

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2023

VOL XIII: ISSUE 3

LBCPC.org

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®]

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

UNITED

CALLED TO BE ONE



**North American
Mission Board**

Designated envelopes are in back of pews

A Message from **Andrew Spires**

LEAD PASTOR

.....

I once heard a pastor tell this story about a man named Joe. Joe was an alcoholic who had lost a career, a home, his income, and finally his family. He became homeless, living on the street. Joe often found abandoned houses to sleep in, but many times he slept in the woods under the stars. He begged people for money to feed his addiction, it was a habit that seemed impossible to kick. Seemingly at the end of his rope, Joe went to a local Christian mission. He heard they would give him a warm shower, a hot meal, and a bed with a roof over his head. However, much to his surprise, as part of the mission's arrangements, Joe would have to attend a chapel service every morning after spending the night. Joe considered the cost. He had once been a church member, but what had God or the church done for him lately? However, down on his luck, with nowhere else to turn, he decided a church service or two was a small price to pay for the return. Joe entered the mission and was given that warm shower. He was fed along with other men like him. He was clothed with new clothes, at least new clothes to him. He laid his head down on a pillow for the first time in months. He slept more soundly than he had in ages. Joe awoke the next morning and it was time for chapel. Joe ambled into the sanctuary still relishing his good night's sleep. The pastor spoke of Jesus and He healed the sick and broken. How Jesus could redeem anyone and how Jesus alone could set the captives free from their bondage to sin. Though Joe had heard the same message

a thousand times, that day it hit Joe like a ton of bricks, and Joe came to the front and committed his life to Christ.

But that's not even the best part of the story. Not only did Joe become a child of God that day, but now Joe's lifestyle and actions began to change. Soon, the leaders at the mission couldn't get rid of ole' Joe. He was always there, always serving, and helping others just like him. Joe volunteered in the kitchen and cooked those hot meals. Joe cleaned the dirty toilets and showers without complaining. Joe separated and sorted the donated clothes that had once been such a blessing to him. Later on, Joe was allowed to lead a small group bible study and though his crowd was often hungover or high that didn't stop ole' Joe from preaching the Word with passion. Joe became so consistent that the mission soon hired Joe as a full-time employee. Now, Joe had a key to the building and responsibilities, but that didn't change ole' Joe. He still served the food, and cleaned the bathrooms, took out the trash, and led bible study.

One day, another alcoholic wandered into the same mission as Joe. He received the same warm shower, the same hot meal, the same type of clothes, and the same kind of bed as Joe had years before. He too got up and attended the same chapel service where Joe met his Savior. Weeks went by, and this man became a regular at the mission. Joe spoke to him often and took a special interest in him, even though there never seemed to be a breakthrough. Week after week (Cont.)

(Drew's Article Cont.)

the same homeless man would arrive at the mission, always drunk with the same sad story to tell. Joe would talk with him, Joe would help him to bed, and Joe would pray for him. One day the pastor of the mission decided to have a nighttime service. This was unusual because all the chapel services were in the morning when the effects of any intoxicants had worn off. But not this night, the pastor turned on the lights to the chapel and Joe stood at the door welcoming people in. The same homeless man came in that night and for once he was not hungover, as he was unsuccessful in his begging that day. He sat in the back surrounded by a crowd of sullen men, most with their heads down. The pastor delivered an impassioned and evangelistic message, he yelled loudly often to wake up his drooping crowd. As he closed his sermon no one moved or responded. Then suddenly, the homeless man rose, he walked down the center aisle and collapsed at the altar, and said aloud; "God, make me like Joe!" The pastor came over to the homeless man and said; "Son, I think

you meant to say; "Make me like Jesus!" The homeless man looked up at the pastor and said quite seriously; "Is Jesus like Joe?"

It has been said many times that we might be the only Jesus anyone ever sees. Another common saying is; we may be the only bible anyone ever reads. What does your reflection of Jesus look like? How does your bible read? Let's all remember Philippians 2:6-8 which says about Christ; "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to be grasped; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!" Let us all remember who we represent in this life as we look forward to the next.

God bless,
drew





Renown Musician

Mary

McDonald



in Concert
with the Amen Choir
Sunday March 26
4:00 p.m.



**Don't forget to
Spring Forward
March 12**

**Join Us Wednesday Nights
6:00-7:15
Fellowship Hall**

**Sister 2 Sister
3/13 @ 6
Home of Shannon Scruggs**



**Work Days
3/31 | All Day
4/1 | 8-2**

A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

.....

Greetings from the youth department, I am so thankful that I go to such a compassionate and giving church. Filled with people willing to serve and to help those in need, whenever there is a need.

This month we have been very busy. We took a group of around 20 to Andrews, NC to attend a SWO Pure and Holy retreat. Our students had the opportunity to hear from multiple speakers on the importance of staying pure and seeking the presence of a Holy God. I could tell you about how much God did in the lives of our youth, but instead of me telling you, I'll let a few of them tell you.

Allie Hedges said "SWO Pure and Holy helped me to understand the concept of what to look for in a Godly man, and how to find my security in the Lord, so that I can be secure in a future partner and in myself."

Caleb Wiggins said "Cravings are things that can sometimes get out of control, and sex outside of marriage is not something that we have to rush into, even though our culture tries to tell us otherwise."

