

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2023 VOL XIII: ISSUE 11 LBCPC.org



Shoebox deadline is Nov 12  
Volunteers needed to cartonize  
Nov 13 – 19 and load trucks Nov 20  
Call Linda for details!



*Welcome Home.*

# *A Message from* **Andrew Spires**

*LEAD PASTOR*



Recently, two of our church members and I were privileged to travel to the nation of Togo, West Africa for a missions vision trip. A vision trip is akin to an advanced scouting team that goes to assess the conditions and needs on the ground to see how a partnership may or may not materialize in the future. Our connection to Togo is through a missionary couple named James and Jenna Roberts whom we first met when they were just young adults, both serving at Snowbird in North Carolina. At that time, these two weren't even dating, but both James and Jenna served as counselors to some of our groups at Snowbird over the years. Soon God led them together as husband and wife and after a while, called them to serve overseas in Togo. They currently have one son and a daughter on the way. It has been great to watch them grow up, grow in Christ, grow together as a couple, and respond to God's call to become full-time missionaries. It was also great to see them serving together on the mission field. We even sat in on a language course as James and Jenna are both learning French to be able to fully communicate with the Togolese people.

While it took nearly 24 hours of travel time to get to Togo, it was still one of the most unique mission experiences of my life. The country was small yet full of people. The weather was tropical, warm, and humid, as it is near the equator. Like many of the places we go, the people are desperately poor and seemingly without hope. While the Gospel has begun to make some inroads and we viewed several churches that had been planted, much of the country remains steeped in idol worship. In every single town and village we entered there was some form of an idol, a literal effigy representative of their god. Offerings were placed on or near these idols. Most of the time it was some form of

animal sacrifice, food offering, or incense that was burned. The Voodoo religion originally found its roots in this area and later came to the Caribbean and Jamaica due to the evil of slavery. Voodoo is a fear-based religion where you must constantly appease the gods or they will punish and harm you. It was shocking to see how pervasive idolatry was in this country and you could almost feel the fear in many people's hearts.

It reminded me of countless scriptures we read about idol worship in the Old Testament and how even the nation of Israel struggled constantly to remove idolatry from their practice of worshipping the one true God. I was reminded of how quickly the nation of Israel turned to idolatry and the worship of the golden calf right after God miraculously delivered them from captivity in Egypt. Deuteronomy 32:16-18 gives us even more clarity on what idolatry really is when it says; "He (Israel) abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Savior. They made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered Him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you, you forgot the God who gave you birth." Did you understand what that verse is saying? When people sacrificed to idols it was actually demonic beings they were worshipping! This text clearly connects idolatry with demon worship. After all, let us not forget that Satan himself wanted Jesus to fall down and worship him during Christ's temptation, and if Satan wants to receive and steal worship from God, so do other demonic beings. It shouldn't surprise us that most ancient humans, across most cultures worshipped and embraced a multitude of false gods and demonic beings. It was



pervasive then but unfortunately, it is still pervasive now. Talk to many missionaries overseas today and they will often recount various occasions of supernatural demonic activity that would make your hair stand on end. They don't doubt that the enemy is real and demonic activity is just as alive today as it was in the past. Now, it may not surprise you that people in Africa are still steeped in physical and spiritual idolatry, but what about here in America? We may not have carved idols in our homes or towns but we have found many other things to worship such as the idols of money, success, knowledge, achievement, beauty, etc. Never forget, that anything we put before God is an idol and ultimately just as lifeless and worthless as a carved statue or stone.

We also just hosted our Belize missionary, Dr. Paul Whisnant, with International Servants. Dr. Paul shared a bit of his testimony in both services and challenged each of us to answer the missional call to be disciples who are making other disciples. We intentionally hosted Paul on the same day as our Annual Fall Festival so that we could hold a fundraiser for the Feed-a-Child program. It was an amazing day of in-reach and outreach, with so many people on campus. First, I want to thank each and every person who served and gave during our Fall

