

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH JULY 2024 VOL XIII: ISSUE 7 LBCPC.org



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



We've just celebrated our fiftieth anniversary as Lakewood Baptist Church. Wasn't it great to have the church combined as one body of Christ in worship and for a corporate meal? Thank you to all who worked hard to make this a reality. From those who gathered memorabilia, to those who decorated and set up, and planned the meal, to those who served the meal and cleaned up afterward, what a blessing you all are to Lakewood Baptist Church! My prayer for the future of Lakewood is that we all passionately pursue Christ in our daily lives, our ministries, and our church. That our lives are marked by obedience to God's Word, that we are salt and light to the dark world around us. That the next fifty years of Lakewood eclipse the previous as far as Gospel usefulness and expansion of God's kingdom. Only God can accomplish this through us as we are led by His Holy Spirit.

I also wanted to use this article as an opportunity to update the church body on the recent annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Zack White, one of our deacons, and I went to Indianapolis, Indiana June 9th-13th as messengers representing our church. As messengers, we are asked to represent the church in voting during the annual meeting. The first two days are the Pastor's Conference where selected pastors from the SBC preach the Word and pour into all those in attendance. This is always a great time for pastors to sit under preaching and teaching since so often they are pouring into others and are rarely poured into themselves. This year did not disappoint as all the pastors who spoke rightly divided the Word of Truth. The final two days are basically all-day business meetings. I know, contain your excitement! For most, you probably don't desire to spend a day, much less two, hearing arguments about relevant topics of the day. However, this is actually very important for SBC life and helps to set the course for the convention and its cooperating churches.

This year was an overall peaceful meeting with a few moments of contention. Like last year, the biggest hot-button topic was the pastoral role in churches. More specifically, whether or not the role of pastor/shepherd or elder is reserved for qualified men (only) as outlined in scripture. Last year, in New Orleans, the SBC voted to take a stand on this issue and make it clear in our guiding documents that the office of pastor is to be filled by a qualified male according to the Word. This became known as the Law Amendment, named after a pastor named Mike Law who advanced it. However, a change of the constitution of the SBC requires a two-thirds majority vote in two consecutive year's conventions. Last year, the amendment was introduced and garnered

more than the two-thirds vote needed for approval. This meant that this year's vote, should it be affirmative, would actually change the constitution. After much discussion, the vote was taken, and the amendment garnered a little less than 62% of the vote. While a majority approved, the amendment did not receive the 67% needed to solidify the change. Many secular news outlets jumped on this story and printed headlines like; "SBC reverses course on women pastors".

However, this was not the case, there's much more to the story. First, two likely reasons that it did not pass. One, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 already contains the following phrase regarding the Church; "In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." In most basic terminology, the officer of pastor is reserved for qualified men not because of ability, both men and women are equal in the eyes of God, but because of the order and responsibility that God instituted in the church. Quoting from 1 Timothy 3:1-7; *"Here is a trustworthy saying; If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap."* There is simply no way to negate the clear male designation in this text. People still try to play with the language or translation but the Word is clear. God created the Church, it is the bride of Christ, and He alone organizes it and sets the rules. We cannot set aside what He commands for the sake of pragmatism or a culture that loudly screams otherwise. Women are clearly able to lead, clearly very spiritual people (many times more so than their husbands), and have just as much ability as men. This is about God's order not aptitude. Women can serve as lay leaders, committee heads/leaders, bible fellowship teachers, directors of ministries, women's ministry leaders, and missionaries. Women currently fill all these positions and more in the SBC. Yet, just as God commands male spiritual headship of the home, He also commands male spiritual headship of the church. The SBC holds a complementarian view of

this issue which states that men and women are absolutely equal and yet they possess distinct gender roles and functions within the home and church which work together for God's glory. However, some felt there was no need for such an amendment as it would be redundant in their view with the current language of the BF&M 2000.

