

This year, the ensemble will be touring in the United States showcasing various combinations of trumpets, horns, trombones, and tuba. eurobrass will present a program that reflects the diversity and richness of God's creation, performed with musical precision and infectious joy. The twelve members of the ensemble come from twelve states—ten in the US, two in Germany—and perform in ensembles ranging from symphony orchestras to soul bands. A eurobrass concert includes a similar diversity of music, from classical to gospel jazz and from ancient hymns of the church to modern praise and worship.

Come see for yourself how music can go beyond!

Admission to the concert is free; a love offering will be taken.

A Message from **Andrew Spires**

LEAD PASTOR



After giving much thought how best to relay to the church body an update of events and topics from the Southern Baptist Convention's Annual meeting which I attended in New Orleans, Louisiana June 11th-14th, I decided that my Connections article would be the best medium. While I realize some of our members are not concerned about anything beyond what directly happens at or impacts Lakewood Baptist Church, it is always good for all of us to know what is going on in the rest of our cooperating churches. So, I thought it wise to give you a report of what I saw and heard during the annual meeting. This year's SBC Annual Meeting was one of the largest ones in history with over 16,000+ attendees and nearly 13,000 messengers (voting members sent by churches). The first two days are called the Pastor's Conference where various pastors from the convention are chosen to preach. This year's theme was; "The Beatitudes of a Pastor" and each speaker expounded on a verse from Jesus' teaching on The Beatitudes found in Matthew chapter 5. Many of these pastors were gifted speakers who brought challenging words of encouragement to their fellow pastors and laypeople. There was a blend of worship styles shown throughout the conference. The first two days were very contemporary in style and done quite well. The final two days were much more traditional with many hymns, choirs, and ensembles, which was also done.

The final two days are reserved for reports and business. They are basically all-day business meetings with worship mixed in. On Tuesday, there were reports from the IMB (International Mission Board) and NAMB (North American Mission Board). One of the best parts of this section of the annual meeting was the commissioning or sending celebration of 76 new missionaries/

missionary families. We got to hear from each person or couple, some of whose faces and names were shrouded due to the dangerous nature of the location of missionary ministry. Many of these new missionaries were sent to unreached people groups in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. We also heard the report that NAMB had planted and verified the continued existence of around 10,000 churches in the last decade in North America and that they, as an organization, are doing more than ever to ensure new church plants not only survive but thrive.

There was also the election of officers for the year. The incumbent SBC president, Bart Barber, ran against Mike Stone. Bart Barber likely received the challenge due to his and the executive committee's handling of the SBC sex abuse scandal which was a major point of discussion in the 2022 SBC Annual meeting. Much of the concern over the leadership stems from how reporting should be handled by autonomous churches and what grounds and right the SBC could have to govern autonomous cooperating churches. Another concern is what to do if false charges were made, and a person's reputation was ruined. The final concern has also been voiced here recently at Lakewood's Member's Meetings by Ron Wilson, over the funding of the sex abuse investigation where funds were used from the Cooperative program along with the IMB and NAMB. All of these concerns were spoken to in the form of a question by messengers and responses given by executive committee members. We were told there have been changes made to ensure that when a charge comes to light a proper investigation ensues and that the church name will be left off any reports or website so as to not ruin the reputation of the church. The election of the president was not particularly close as Bart Barber won

president was not particularly close as Bart Barber won re-election by a margin of roughly 68+% to 31+% for Stone.

There were also a number of resolutions and amendments that were brought forward for consideration. Some passed, and others failed. Instead of detailing each of these, I have the printed sheets available in my office should anyone desire to read over them. The most dramatic and serious part of the annual meeting was the vote to disfellowship three churches that were not in 'friendly cooperation' with the SBC. This means that they are not in consistent practice with the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, which is available to read and download/print online. All three churches had appealed the decision from the SBC to be removed as an SBC cooperative church. The three churches were Fern Creek Baptist Church, Freedom Church, and Saddleback Church, with the latter being the largest and most famous church. Both Fern Creek and Saddleback were disfellowshipped due to the ordination of females to pastoral roles. Freedom Church had apparently and knowingly hired a pastor accused of sexual abuse, though they claimed that he had since stepped down from leadership. All three churches presented their appeal including the female pastor of Fern Creek and Rick Warren of Saddleback. Al Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Seminary, gave the response to both churches that had ordained female pastors, giving the biblical mandate for pastors. The SBC representative that spoke in rebuttal to Freedom Church explained that the pastor in

question had only stepped back as a ploy to stay within the SBC and would regain a pastoral role if they were restored to fellowship. The vote was taken and all three disfellowships were upheld by huge majorities ranging from 88-95%. Other topics of discussion were mainly centered on fiscal responsibility, responses to COVID/vaccines, and abortion.