Festival, what a blessing your involvement and service were to the church and our community. Second, a special thanks to David Stephens and his Children's Ministry Leadership Team who did all the preparations and setup/cleanup to make this day a huge success. Finally, by God's grace and how He enabled you to give, Lakewood gave over \$13,000 to feed needy children in Belize. Add to that, another person, who is not a member of the church, and who was watching by livestream, dropped off another gift during the Fall Festival, bringing the overall total for the day to over \$18,000. Wow! All glory and praise to God! Dr. Paul came with the hopes of raising another \$5,000 to cover the October shortfall in the Feed-a-Child program and be able to feed and evangelize more kids. By God's grace, he left with nearly four times that amount. I look forward to hearing and sharing how God used your generosity to expand His Kingdom in the nation of Belize. I pray that each of us continues to reflect on how we can answer the missional call to be disciple-makers. I pray that when the Lord calls, we stand ready to answer!

God bless,  
drew  
John 3:30



***HAPPY THANKSGIVING***

**A new current events study begins  
Wednesday night, November 1st at 6pm  
in the fellowship hall.**

**The series is entitled *Is the End Near*  
regarding the events of the Israeli / Hamas war.**

**Deadline for OCC boxes is  
*November 12th***

**OCC Drop off times are  
on the *calendar in this publication***

# Lakewood Happenings

## November 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU			10:00am Y & YA Kickball Tourney
			1	2	3	4
Time Change 5:00pm Feast of Thanks FAC	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	AWANA OCC Packing Night		Veteran's Day 5:30pm Senior Game Night	6:00pm Y&YA Worship FAC
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5:00pm Deacons Meeting 5:00pm SPST Deadline for Boxes	6:00pm Sister 2 Sister 6:00pm GriefShare Class 9:00am - 6:00pm OCC Drop Off	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 9:00am - 6:00pm OCC Drop Off	7:00pm Finance Team Meeting 9:00am - 6:00pm OCC Drop Off	9:00am - 6:00pm OCC Drop Off	9:00am - 6:00pm OCC Drop Off	10:00am - 12:00pm OCC Drop Off
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1:00-3:00pm OCC Drop Off	9:00am - 12:00pm OCC Drop Off 10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class	6:15pm Alleluia Choir	No Bible Study	Thanksgiving Office Closed	Office Closed Tree Lot Opens	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class	6:15pm Alleluia Choir		6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Becky Aderhold		
26	27	28	29	30		

## September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/3	\$18,418.26	\$300.00	\$2,771.65	\$1,171.00	\$22,660.91
9/10	\$17,973.55	-	\$1,460.08	\$725.00	\$20,158.63
9/17	\$19,067.38	-	\$1,599.29	\$690.26	\$21,356.93
9/24	\$13,764.87	-	\$680.00	\$783.99	\$15,228.86

### 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 Israel Jane

INTERIM STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR  
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Dear Church family,

First of all, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for coming out and lending a hand in our LOAF food drive. Your dedication and support made it a tremendous success. It's a beautiful example of how we can make a difference when we come together to serve others.

Serving others, is a virtue that's deeply rooted in our faith. Matthew 25:40 (NIV) *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

When we serve those in need, we are serving the Lord Himself. It's a reminder that our acts of kindness and generosity have a profound impact on the lives of others, and they're a reflection of our love for God.

As we wrap up this year, I'm overjoyed to share that we've just completed our final "Feed the Homeless" event of the year. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to meet the physical and spiritual needs of many in our community. Your contributions, whether big or small, made a significant difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

When we carry each other's burdens, we are fulfilling the law of Christ – the law of love. Our acts of service not only provide

physical nourishment but also bring hope and light into the lives of those facing difficult circumstances.

Let's continue to embrace the spirit of service. Whether it's through volunteering, donations, or simply being there for someone in need, let's remember that our actions have the power to transform lives.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our community and our mission to serve others. May we continue to allow God's love and generosity to shine brightly through our church.





# *Christmas Trees for Missions*

at **Lakewood Baptist Church**  
4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City 36867

November 24 - December 10

**Monday - Friday 12pm - 8pm**

**Saturdays 10am - 8pm**

**Sundays 12:30pm - 8pm**

Trees range from 2ft to 10+ft

Clippings available for a donation  
Live wreaths may be purchased  
as available

All proceeds support 2024  
Stateside and Foreign Missions



# *A Message from* **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



It's the end of a tied football game. Your team has the ball, and you are yelling at the TV to put it in the end zone. In this moment, the clock determines the play. You have to trust the coach is going to call the right plays to get a touchdown.

When we look at the world around us today, is this the setting we find ourselves in? Right now the current discipleship system has 7 out of 10 kids walking away from Jesus after graduation. We have the Gen X and Millennials, who are very skeptical of the church, in part do to the increase of public awareness of gross scandals within the church. It's been said what one generation tolerated the next generation embraces. This is a very haunting concept to digest. I ask myself routinely, what am I tolerating? How do we fight for the future of the next generation? We must teach Jesus as often as we can and deep-rooted repentance. We must teach a radical pursuit of God. God raised up a young person in King Josiah. In 2 Chronicles 34, what did Josiah do? He ripped sin out by the roots. He repaired and restored the worship center of the one true God, and it was costly. The culture is determined ultimately by something that is worshipped and then all the stuff that grows up around it. Are we building altars of worship to Jesus of the Bible at our center? Is the culture of our home all the things that grow out of the worship of Jesus and what he has done on our behalf? We all have work to do! What else did Josiah do? He uncovered the Word of God and when it was read aloud to him he tore his clothes in anguish and there was a great "returning" to the following of the commands of God. Our love for the word of God must be known in our walk as Christians in the secular world. Did it work, what Josiah did? The best evidence is in the

people that were disciplined under Josiah's return to repentance. When the decree came out to pray only to the King, Daniel didn't say, "well, prayer is ultimately in the heart anyway". No! He opened his window and prayed publically to the one true God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were not alone in the fire. These men were raised up and disciplined under Josiah's rule. We still talk about to this day in Sunday School. What Josiah did, definitely worked.

Wasn't our Fall Festival fantastic. I am truly thankful for all of the hard work that was put in by everybody involved. Please know, that your support for activities like this is not taken for granted. It really was a incredible thing to see all our people present and loving on all the new people visiting us from our community. God be Praised!

## CALENDAR

November 4

**Kickball Tournament at Pioneer Fields**  
(multi-church) begins at 10AM  
Concessions available

November 8 **AWANA OCC pack night.**  
This is a super fun night, where our AWANA team and kids packs as many boxes as supplies allow. Our goal is 1000!

We are in need of **combs or brushes, soap, and small toys.**

If you want to come and help pack, you are more than welcome.

Let's fill up our stage under our OCC cross with as many boxes as possible.

November 22 – **No AWANA**

December 1- **Date Night Phenix City**  
(Nursery – 6th Grade) 5:30PM – 8PM

*In Memory of:*

*Steve Harris*

For Amen Choir  
from Bill & Judy McCarley  
Glenda Medley  
Gary & Kathy Hollon  
Kendall & Debbie Parks  
Larry & Cathy Weaver

For Homeless  
from Gail Brantley

For Music Ministry  
from Myra Currier  
Brenda Slappey

For General Fund  
from Judy O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Whitworth

For Gideons  
From Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

For Bereavement  
from Brenda Evans  
Clara Jean Watson  
Gary & Rebecca Baxter  
Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

*Pam Harris*

For Amen Choir  
from Bill & Judy McCarley

For Bereavement  
from McCraine / Whitehead  
Bible Fellowship Class

*Bill Wilson*

For LOAF  
from Margaret Wilson

*Natalie Hollon*

For Belize Feed a Child  
from Janet Turner

*Arthur Burrows*

For OCC  
from Glenda Medley

*Pansy Slocumb*

For Amen Choir  
from Larry & Cathy Weaver



*In Honor of:*

*Myra Currier*  
for LOAF  
from Terry Grimes

*King & Rain Thomas*  
for LOAF  
from Patricia Thomas

*Fred Van Horn*  
for LOAF  
from Terry Grimes

**SENIOR  
GAME NIGHT**

Friday | 11/10  
5:30pm in F/H  
Potato Soup & Taco Soup  
Cornbread Dessert

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

Maria Secora  
Rowena Ndagha  
Zanzi Ndagha  
Steve & Lynn Page

MINISTERIAL STAFF

*ANDREW SPIRES*

- LEAD PASTOR
- ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

•

*Charles Keown*

- WORSHIP & SENIOR
- ADULT PASTOR
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*Israel Jane - Interim*

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM