

CONNECTIONS

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEBER 2025 VOL XV: ISSUE 9 LBCPC.org



EVERY WEDNESDAY 6:00-7:30

2 YEARS OLD THRU 5TH GRADE

FIRST AWANA- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

PLEASE REGISTER USING THIS QR CODE:



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

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Most of you are aware that we recently had a Town Hall Members' Meeting on Sunday evening, August 17th. Thank you to all those who made this meeting, regarding the future of Lakewood, a priority in their schedule. For those who were unable to attend, here is a recap of the meeting. Last year, we celebrated fifty years as Lakewood Baptist Church. Now, we want to look forward to the next fifty years, far beyond most of our time left on this earth. We want to prepare Lakewood Baptist Church to continue its goal of sharing the Gospel in this community for generations to come. To achieve this, we will need a concerted effort from all of us. As you continue to read, my prayer is that God pricks your heart to be a part of the future of LBC, and to go all-in, ready to follow wherever and however the Lord leads.

First, let's gain a deeper understanding of who we are as a church. Lakewood Baptist Church has around 380 active members, with dozens of others who regularly or occasionally attend. In the last three years, God has graced LBC to add ninety-nine members to its rolls. While it is never about numbers, we can be encouraged that Lakewood is a growing and thriving body of Christ. Out of our membership, around 75% of the members attend a small group, a number that we would love to see grow. We believe small groups are where the bible meets life and where lifelong friendships can be developed. I learned a long time ago that people attend church where their family and friends attend church, and this is certainly true of Lakewood. We need our current members to continue to invite their lost or unchurched friends to come and hear the Good News about Jesus Christ here at Lakewood.

Second, we looked at our giving demographically and saw that, as expected, our members above age 60 give the most here at LBC.

Perhaps a more concerning number is that those above age 70 give the highest percentage towards our budget, accounting for 43% of our giving. I am extremely thankful to the Lord for all who excel in the grace of giving, but, in one way, it is concerning that our very eldest are giving the most. I know that this age group was taught the value of tithing, and they are at a stage of life when they likely have the most disposable income. They also understand the blessings they have been given from the Lord and want to remain faithful to give in return. However, while all that is true and we praise God for it, the obvious concern is that these faithful folks are closest to their eternal reward. If God should choose to take home several of our faithful givers in the next few years, it could present an issue here for the ministry, financially speaking. When we combine that age group of 70+ with the age group from ages 60-70, who accounted for 23% of our overall giving, we can see that from ages 60 years old and up, they account for 66% of our overall budgetary giving. These numbers paint a clear picture: we need more of our people, especially those under age 60, to experience the grace of giving and respond in obedience to God's Word so that we can remain effective in the future.

Third, I proposed a clarification to our motto: 'Welcome Home'. While we do want Lakewood to feel like home to our people, and we want to strive to be a 'faith family', we don't want it to become a place where we become so comfortable that we become apathetic. To accomplish this, I believe we must move our ministry model and culture from maintenance to mission. This means we develop balance when it comes to outreach and in-reach. We look for and execute ways that we as a church body can get outside the four walls and be the church to this community while still caring and loving

the ones inside the walls already. So, the change to our motto and vision is this: "Welcome Home! LBC is a Gospel Centered, Great Commission Minded, & Grace Giving church that exists for God's Glory!" This purpose statement clarifies who we are, what we are about, and what our goals are as a body of Christ. To embrace this challenge, it has to go beyond words. I believe that we, as a church body, have to get more serious about practicing personal evangelism. To assist with this, we are about to begin a series entitled 'Easy Evangelism' that begins on Wednesday nights starting September 10th. At the end of this series of training, we will have a corporate evangelistic effort in the neighborhoods around the church. We must also revamp our current service and outreach ministries, making them more Gospel-centric and evangelistic. This includes our clothes closet, food closet, and homeless ministries. We need more servants, more donors, more prayer warriors, and new ideas to accomplish this goal. We also need to increase our mission efforts. As I move around town and interact with more people and other churches, Lakewood has become known as a missional church, and I thank God for that. However, we have more work to do.

We need to instill an overall missional mindset in our people. We need to expose more of our people to the lost and dying world outside of our bubble. We need to prioritize taking the Gospel to our city, our region, our country, and the world. Why? Because we have the best news ever! Finally, to accomplish all these goals, we need to develop discipleship, personal relationships where we are doing life together while we strive to imitate the Lord. We are stronger together than we will ever be separate. Iron sharpens iron.

I have been graced to be the lead pastor for nearly three years now. I stand amazed at the goodness of our God. I love the body of Christ here at Lakewood, I love serving the Lord here, and I believe our best days are yet to come! My goal is to preach the fullness of the Word, to expose our church to the depth of God's Word, which always does a maturing work in our lives. Furthermore, my goal is to glorify Christ by making disciples, then building up the saints for our personal practice of our faith. Will you join me in this mission? Will you be a part of the next stage of growth here at LBC? I pray that you will. God bless,
drew



MISSIONS KICKOFF

INTEREST MEETING

SEPT. 28
5:00PM
FAC

A Message from **Josh Elliott**

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

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Hey Church!

I cannot begin to express my family's gratitude for all of the love shown toward us during this time of transition as we welcomed baby Kai into the world. The many prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, and meals have made this transition so much easier. Thank you all so much! We are so blessed to serve and belong to such a wonderful church family! August was busy as we transitioned to a family of six, but it was a joy to see the Lord work in the lives of our students. We saw six students baptized in the month of August and there will be a couple more being baptized soon! A few of our students and families also participated in our Family Day at

the Ridge that took place at the beginning of August. It was a fun day for all! Some of our local churches gathered together and brought their students to Smiths Station Baptist Church for a Back to School Bash. The Lord moved in the lives of students and one of our students surrendered their life to Jesus that night! God is so good! We look forward to seeing the Lord continue to work in the lives of our students and our church as a whole. Please be in prayer for our students and their families as they are now back in school. Pray that following Jesus will be a priority in the midst of this busy season.

In Christ,
Josh



A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM



We are still prayerfully seeking the right person to serve as our permanent Children's Director and are so thankful for your continued prayers during this search. In the meantime, our children's ministry continues to thrive! This past month we celebrated four children who were baptised, with two more coming soon. Praise God for the ways He is moving in the lives of our kids. In Children's Church this month, we are diving into "Champion's Playbook: God is Trustworthy." Our theme verse is: *"And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."* Psalm 9:10

If you would like to serve alongside us during Second Service, we would love to have you join our team on a Sunday!

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Awana Kickoff –

Wednesday, September 3
(sign up with QR code)

- Fall Festival –

Saturday, October 26, 12–2 PM

God is doing amazing things in the lives of our children—thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership in ministry!

Your Children's Ministry Team



SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

2025

3

WED

**VIRGINIA KENNEDY WMU - 10:30AM
AWANA BEGINS @ 6:00PM**

8

MON

**SISTER TO SISTER - 6:30PM
HOME OF CHICHI PEAK**

12

FRI

**SENIOR GAME NIGHT - 5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

21

SUN

**AMEN CHOIR CONCERT
@ 6:00PM**

25

THU

**JANE ELLEN GAINES
BAPTIST WOMEN @ 6:30PM**

28

SUN

**MISSIONS KICK-OFF
INTEREST MEETING @ 5:00PM - FAC**

Lakewood Happenings

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	Labor Day Office closed 1	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 2	10:30am VK/WMU 3			
Baptism 2:30pm Bonus Reh. 7	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister to Sister ChiChi Peak 8	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 9			5:30pm Senior Game Night 12	
5:00pm Deacons Meet 14	10:30am Amen Choir Oaks@ The Ridge 15	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 16	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting 17		SWO Men's Retreat 19	SWO Men's Retreat 20
4:00pm RRR Meeting 6:00pm Amen Choir Concert SWO Retreat 21	10:30am Amen Choir 22	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 23		6:30pm JEG/BW 25		10:00am Feed the Homeless 27
Baptism 5:00pm Missions Kick Off Meeting in FAC 28	10:00am Amen Choir Spring Harbor 29	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 30				

July Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
07/06/25	\$24,873.31	\$350.00	\$1,350.05	\$1,970.00	\$28,543.36
07/13/25	\$13,038.93	\$447.31	\$1,060.00	\$1,617.00	\$16,163.24
07/20/25	\$24,881.52	\$664.28	\$1,993.50	\$797.20	\$28,336.50
07/27/25	\$12,211.63	\$142.60	\$447.00	\$1,038.38	\$13,839.61

Welcome New Members

**Brantley, Heather, Korbyn & Camilla Atkins
Tracey, Addison & Harper Benton
Camdyn Culligan
Thomas Duke
Addison Gaylor
Donovan Kitchens
Brooklyn Lee
Leland Rogers
Brannon Tharpe
Cole Williams**

Amen Choir

**will meet
Thursday,
September 4th
@ 10:30am**

**Monday falls on
Labor Day
and the office will be
closed**

Senior Game Night

**Friday,
September 12th @
5:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

ANDREW SPIRES
LEAD PASTOR
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown
WORSHIP & SENIOR
ADULT PASTOR
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Josh Elliott
STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT
PASTOR
JOSHUA@LBCPC.ORG

AMANDA OWENS
INTERIM VOLUNTEER
CHILDREN

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault
OFFICE & PASTORAL
CARE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown
WORSHIP
ASSISTANT
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

Jessica White
MEDIA ASSISTANT
JESSICA@LBCPC.ORG

LAKEWOOD 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