I can say that going in, I expected the business meetings to be a little more contentious than what became reality. I was pleased that for the most part, it seemed that everyone showed each other grace and respect. While there were many differing opinions overall the spirit of unity was present. My favorite part was the opportunity to reconnect with brothers in Christ who now serve in pastoral roles elsewhere. Having the opportunity to catch up and bounce ministry ideas off one another was invaluable. The verse from Proverbs 27:17 came to mind often, which says; "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." I was also encouraged to see so many brothers and sisters in Christ striving for the sake of the Gospel and that we as Southern Baptists, are still vitally focused on the Great Commission by advancing the kingdom both here and around the world. Next year's annual meeting is in Indianapolis, Indiana in early June. In the future, I look forward to strengthening our relationships within the local Russell Baptist Association, the Columbus Baptist Association, and the Alabama State Board of Missions, as well as the SBC.

God bless,
drew



SENIOR ADULT TRIP

Lunch in Cusseta

Tuesday, July 18 | Leave church at 10:45am

Ordering from Menu | Will return by 2pm

Contact Gail if you are interested @ 706-315-1744

Lakewood Happenings

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
9:00am Bible Fellowship 10:30am Worship 2	Jamaica Mission Trip 3	Independence Day Office Closed Jamaica Mission Trip 4	Jamaica Mission Trip 5	Jamaica Mission Trip 6	Jamaica Mission Trip 7	Jamaica Mission Trip 8
Jamaica Mission Trip 5:00pm Deacon's Meeting 9	Merge Kids Camp 10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister S. Scruggs 10	Merge Kids Camp 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 11	Merge Kids Camp 12	Merge Kids Camp 6:30pm Christmas in July F/H 13	5:30pm Senior Game Night 14	15
New Mexico Mission Trip Lord's Supper 16	New Mexico Mission Trip 10:30am Amen Choir 17	New Mexico Mission Trip 10:45am Front Porch Lunch 6:15pm Alleluia Choir 18	New Mexico Mission Trip 7:00pm Finance Team Meets 19	New Mexico Mission Trip 20	New Mexico Mission Trip 21	New Mexico Mission Trip 22
6:00pm Member's Meeting 23	10:30am Amen Choir 24	7:00pm eurobrass 25	6:00pm Wet Wednesday 26	27	28	11:00am Feed the homeless 29
30	10:30am Amen Choir 31					

May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
5/7	\$29,363.16	\$180.00	\$2,143.50	\$1,696.20	\$33,382.86
5/14	\$15,618.35	-	\$1,005.00	\$1,624.00	\$18,247.35
5/21	\$14,608.70	\$75.00	\$1,843.95	\$621.50	\$17,149.15
5/28	\$11,223.00	-	\$1,209.61	\$2,150.00	\$14,582.61

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm Youth Worship

A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



The youth just got back from our trip to Panama City for Merge Summer Camp, and we had a great time. God showed up! While we were there, we sang a worship song each night that the kids really enjoyed. It was called "Honey in the Rock".

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go
I don't need to worry now that I know
Everything I need You've got
There's honey in the rock

In the Bible, there's a verse Psalm 81:16 that says, "But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Imagine being in a desert with no food or water. You'd be tired, thirsty, and hungry. But then, out of nowhere, you discover honey dripping from a rock! How amazing would that be? It's a reminder that God can provide us with unexpected blessings even in the most difficult situations.

Sometimes, life can feel like a desert. We face challenges, disappointments, and struggles that make us feel empty and alone. But just like honey in the rock, God has a way of bringing sweetness into our lives when we least expect it.

When we face tough times, it's important to remember that God is always with us. He knows our struggles and wants to provide us with the strength, comfort, and joy we need. He can turn our difficult situations into opportunities for growth and blessings.

So, how can we find "honey in the rock" in our own lives? Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Stay connected with God: Spend time in prayer and reading the Bible. Seek His guidance and trust that He will lead you through any challenges you face.

2. Look for the blessings: Even in tough times, there are often small blessings hidden among the difficulties. Take time to notice and appreciate them. They might be little moments of joy, acts of kindness from others, or unexpected solutions to problems.

3. Trust in God's provision: Just like the honey in the rock, God has the ability to satisfy our deepest needs. Trust that He will provide for you and meet your needs in His perfect timing.

