

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH MAY 2024 VOL XIII: ISSUE 5 LBCPC.org



Happy
Mother's Day
Proverbs 31:25

A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

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Recently, a group of pastors and lay leaders took a vision trip to the state of Vermont. The purpose of this trip was to develop a future partnership between the Baptist Churches of New England and the Russell Baptist Association. We were hosted by Russ Rathier, the state of Vermont's Associational missionary. He seemed to be the prototypical New Englander with a thick Vermonter accent, though I'm sure our Southern accents were not lost on him either. Vermont is the sixth smallest state by land mass with only 9,000+ square miles. It is the second least populated state with only slightly more people than the state of Wyoming. We traveled from one corner of that small state to the other. We saw farms, fields, maple trees, and quaint small towns. Many of these towns only had one to two thousand residents and were nestled into the shadow of mountainous terrain. The state was beautiful with many streams, rivers, hills, mountains, and the overall glory of God's creation. In each small town, in the town square, stood an old church, some were still open and others were closed. We heard many of the churches that were still open were no longer preaching the true Gospel but some form of universalism.

We also visited many small Baptist churches, all with congregations that were less than one hundred in membership. Most churches are in the range of fifteen to thirty active members. We were told that a church of one hundred would be considered a megachurch in their region. This meant many, if not most pastors are bi-vocational holding multiple jobs to make ends meet in an area of the country where there's a greater cost of living. More concerning than numbers was a quote from the missionary; "We are at least three generations removed from families

being in church!" He explained that not only were the grandkids unchurched, but their parents were unchurched, and even their grandparents had never darkened the church's door. He shared a story where a child asked a local pastor why they always placed a "t" on the tops of their buildings. The child was so unchurched that he was unaware of what the cross stood for. Could you imagine that America could ever get to this point? Think about that in our context in the South. Here, we observe many churches with aging membership rolls. Many churches with lower attendance numbers in weekly worship. Many with fewer conversions, and fewer baptisms. Many with shrinking budgets and a weakened impact for the sake of the Gospel. We bemoan the station of the Southern church which for generations was filled with so many "Cultural Christians" that it was hard to tell if the church we observed was really filled with the redeemed. Those days gave us false hope that most were on the right path. Yet today, for the most part, those who want to be the Church are there, as the tide turns against truly following Christ all across our country.

Yet, there is hope! In Vermont, we saw these small congregations filled with hearty believers who had not given up on their towns or their state. The remnant God has preserved was serving and serving their communities well. We saw their outreach programs as Christians across several denominations had banded together to meet the physical needs of a community that was ravaged by a flood last year. We saw a homeless outreach that grew into a church plant where people worshiped in a beautiful old church and a vibrant congregation was housed. continued...

We visited a Christian college that was planted in one of the darkest and most liberal areas of our country which has been effective in raising a new generation of biblically sound preachers and teachers that will stem the tide of Gospel-ignorance. Later this summer, some of our folks here at Lakewood will join others from around our community to go and work on student housing for the college with our Builders for Christ team.

God is certainly at work. God's people are at work. Let us be a people who pray for them and who go to serve alongside the Vermonters as they strive for the Kingdom's sake. May we also grow in our concern and readiness for this area of the country. May we all be ready to stand against what is surely coming. May God give us a burden for the lost here, there, and everywhere. God bless,
drew
John 3:30

SCHEDULE FOR DISPLACEMENT FROM SANCTUARY

Join us on
May 19th & 26th

FAMILY
ACTIVITY
CENTER

10:30 am
Combined
Worship

GRADUATE
RECOGNITION
19TH

9:00
Bible
Fellowship



A Message from Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Dear Church Family,

Life often throws us unexpected challenges, leaving us feeling lost and uncertain. In those moments, it's crucial to hold onto our trust in God, even when circumstances seem overwhelming.

As we navigate through the ups and downs, we can find comfort in Scripture. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to - "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*" These verses encourage us to rely on God's guidance, even when we can't see the way forward.

Furthermore, when people hurt us, it can be challenging to maintain our trust in God.

However, Romans 8:28 assures us "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" Even in the midst of pain, we can trust that God will ultimately bring restoration and healing.

Let's cling to these promises as we travel through life's trials, knowing that God is faithful and His love never fails. May we find strength in our trust in Him, confident that He will lead us through every difficulty into a brighter tomorrow.

In His Service,

Israel Jane

Important Events:

Fields of Faith

When: Tuesday, May 7th

Fields of Faith is a student led event. Students invite, pray for, share with, and challenge their peers to Jesus Christ. Meet at the FAC at 6:15pm. Event will be from 7pm - 8:30pm.

AWANA Awards

When: Wednesday, May 15th @ 6:00pm.

Due to sanctuary renovations, AWANA's awards night will be held in the FAC, meaning no student worship. Join us and volunteer for a fun time helping with the awards!

Graduation Sunday

When: Sunday, May 19th @ 10:30am.

Our annual Graduation Sunday recognition will be in the FAC. 2024 high school and college graduates, please arrive early and dressed in your cap and gown. Additionally, please text Israel [941-932-0568] a photo of you and include info about where you are graduating from, any accomplishments, and what future plans you may have.

Feed the Homeless

When: Saturday, June 1st @ 11am.

Our recurrent monthly, local mission project where we feed, clothe, and provide for the basic hygiene needs of those less fortunate. Come and serve as a family! Meet in the FAC at 11am to load supplies and the buses. Please bring lunch money, as we go eat together as a group afterwards. Over at 2pm.

