

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH JUNE 2024 VOL XIII: ISSUE 6 LBCPC.org

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH VBS

JUNE 2-6
5:30PM-
8:30PM

4011
LAKEWOOD
DRIVE
PHENIX CITY,
AL 36867

ACTIVITIES

- Dinner
- Worship Rally
- Arts & Crafts
- Music
- Bible Story Time
- Game time

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

REGISTER USING THE
QR CODE.



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



Recently, we had the opportunity to travel to Belize to be with our Belizean missionary, Dr. Paul Whisnant. Paul has an organization of fifty-four local Baptist churches and operates numerous Feed-a-Child Centers around the small Central American country. As you know, Lakewood takes up an offering to feed the needy children of Belize during our weekly worship services. I praise God that currently, we average between \$1,200-1,400 per month in monthly donations which represents a huge blessing to Dr. Paul's ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving. He never fails to regularly thank me for the church's giving to the ministry. You likely won't know this side of eternity how that impacted children and families that you may never meet. As you may also know, it has been hard to return to the mission field in Belize since Covid. Belize is a true third-world country, there was little healthcare available before the pandemic. Therefore, many Belizeans suffered greatly when the pandemic began, many lost their lives, and the country suffered economically in the loss of tourism and the closing of its borders to neighboring countries. Many citizens became desperate to feed their families as crime and acts of violence ensued. We are prayerful that that trend will continue to wane.

During our quick trip, we were able to visit two Feed-a-Child centers that I had not previously seen. We were able to help with the preparation and serving of food and overall ministry to the children. It was wonderful to be around the Belizean kids again. To see their smiles. To hear some share the bible verses they had memorized. One girl had memorized the names of all the books of the bible in order which she recounted for me. We gave them candy and

the mini-Jesus figures that we brought to share with them. Debbie Parks, our bible fellowship director, graciously helped to cook, prepare, and serve the food and even made some tortillas for the volunteers. During this time we met the main overseers of the centers, the ones who make it happen day in and day out. They were gracious to show us around and to allow us to help. We asked what their biggest need was and received an unexpected response. While they always need more funds to feed more children, they both asked for the same thing; "We need more tables and benches to give the kids a place to eat."

At one center Dr. Paul told them that he was willing to go to a local lumber yard and place an order for some wooden tables to be made. At the other location, we told them that we would have to think about it and pray for God's guidance, as they were hoping for some longer-lasting plastic tables and benches which are more costly and tougher to procure. My mind immediately went to all we have going on here at Lakewood. Summer is around the corner; VBS, missions, and camps are all coming soon. It's a busy time of year with a lot of financial expenses. Summertime isn't always the best as far as giving goes within the church as people are scattered here and there. Much less, we are in the middle of our RRR program where we are renovating the buildings God has given us over the last fifty years here at Lakewood. How could we ask for anything more? Though the cost was relatively small, how could I ask the church to give more when they have already stepped up their giving to Belize since I became the lead pastor? How could I ask for anything extra while many are already sacrificially giving to RRR? How can I ask for more when everything here

seems to be skyrocketing in cost? How God, how?

Then I came home to the first of our combined services due to the renovation process in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The FAC was packed for Graduation Sunday as Israel prepared to honor our grads. As I walked around greeting our folks, one church member stopped me. He asked how I was, and how the trip went, and then told me that his wife had put something special in the offering designated for Belize. I thanked him and continued to greet others. When I came into the office on Monday, I learned that the gift given was more than enough to cover the need for those new tables and chairs with plenty left over for feeding the kids as well. I quickly contacted these members and asked their permission to use part of their gift for this need, and they graciously and gladly approved! However, don't miss what God was reminding me. I had been concerned about what I could do to meet the need when God already had a plan and the resources all along. God constantly needs to remind me that He is in charge and doesn't truly need my help with anything. In His loving way, God reminded me of His sovereignty, provision, and providence even

as I preach the Jonah study. I thank God for this lesson!