Remember, God's love and provision are always available to us, even in the hardest moments. When life feels dry and challenging, keep your eyes open for the "honey in the rock." Trust that God will bring sweetness and blessings into your life.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS



Back to school supplies for LBC clothes closet

**Collection boxes will be in the lower lobby
and the Sanctuary lobby during the month of July**

Suggested Items:

**School Supplies
New or Gently Used Back Packs
Lunch Boxes
New Socks
New Underwear
Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer**



***Come celebrate
Christmas in July***

**Thursday July 13th at 6:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Spaghetti dinner will be served**

****Bring a sweet treat to
swap with others***

**We will pack
Operation Christmas Child Boxes
Bring items to help fill the boxes**

A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



We are in the heart of SUMMER! We all have a different kind of busy to contend with these months. The kids are running around. We have our travel plans. We have the rainy days. We like our 70 degree AC'd homes, and pool side comforts. It is very important to be able to rest. We must be able to slow down and breath, reflect, and recharge. It is so easy to get caught up with the go, go, go life that we lose sight of what is best, and we start performing. Our handshake is less firm, our smile is less genuine, our feet are not as quick to go, and our focus wanes. We know we need to stop, but will we? I recently did a talk on the prodigal son parable from Matthew 15. This is arguably the greatest or at least the most well known story Jesus ever told. If you grew up in church, you know it. It's been sermonized countless times and countless ways. You've got your leaving son running to prodigal living. You've got your praying watchful father. You've got your returning and restored son. You've got your angry son, and then the curtain drops on this story with a pleading father who has gone out to his older son. Recognize that the father goes out to both of his sons. When the son who left comes to his senses realizing the servants at home have it better, he plans a speech and heads home. The father sees his son, runs out to him in an undignified manner to receive him motivated by love. He is also going to eliminate the cultural shame that would be put on his son. The Father doesn't even let his son get out, what I'm sure was a well-rehearsed speech. The narrative goes to, grab the robe signifying honored guest, put on the ring, a symbol of authority, put on the sandals signifying he's not a slave he is restored into the family. I see this father and son walking home arm in arm. The father saying something like you townspeople wanted to shame him but he is my son. We are planning a party at the house, kill that fatted calf. Jesus then squares this story right up to the religious people of that day and brings in the older brother. He's returning from work and his people tell him there's a party at the house, with music and dancing. His younger brother has returned. This brother does not enter the party, and the father goes out to him pleading for him to enter. The older brother is angry and refuses. This older brother has been performing good works his entire life, his behavior is definitely more socially acceptable than his brothers. This is a hard thing. I get it. I want to perform well. I want the best. I want to win. I want to have deep kingdom impact in every adventure I undertake. I want things done right and I really hate surprises that could negatively affect desired outcomes. There is nothing wrong with any of this. God does want us to do our work with excellence, putting our best out there for him to multiply, but we cannot allow performance to weave its way into our relationship with God. We do not get our value from our performance. The

older brother is of the mindset that his acceptance comes from his performance, and the father is pleading for him to enter the party. The music is already playing, and the party is for him as well. The question to ask yourself is simple. How do you react when other people get restored? What if that restored person hurt you? The younger brother was under the blessing of the unconditional love of the father, and this love relationship with the father moves the believer to gratitude that will develop into good works. We don't know what happens to the older brother. Jesus ends the story. Maybe he realizes the party is for him as well, maybe not. As believers, as the church, we must be able to receive those into our spaces with prodigal lifestyles directing them to the unconditional love of Jesus, and we must recognize the subtle movement to the performance 'I'm accepted by good works mindset'. This summer let's take care to see and pray for those we know running to prodigal living. Let's be able to receive and work with people that need and are working for restoration. Let's keep our guard up against the performance mindset. Let's do our work with humility and allow him to take our best and magnify his name through us. Stop all the noise and let Him love you!

We had a fantastic VBS. We raised over \$2,500 towards Operation Christmas Child. We averaged over 115 kids each night, with 75 workers. Thank you to all who came out to help. I know there are conversations developing in the hearts and minds of the children because of our team.

Our next big adventure for this summer is MERGE summer camp. Please be praying over this week. The 4th -6th graders that go to camp come back changed in their relationship with God. It is remarkable to see God at work in our youth. These kids are the leaders of the 2050 church.

Children's Summer Calendar

July 10-13 MERGE Summer Camp.

If you are interested in helping us sponsor a camper that cost is \$220. We do have a need.

There are a few spots, so if you know of somebody who interested direct them my way.

Wet Wednesday dates: (6-7:30PM)

June 28; July 26; August 30

AWANA registration August 30

Fall AWANA start date: September 6

In Memory of
Homer Gray for Amen Choir from Bert & Lisa Woodburn
Brenda Slappey
Glenda Medley

For LOAF from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
Gary & Kathy Hollon

For Mercy Med from Gail Brantley
For Children's Ministry from Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead
For Bereavement from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree
For Belize Feed a child from Pat Holland

Margaret Weaver
for Bereavement from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree

Annie Horner for Bereavement from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree
for Amen Choir from Stephen & Nancy Stainsby

King & Rain Thomas for LOAF from Paricia Thomas

Tommy Evans for LOAF from Brenda Evans

In Honor of
Chris Bankston for LOAF from Terry Grimes

**SENIOR
GAME NIGHT**

Friday, July 14
5:30pm in F/H

Menu:
Pizza, Salad &
Watermelon

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBER**

Donna Metcalf

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