Second, the largest concern lobbed against the Law Amendment was to know the spirit behind the amendment. Mainly, could it be used to investigate and potentially disfellowship churches that have women serving in director roles within their ministries? For example; some SBC churches employ women as daycare directors, children's directors, or women's ministry directors without them being ordained and serving in a pastoral office. Such women function and use their gifts within those ministries but do not exercise any leadership authority outside of that ministry. For clarity, the SBC is a group of cooperative churches, which means exactly how it sounds. We voluntarily work together, especially when it comes to missions, service, education, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. We may not always agree on everything but our faith and practice are very similar. Though we cooperate willingly we reserve our autonomy. No one can force another SBC church to stop doing what they are doing, we are autonomous bodies of Christ. This leads me to what has happened at the SBC the past two annual meetings (including the one that just took place). While the Law Amendment failed to gain the necessary support to amend the constitution we again voted to find churches "not in friendly cooperation" with the SBC. This means that an SBC church's faith and practice does not closely identify with the BF&M 2000. In essence, they are no longer a cooperative church and have lost their seat at the table. This doesn't mean that a church is no longer a church, but that it is no longer an SBC church. So, while headlines may have said otherwise, the SBC again voted to uphold the authority of Scripture as it dealt with the office of pastor, and overwhelmingly so. The vote was 90+% to cease cooperation with FBC Alexandria, VA who maintained a female as pastor on their staff for more than twenty years.

Therefore, the other objection was that we already have a process that is working and currently being exercised without "risking" a future task force to investigate SBC churches with female staff members.

Many other issues were discussed at this year's SBC Annual Meeting including what the SBC stance should be on embryos that have been frozen for future IVF. Single copies of the daily bulletins and the book of annual reports are located in my box in the church office. However, the highlight (as always) is the commissioning/sending portion of new missionaries to the mission field. Many of those who will travel abroad cannot have their true identities shown publically because of the danger they will face as Christian missionaries on the foreign mission field. We should all be thankful for those who eschew comfort and lay it all on the line for the sake of the Gospel to reach the unreached. We may never know their names or faces but faithfully pray for our missionaries both here in North America and abroad. Next year's annual meeting is planned for June in Dallas, Texas.

Locally, we have recently (6/18/24) been advised by the Russell Baptist Association that FBC Phenix City is no longer part of the RBA. This choice was made by FBCPC to disassociate after repeated attempts by the RBA missionary (Marty Holley) to meet for discussion about continued involvement in the RBA. Marty tried multiple times over the last few years to gain a working relationship with this local church. His attempts were always denied. He renewed his efforts after the tragic events of last year but to no avail. Marty has asked each RBA church to make this announcement to their churches so that there's no confusion over this issue. I will read the letter sent by the RBA in its entirety at our upcoming Member's Meeting on July 21st, 2024. The RBA Credentials Team will report this to the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions after their next Executive Team Meeting in July 2024. Please join me in prayer for this local church.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30



Thursday, July 25
6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
Dinner provided, bring a
dessert to share

We will pack OCC boxes with donations that we receive. The donation box will be in the downstairs lobby. Last day for donations is July 25.

S I S T E R

To

S I S T E R

July 8 6:30 pm

in the FAC

Hosted by Paige Spires

NO SOAP IN SHOEBOXES

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD WILL SOON NOT ALLOW SOAP TO BE SHIPPED IN SHOEBOXES



In 2023 alone, over 3 million shoeboxes were delayed in shipping because of soap bars.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SPREAD THE WORD

PROVIDENCE CHOIR CONCERT

WITH DR. SMITH

SUNDAY, JULY 28
6:00 PM



SUMMERVILLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
3500 SUMMERVILLE RD,
PHENIX CITY, AL 36867

A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



OK! It's warm out. I'm writing this on what is probably the hottest day of the year so far. This day also happens to be the day that we will have A LOT of kids running around on our front yard playing in water for Wet Wednesday.

So, this is summer break.

Here are some Vacation Bible School Pictures.

What a great week!

Yes, the girls won our OCC contest, but I'll take a pie in the face any day to help us present the gospel to children around the world.

LAUNCH Event



We had a great time this past month taking our kids to the trampoline park, where A LOT of jumping occurred. I do not JUMP like that anymore. Between the torn up knee and the too many to count rolled ankles, there is no jumping for me. It really was great fun.