Call
334-298-6433
to
reserve
your spot



A Day At *Botanic*

JOIN US FOR
THE DAY ON
MAY 18TH

\$5 donation for gas
Bring lunch and shopping
money

MAY 18TH AT 9:30

Resturants
The Grille
The Market

Shopping
The Market
Coffee Bar
Pastries

The Garden Shoppe
Antiques | Pottery
Home Decor
Crafts by
local artists
Paintings

WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

AMEN CHOIR Concert

Music Performed by
members from area churches

MAY
SUNDAY | 5 | 2024
6:00 PM

Lakewood Baptist Church Sanctuary

Women's Mission
Opportunities
Wednesday, May 1st
10:30 am

Virginia Kennedy
Women's Missions

Upstairs South Building

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Monday, May 13th
6:30 pm

Sister to Sister

Fellowship hall

~

Thursday, May 30th
6:30 pm

Jane Ellen Gaines
Baptist Women

Lisa Woodburn's

A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



I have three boys 16, 14, and now 12. Wow, how time flies. I can remember when they were still in diapers. As my wife and I work to keep God in the center of our home and in the parenting of our boys, it's a difficult task to navigate. On one hand you have the demasculinization of men, and all men are shown as being weak. While on the other hand you have what seems to be the opposite, a very strong man masculinity. I own and shoot guns. I wish I had more opportunity to become a better outdoorsman. I regularly hit the gym and lift weights. I attempt to fix stuff, and usually with a few YouTube videos, I can. If I can get to the part on my old truck, I'll definitely change it out myself. I attempt to engage my boys as often as possible in these activities. On the other side of this dynamic, the media tells of a male patriarchy system that needs to be totally taken down. Men are either not existent in the story line, or they are shown as weak, unintelligent and feminine. So what do we do? We have these opposite forces that are impacting the world our boys are growing up in. We have to go back to the very beginning. Prior to sin entering the world God gave Adam a job. I believe we are made to be keepers of the garden. We have this realm of influence we are required to watch over, protect, and cultivate. As a keeper of the garden we protect it from threats. As a keeper of the garden there are species that will not survive, but with you around protecting them they will bloom and thrive. This is our role. When we are at our best, we use whatever strength, ability, gifting, talents, to be keepers of the garden. When we do this well, everybody around us flourishes. For those who are married; I believe I'm at my best when my wife feels secure. This is when she is the most attracted to me. This is masculine. As a keeper of the garden you can help people around you feel secure with your words and

with whatever ability or resources you have at your disposal. Just don't bring insecurity. You can have the masculine things, but if you bring insecurity your wife will resent those things. Our job is to be keepers of the garden protecting the vulnerable. We must not betray our role. Men in their physical prime are to be protectors of people, not threatening to people. How backwards is our world? We need to be teaching our boys to be keepers of the garden, and they must be able to use their strength to bring peace, security, and encouragement to all who are around them. They need to be taught to be protectors of the vulnerable. This heart in practice will look very different than what culture presents. We must work to teach our boys what it means to be a Godly man. A man seeking after the heart of God, learning how to be a protector/keeper of the garden is very masculine and very attractive.

Calendar

We are finishing strong with AWANA our last club meeting for this year will be May 15. We will have our AWANA store and awards celebration. All are invited to hang out with us and our AWANA family this evening from 6-7:30 PM.

VBS: June 2-6 | 5:3 - 8:30 pm

We have a great program this year.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving, we need help!

This week is a lot of fun, with a lot of energy. We have a great opportunity to share with the children in our community the truths of the Gospel message.

Lakewood Happenings

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU			
			1	2	3	4
6:00pm Amen Choir Concert	10:30am Amen Choir	6:15pm Alleluia Choir			5:30pm Senior Game Night Pizza	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mother's Day 5:00pm Deacons Meeting	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister to Sister Fellowship hall	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	6:00pm Last AWANA & store Rally in FAC			9:30am Botanic Women's Ministry Event
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am Bible Fell. 10:30am Combined Worship in FAC	10:30am Amen Choir	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	7:15pm Finance Team Meets			11:00am Feed the homeless
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Bible Fell. 10:30am Combined Worship in FAC	<i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i>	No Alleluia Choir	No Orchestra	6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Lisa Woodburn		
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March Giving

DATE	BUDGET	R-R-R	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/03/24	\$23,084.96	\$465.00	\$1,505.64	\$1,887.00	\$26,942.60
3/10/24	\$28,765.40	\$10,464.00	\$902.68	\$2,709.00	\$42,841.08
3/17/24	\$27,101.75	\$3,660.00	\$4,679.70	\$1,877.00	\$37,318.45
3/24/24	\$9,497.20	\$1,159.00	\$2,558.00	\$578.00	\$13,792.20
3/31/24	\$13,408.95	\$532.00	\$2,623.93	\$3,081.00	\$19,645.88

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Sunday, June 30th

In Memory of:

Montie & Clide Miller
for Annie Armstrong
from Clara Jean Watson

Paul Runkel
for Bereavement
from Clara Jean Watson

Judy Loughry
for Bereavement
from Clara Jean Watson
Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

50th Anniversary Celebration
after 10:30 combined worship
Family Activities Center

BBQ Lunch - Bring Desserts



Welcome
New Memebers

Parker White
&
Linda Chesser

Senior
Game Night
Friday, May 10th
5:30 pm in the
fellowship hall

MINISTERIAL STAFF

ANDREW SPIRES
LEAD PASTOR
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

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Charles Keown
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
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VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL

June 2-6

5:30 - 8:30 pm