Can I ask you a question? Have you seen Him move like this, in such a visible way? Have you seen Him take your cares, concerns, and problems and provide the solution when you least expected it? Maybe you're still waiting for that day, but please know, that our God is certainly on the throne. He has a plan and purpose, and nothing and no one is beyond His reach. Simply remain faithful to pray, to trust, to be faithful as you wait for His answer in His way and His timing. The longer I walk with Him, the more convinced I become that He can do more in twenty minutes than I can do in a lifetime. He doesn't need me, but I am so glad that He chooses to use me! Praise God for His faithfulness to and through His children! Please note the wonderful pictures enclosed and continue to pray for the kids, volunteers, and our missionary in Belize. One day soon, as God wills, we will return with our teams, and once again, God will move to meet the physical and spiritual needs of His children.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30



TABLES TO EAT ON



50th Anniversary
Combined Worship Service
June 30, 2024
10:30 AM



50th Anniversary
Celebration
June 30th

**Please bring a
dessert to share**

Lunch will be provided



A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



It's summer time! Let's remember that with all the hustle and bustle of what summer is that we don't forget to keep Christ in the center of it all. I'm reminded of when I was a child and my family would travel from Illinois to either Vermont or Virginia to visit grandparents. This was the only time we were able to see them. We looked forward to these trips, and all the various historical places we would visit and explore. Summer is time where many of us are able to change up our schedule with our children being out of school. These adjustments can be a bit chaotic as the schedule is not normal. As we make summer memories with our loved ones, let's remember to be looking for those opportunities to showcase Jesus to all of the different environments we find ourselves in this summer. Let's foster settings that promote

the Gospel. Let's be open to continuing to develop Gospel conversations with the people in our circles. As we build relationships, we develop a window into the heart of those God puts into our space, and we can speak truth that encourages. When we do this well we are confronting the culture that wants us to get caught up in all the busy and lose track of the heart of the matter, which is Christ and His glory on display through us. When we do this well, people take notice and want to see what we are all about. This gives us the opportunity to speak truth with love. As our children see us doing this well they will grow in their resilience to be able to confront whatever comes their way. They will have a foundation that is built on a thriving relationship with Jesus, his word, and his people.

CALENDAR:

VBS - June 2 - 6

MERGE Kids - July 8 - 11



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@LAKEWOODBAPTISTCHURCHPC

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A purple poster for 'Senior Game Night'. It features illustrations of a yellow and red rocking horse, a red and white ball, a green and purple chess piece, a green and purple chess piece, and several blue dominoes with orange dots. A green and white board game is also visible.

**SENIOR
GAME NIGHT**

June 14th
5:30 PM

Top floor of the
South Building

S I S T E R

To

S I S T E R

June 10th 6:30pm
at Shannon Scrugg's home

Lakewood Happenings

June 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						11:00am Feed the homeless 1
VBS 2	10:30am Amen Choir VBS 3	NO Alleluia Choir VBS 4	VBS 5	VBS 6		7 8
5:00pm Deacons Meeting 9	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister to Sister 10	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 11			5:30pm Senior Game Night Pizza & Dessert 14	15
Father's Day 16	10:30am Amen Choir 17	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 18	7:15pm Finance Team Meets 19			20 21 22
	10:30am Amen Choir 24	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 25		6:30pm JEG/BW 27		11:00am Feed the homeless 28 29
10:30am 50th Anniversary Celebration & Lunch No B.F. 30						

April Giving

DATE	BUDGET	R-R-R	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
04/07/24	\$25,546.77	\$10,285.00	\$4,113.90	\$1,601.00	\$41,546.67
04/14/24	\$38,455.61	\$1,404.00	\$1,070.00	\$1,110.00	\$42,039.61
04/21/24	\$13,887.11	\$255.00	\$1,389.84	\$1,660.00	\$17,191.95
04/28/24	\$9,079.83	\$20,550.00	\$3,399.85	\$921.00	\$33,950.68

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