July Events

Our off campus event will be at Stars & Strikes July 24 from 1-3

Wet Wednesday will be July 31 from 6-7:30.

Merge Kids Camp July 8-11

Lakewood Happenings

July 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir Romania 1	Romania 2	7:00pm Hang out at the Farm No Bible Study Romania 3	Happy Independence Day Romania 4	Romania 5	Romania 6
Romania 7	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister to Sister FAC Romania Merge Kids 8	6:15pm Alleluia Choir Romania Merge Kids 9	Romania Merge Kids 10	Merge Kids 11	10:00am Table Talk 5:30pm Senior Game Night Hot Dogs 12	The Garden Party/Guys Night 13
Lord's Supper 5:00pm Deacons Meet 5:00pm L'wood Games /N.M 14	10:30am Amen Choir New Mexico 15	6:15pm Alleluia Choir New Mexico 16	7:15pm Finance Team Meets New Mexico 17	New Mexico 18	New Mexico 19	New Mexico 20
6:00pm Member's Meeting 21	10:30am Amen Choir 22	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 23	1:00pm Stars & Strikes 24	6:30pm WMU OCC Packing Party 25	10:00am Table Talk 26	11:00am Feed the Homeless 27
6:00pm Providence BC Choir Concert @ S'Ville BC 28	10:30am Amen Choir 11:00am Middle School Monday 29	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 30	6:00pm Wet Wednesday 6:30pm Parent Night 31			

May Giving

DATE	BUDGET	R-R-R	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
05/05/24	\$28,105.51	\$11,083.00	\$2,589.08	\$719.00	\$42,496.59
05/12/24	\$22,628.95	\$2,221.20	\$1,756.59	\$1,228.00	\$27,834.74
05/19/24	\$8,822.11	\$170.00	\$3,279.32	\$620.00	\$12,891.43
05/26/24	\$13,475.96	\$615.18	\$2,157.00	\$377.69	\$16,625.83

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 Josh Elliott

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Hey Church!

The last month has been an absolute blast! It's hard to believe it has already been a month. June has flown by. There is truth to the statement "time flies when you're having fun". As a Student and Young Adult ministry, we have served during VBS, went to MERGE Camp, had a couple of Middle School Mondays, began studying Ephesians at our Table Talk events, and even played a good ole game of kickball. We have been busy to say the least. The goal is not to be busy though. The goal is to grow in our relationships with one another and with the Lord. Our sermon series for the summer has been titled 'Summer of Growth'. Summer is busy. There are vacations, hobbies, work, summer workouts, sports,

events here at church, all of which are vying for our time and attention. My hope, and the point behind our summer series, is that we will not look back on this summer and see that we took a break from our relationship with Christ. I hope that we will all look back on this summer with joy at all the memories made, and most importantly my prayer is that we look back on this summer as a Summer of Growth in our relationship with Christ. My family and I have enjoyed getting to know everyone, and we look forward to building on these relationships going forward. If you haven't had a chance to meet us yet, please do not hesitate to stop by the office or grab us before a service. We would love to talk with you!

In Christ,
Josh



In Memory of:

Jean Tedder

for Bereavement
from John Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

For Merge Camp
from Joyful Servants BF Class
Margaret Wilson

For Homeless
from Gail Brantley

For Restore, Renew, Rejuvenate
from Brenda Evans

For Amen Choir
From Peggy Martin

For Children's Ministry
From Bill & Judy McCarley

Sheila Waldrop
For OCC
From Bill & Judy McCarley

Linda Scarborough
For General Fund
from Beverly Locke

In Honor of:

Gabe Hedges

For Restore, Renew, Rejuvenate
from Terry Grimes

Debbie Parks
For Belize Feed a child
from Terry Grimes

Welcome
New Members

Mason Watson
Awilda DeLaPaz
Pagan

Kyler Loyless
Mark, Angela, Cole &
Eli Williams

Senior
Game Night

Friday, July 12th

5:30 pm

Hot Dogs
Watermelon
Fellowship Hall

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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LEAD PASTOR
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

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• *Charles Keown*
• WORSHIP & SENIOR
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