Ava Jane said "What I got out of the SWO retreat is to fully be secure in myself I should be working every day to be a mirror image of God. I also took away the fact that in relationships both partners should be pushing each other towards the word and encouraging each other's relationships with the Lord."

Brice Watson said "I learned a lot about Godly relationships at SWO Pure and Holy. I learned not only how to handle them but how to be a provider for those relationships while serving our God.

And Memphis Jane said "I learned that I don't have to be scared to tell an adult about what I'm going through because they probably have gone through it too."

So many of you prayed, and gave to make this trip possible. Thank you for believing in our Youth.

Also wanted to thank all of you who donated, and came out to serve in our annual missions yard sale. It was a huge success with over \$6000 dollars coming in for missions.

In Christ,
Israel Jane



Lakewood Happenings

March 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU			
			1	2	3	4
12:30pm Senior Lunch trip to Eufuala	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir			5:30pm Senior Game Night BBQ Sandwiches	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TIME CHANGE SPRING FORWARD 5:00pm Deacon Meeting	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Team			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class	10:30am Women's Bible Study P.M. Room 6:15pm Alleluia Choir		6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Shannon Scruggs		11:00am Feed the Homeless
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4:00pm Mary McDonald in Concert	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class	6:15pm Alleluia Choir			8:00am Work Day	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
1/1	\$20,699.00	\$130.00	\$736.00	\$351.00	\$21,916.00
1/8	\$16,168.54	-	\$821.00	\$630.00	\$17,619.54
1/15	\$15,724.64	\$100.00	\$2,899.46	\$3,387.00	\$22,111.10
1/22	\$12,498.54	-	\$423.00	\$1,834.25	\$14,755.79
1/29	\$14,815.10	-	\$1,338.75	\$4,514.23	\$20,668.08

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary
Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

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

A Message from David Stephens

CHILDREN'S PASTOR

.....

We all need encouragement sometimes. And, if we are being completely honest with ourselves we need encouragement A LOT of the time. It does not matter how secure and confident someone may appear. We all need to be reassured, comforted, and built up. We need it daily. Are we not called to serve each other daily with encouragement? "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today" (Hebrew 3:13). This tells us we are supposed to be meeting others need for encouragement. How do we do this well? Real encouragement requires for us to be 'others' focused. 'We must consider others better than ourselves. We must not look on our interests, but also to those of others'. My paraphrase of (Philippians 2:3-4). How can we encourage others when we cannot even look outside of our own needs? How can we truly understand the needs of others when we are stuck on me, me, I, I, I? The answer is simple. We can't! We show fake sincerity, our smile is not genuine, our words are not life giving, because it is not rooted in a heart that is focused on the other person. Our encouragement is just headline memorization of niceties. We must get out of the High Chair and be true encouragers of people. We are the conduit of the Holy Spirit's power to the world. This Spirit is an encouraging spirit; we are called to this. As a father I personally like this scripture on encouragement. 'For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ENCOURAGING, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.' (1Thessalonians 2:11-12). As I look at my children I get excited when I see them growing and developing in new things. When they were little and they began to crawl, I crawled with them, speaking and acting out encouragement. When they started to walk then run, I chased them around the house praising their accomplishment and participating with them in their growth. As my son becomes more technology savvy than me

with computers, I applaud him and attempt to participate. When my daughter goes to rehearsal to develop her vocal ability, I speak words of life, beauty, and encouragement as I participate. These are things that I will never be able to do at the level of my children, but as I participate my manhood is never threatened by their progress and skills. When my children fall down I pick them up and encourage them with full confidence of their future successes.

We are far from perfect fathers, but we all have a spiritual Father who is the perfect encourager. This Heavenly Father has been encouraging me way before my day of salvation as He was calling me into His family. Think about it, we would never seek to have relationship with Jesus if He hadn't called us first and softened our heart. This part of our path that led up to the security of our salvation will require encouragement from all kinds of different people and places. With our faith firmly entrusted in the hands of God our walk is much easier as we join hands with others and walk together. This is participating in encouragement. Let's stop being threatened when we see others mature and grow, we can't be the only walkers in the family. Let's get out of the High Chair and start being true encouragers.

Children's Ministry Calendar Event

We will have work days on our campus March 31 and April 1 leading into our *Spring Festival* that will be Palm Sunday April 2 from 12-2.

We will have lunch on the grounds for a donation to support Children's Summer camp, Egg hunt for our kids, and activities for families to fellowship together.

IN MEMORY OF:

Barbara Wyrosdick
for Circles Of Influence
from Glenda Medley

Jean Matthews
for General Fund
from Glenda Medley

Scott Taylor
for Trinity United
Methodist Church
from LBC

IN HONOR OF

Myra Currier 80th Birthday
for WMU
from Trace Miller

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joanie Matlock

Kenny & Julie Harper

Cecilia & Isabella Hernandez

Cody & Summer McBroom

Harrison Hedges

**SENIOR GAME
NIGHT**

FRIDAY 2/10

5:30pm IN F/H

MENU:

BBQ SANDWICHES

**BEGINNING
APRIL 16TH**

**The first service will
begin at 8:45am**

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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
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