

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OCTOBER 2023 VOL XIII: ISSUE 10 LBCPC.org



Lakewood Baptist Church
4011 Lakewood Dr Phenix City



FALL Festival

12-2PM

OCTOBER 22ND

SILENT AUCTION BAKE SALE

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

HAYRIDE

TRUNK OR TREAT

INFLATABLES

LOVE OFFERING LUNCH

All Proceeds support Belize Missions



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



One of the easiest things for human beings to do is to complain. We complain about life, work, friends, enemies, family, health, gas prices, inflation, the president, our favorite football team, etc. Let's face it, sometimes it seems like we are hardwired to complain, it is our default setting. Just so we're clear, I have done my fair share of complaining in my life. In fact, you can say that over my 47 years of life on this earth, I've become pretty adept at this practice. I've complained about ill-treatment, about spiritual and political leaders, about my teams, and about unfair practices of all sorts. If it has happened to me in this life and I thought it wasn't right, you guessed it, I complained about it. If there was a Hall of Fame for complaining I'd rank as an all-time great. God has allowed me to live long enough to eat many of those words and wish I had never uttered them. Over time, God has convicted me about this complaining practice in my life through the study and application of His Word. Did you know that complaining is never shown to be a characteristic or character trait that should be present in the lives of believers? In fact, the Greek word that is most often translated in the New Testament as "complainer" literally means a person who is discontent with their life. Now, we must ask a question; who determines my lot in life? The answer is obvious; God does. So, if I am complaining about this situation or that person, I am ultimately complaining about God's allowance of that person or circumstance in my life. At the very base, I am complaining against God!

Did you know? The first biblical reference of complaining is in the very first book of the bible; in only the third chapter of the book of Genesis. This complaint was spoken by the very first created man; Adam, and it was directed squarely at God Himself. Genesis

3:12; "The man said; *"The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it."* Did you get that? Right after Eve sinned and pulled Adam into it, the blame game began. The woman blamed the serpent and Adam blamed the woman. However, in Adam's blame of Eve there was subtle blame and a complaint raised against God; "the woman YOU put here with me". With his hand caught in the cookie jar, the first man railed against His God and the blessing that was his wife Eve. Not only did Adam's sin cause separation between man and God, but I bet Adam's statement created the first-ever martial fight and strife soon after they left the garden. Again, this reminds us that a complaint against another is always ultimately a complaint against God. It certainly didn't end well with Adam, some of the most famous people in the Old Testament (Job, Moses, David, Jonah, etc.) complained about others and God, and that destructive human trait has been passed all the way down to us in this present age.

Sometimes the word 'complain' is translated as 'grumble', like in 1 Peter 4:9-10; *"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. Faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."* In other words, we are to use our gifts to bless one another without finding fault, and look for opportunities to serve one another, which makes a lack of grumbling an example of the grace of God. When we are selfless and serve others it keeps us from a complaining spirit because the focus is off me! Another direct command is given in Philippians 2:14-15 which says; *"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine*

like the stars in the universe." Here, the Word of God is clear, a believer is called to be a grace-giver and not just a grace-taker. When we do this we stand out against the backdrop of the fallen world that is beset by a complaining spirit. We actually shine God's light into a dark world because we think and act differently. James 4 tells us that a complaining spirit will start fights and quarrels even among Christians and this comes from not getting our own way and what we want. All these scriptures combine to paint a very bleak picture of complaining. It has no place in a believer's life.

Remember, it is never wrong to bring your concerns to God. If someone has mistreated you or problems arise you should always pray over those things and ask God for His resolution.

God already knows the outcome and has ordained the best path forward yet we are to still submit our concerns to Him. However, it is never okay to complain about God or one of His children. This sin may be common to man but let us not be found comfortable in it. Let us remember the promises of His Word in 1 John 1:9; *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* Join me in eschewing the sin of complaining and grumbling, and with much effort and by the grace of God, may it be rooted out of all our lives.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30



Join us Sunday, November 5th at 5:00 PM

Feast of Thanks

held in the Family Activity Center

Contact Carol Clegg (334) 468-8292
to reserve a table to decorate.

The church will provide the meal.
Please plan to bring a dessert to share.

Lakewood Happenings

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
4:00pm LRSPT 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 3	10:30am VK/WMU 4	5	6	7
5:00pm SPST 8	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister 2 Sister 6:00pm GriefShare 9	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 10	11	12	8:00am Work Day 5:30pm Senior Game Night 13	8:00am Work Day 14
Lord's Supper 4:00pm LRSP 5:00pm Deacons Meeting 5:00pm SPST 6:00pm Member's Meeting 15	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 16	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:00pm Finance Team Meeting 18	19	20	10:00am Youth & Young Adults to Pumpkin Patch 21
12:00pm Fall Festival 5:00pm SPST meets 22	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 23	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 24	25	6:30pm JEG/BW 26	3rd-6th Grade Lock-In 27	11:00am Feed the Homeless 28
5:00pm SPST meets 29	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare Class 30	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 31				

August Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
8/6	\$26,158.02	\$180.00	\$4,707.80	\$2,324.35	\$33,370.17
8/13	\$16,085.66	-	\$639.00	\$1,268.00	\$17,992.66
8/20	\$13,935.29	-	\$1,010.58	\$1,191.60	\$16,137.47
8/27	\$12,120.63	-	\$554.00	\$450.00	\$13,124.63

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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Greetings and Salutations, or should I say Boo to you!

Halloween is fast approaching, and you might be excited about the costumes, candy, and spooky stories. It's fun to get a little scared, or to jump out and scare your family. But let's talk about fear in a different way and look at what God tells us to be truly afraid of.

First, let's remember that it's okay to enjoy a good scare from time to time. It's all in good fun. But sometimes people get too invested in fear. Real fear, the kind that can control our lives, is something we should be mindful of.

The Bible says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*" (Proverbs 9:10). This doesn't mean we should be terrified of God like a horror movie monster. Instead, it means we should respect and honor God. We should understand that He's all-powerful and knows what's best for us.

So, what should we fear according to God's teachings? Well, it's not monsters or ghosts. It's things like sin, lying, or hurting others intentionally. These are the things we should be afraid of because they go against God's love and kindness.

Jesus also taught us not to worry too much about our everyday problems. He said, "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself*" (Matthew 6:34). This means we shouldn't let fear of the future overwhelm us.

Instead, we should have faith in God. Trust that He is with us through all our fears and challenges. When we love and respect God and live by His teachings, we find the courage to face our fears, knowing that He is on our side.

So, this Halloween, remember what God tells us about fear. It's not the ghosts or monsters we should truly fear, but the choices we make and the way we treat others. Keep your faith strong and fear won't control you.

Now go eat some candy corn.

Blessings,
Israel Jane



Church Events

Sister 2 Sister

Monday, 10/9 @ 6pm

Home of Julie Pelletier

Work Days

Friday & Saturday

10/ 13 & 14 8am - 1pm

Pumpkin Patch

Saturday 10/21 @ 10am

Youth & Young Adults & 5th & 6th Grades



A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



Sometimes I feel like we are short on stories. Is this just me? Sometimes, I get caught up in the facts and figures of life and I lose track of the story that is playing out right in front of me. Sometimes, I can get caught up in the owner's manual version of the Bible. I understand it's the best rule book for life. This is definitely true, but the Bible is also an epic and true story. God could have given us a formula such as A, B, C, tell me what to do and I'll get it done. I know many who would like that. He didn't do that. He told us stories. 'In the Beginning God....' Are we short on stories? For the English teachers we ask questions about stories. who, what, where, when, why, and how. Our tendency is to focus on the how and the what of our story. What is our goal and how are we going to reach it? We tend to spend less time on the who and the why. My heart as a Children's Pastor is the discipleship of children and the spiritual formation of families and the home. Discipleship is personal and communal, it's not a formula. It cannot just be information transfer. It must be a [do you love Jesus with ALL your heart; soul; mind, strength'] mentality. It must be a story that grips you. It transforms you into a new creation. The gospel must be a story that changed your life and we make it a priority to tell it to our kids. This story must grip our kids so much that they zealously tell it to their kids. Before we can impress the commands of scripture on others our heart must be gripped by the Gospel. We must be intentional in our teaching of the word. Our kids must remember the word of God even when they don't want to. If the Gospel story has not gripped your heart the 10 commandments will just be a list of rules to follow. We do a fantastic lesson on the commandments, but people generally will not remember the message we gave. They will remember what has gripped our heart. I want the kid's in my care to see that my love for God is demonstrated in my love for them, not in my theological precision. Do we need to

correctly teach the Word of God? Most definitely. That goes without saying. If we don't teach the commands and laws of the bible our kids will never see their need for a savior. But, if we settle just on commands and laws without the Gospel we'll get moralist not disciples. When a child asks me why do you do what you do? I'm not going to dazzle them with theological precision. I'm going to tell them a story of God's redeeming love and that the meaning of the commands of God is the gospel. We must give our kids Jesus as often as we can. When kids ask why do we live the way we do? Tell them a story, don't just give them information. When we preach the gospel to our kids, we are reminding them of who they are, and who we are, and ultimately WHOSE we are. They will see the goodness of God. They will see that the commands of God are not grievous. They will see the Gospel is our obsession. Tell them we were slaves in Egypt and God rescued us. Tell the story of your sanctification. The gospel must grip us at our core so it spills out of us into the discipleship of the next generation. I don't care what has happened in your life. You have a story to tell of God's redeeming work. Telling our redemption stories to the next generation must take priority because we are only 1 generation away from extinction. Discipleship is not automatic. When we drift away from the centrality of Jesus' last command to make disciples as our first priority we get apathy. Apathy unchecked will transform into apostasy. Let's never stop telling the story of the redeeming Love of Jesus.

Calendar:

Fall Festival October 22 from 12-2PM

Please sign up to volunteer, participate with Trunk or Treat or bake something for our bake sale/auction.

Make a plan to stay and fellowship with your church and those visiting us from our community.

3rd – 6th Grade Lock-In will be October 27



In Memory of:

Pam Harris

For Teen Challenge
from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

For Bereavement
from Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead
Clara Jean Watson

For General Fund
From Paul & Cathy Thornton

For Myers-Mallory
from Brenda Evans

David Mathews
For LOAF
from Sylvia Huggins

Stella Hughes

For LOAF
from Patricia Thomas

James Langston

For Belize Feed a Child
from Pat Holland

In Honor of:

Gabe Hedges

For LOAF
from Terry Grimes

Myra Currier

For Myers -Mallory
from Brenda Slappey

Betty Burrows

For Myers -Mallory
from Glenda Medley

**SENIOR
GAME NIGHT**

Friday | 10/13
5:30pm in F/H

MINISTERIAL STAFF

ANDREW SPIRES

- LEAD PASTOR
- ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

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Charles Keown

- WORSHIP & SENIOR
- ADULT PASTOR
- CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

•

Israel Jane - Interim

- INTERIM STUDENT&
- YOUNG ADULT PASTOR
- ISRAELDJANE@GMAIL.COM

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David Stephens

- CHILDREN'S PASTOR
- DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

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**Join us on
Wednesday evening
as we study
What is the Gospel?**

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault

OFFICE & PASTORAL
CARE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown

WORSHIP & MEDIA
ASSISTANT
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

AUDREY COOK
COLLINS CULLIGAN
CARLEY RHODES

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867
O: 334.298.6433
LBCPC.org
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM