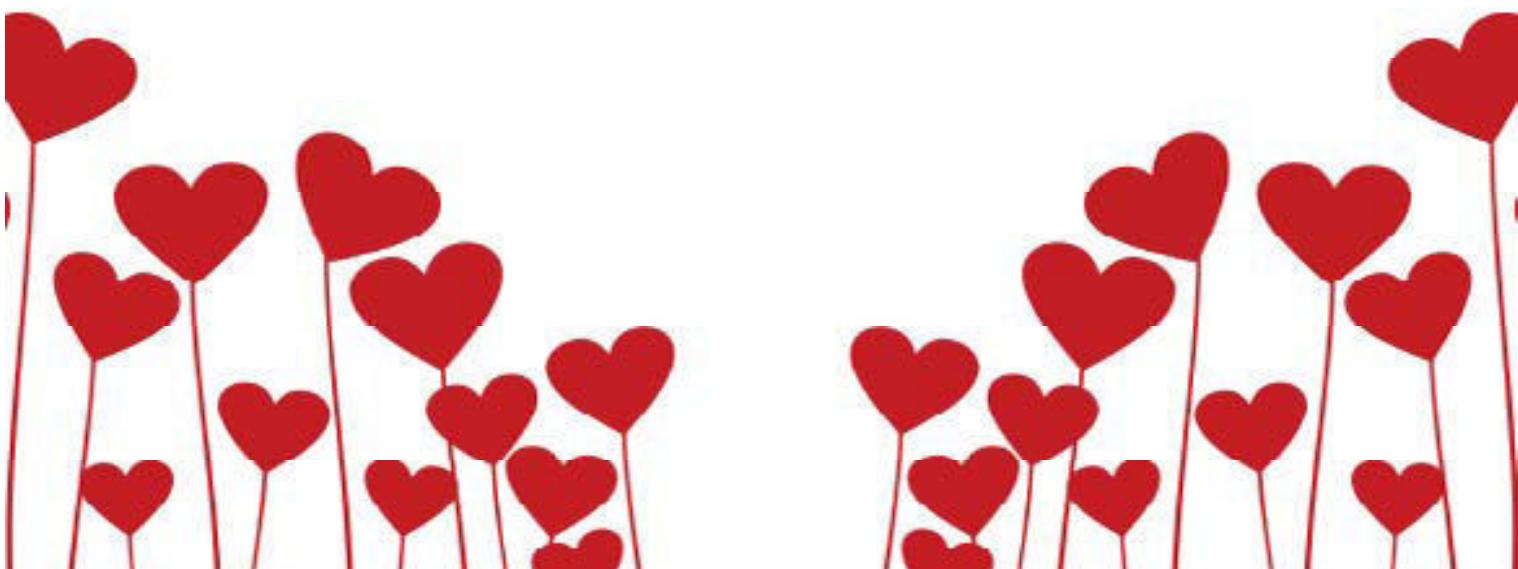


CONNECTIONS

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH FEBRUARY 2026 VOL XVI: ISSUE 2 LBCPC.org



• **LOVE** •
• **LIKE** •
• **JESUS** •



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

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Have you ever struggled with restraining your mouth? I know I have. The Lord has allowed me to 'eat' my words on so many occasions, too many to count. The older I get, the more I have come to despise how reckless my mouth can be. We can use our mouths and words for blessings or curses. We can praise the Lord, or we can tear down our fellowman. The bible is replete with warnings and right uses of our gift of speech. I have several of these written on sticky notes in my office. I place them at the bottom of my computer screen so that they are always in my view. I'd like to share a few of them with you.

Psalm 32:9: "Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you."

The verse paints a vivid picture for me of a stubborn animal. Their owner knows what is best, but the ignorant animal thinks their own way is best. Words are spent in command, but have no effect. So the owner places a restraint on the animal's mouth to guide them. I don't know about you, but I want the Lord to restrain & even constrain my tongue. I want to use my words for His glory, not my prideful way. I don't want to be stubborn; I want to learn my lesson the first time, every time.

Proverbs 10:19: "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise."

This verse has unfortunately been true about me for the longest time. I always have something to say. I always want my opinion heard. I always want to speak and listen far less. The more I speak, the more I find a way to sin. However, I have come to greatly respect people who exhibit self-control in this area. I now love it when someone has wisdom but is a better listener than speaker. They are never in a rush to be heard, but when they speak, everyone listens, because they know it's important & worthwhile. I long to be this way. I have other notes in my office to remind me to listen first & speak second.

Proverbs 21:23: "Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity." Another vivid picture comes to my mind, the idea of a watchman or guard on duty at his post. Vigilantly performing his task of making sure nothing goes in or out without his knowledge & permission. Speaking quickly or rashly has been a hard habit to break, one that I am still working on. I often ask the Lord to guard my mouth because I have done such a poor job in the past in this area. I truly desire that only God-pleasing words come out of my mouth, things that build up & not tear down.

James 1:26: "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless."

This might be the most shocking of the four. This verse plainly says some people are deceived into thinking that they are God-fearing people, but their words betray their true condition. Jesus says that out of the overflow (abundance) of the heart the mouth speaks. If this is true, & we know it is because Jesus said it, then our words portray our most inward thoughts & heart condition. If we think ourselves pious, in service to God, & godly people, then we must bridle or keep a tight rein on our tongues. We must practice what we preach. Otherwise, we are useless for His Kingdom.

Finally, a pastor friend of mine once shared some wisdom with me about controlling his own speech & tongue when he's tempted to gossip or be heard. He said, "When someone comes to me to talk about someone or about a situation, I preempt their gossip or complaint by saying how much I love that person and appreciate God's grace in them." He said, "In my experience, that shuts down the opportunity for sin every time." I think about that all the time, it is truly wise, & I need to practice that so much more. How about you?

I pray that by God's grace, I will allow the Holy Spirit to restrain my mouth more & more every day.

God bless,

drew

John 3:30

A Message from **Josh Elliott**

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

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Hey Church!

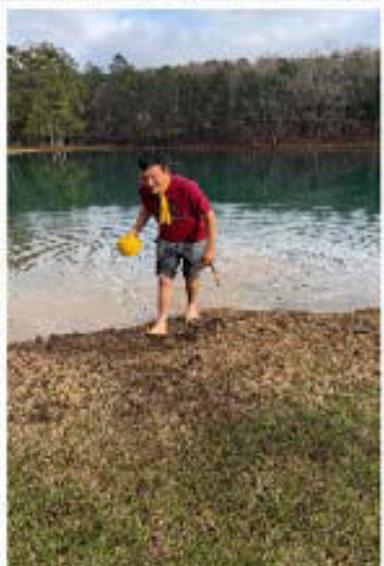
Last month, our students gathered for our Winter Retreat at Shocco Springs and our theme was "Unshakable". We focused on what it means to build our lives on a firm foundation in Christ. We were encouraged by a great turnout of 60 people, including 43 students, and even more by what the Lord did in and among them. Through worship, teaching, and time together, students were challenged to consider where their confidence truly rests and to trust Christ as the sure foundation that will never fail. We are grateful for the leaders, volunteers, and families who helped make that weekend possible, and we praise God for the fruit already evident in our students' lives.

As we look ahead, we are excited for Horizon Camp, our student ministry's summer experience designed to equip students for a lifetime of following Christ.

Centered on biblical teaching, Christ-centered worship, and meaningful community, Horizon Camp will take place July 22–25 at Timberlake in Millport, AL. The cost is \$275, with a \$75 deposit due at sign-up, and the deadline to register is February 25. Students can look forward to activities like kayaking, fishing, swimming, an arcade, basketball and volleyball courts, a ropes course, and more—all while growing in faith and friendships.

We also invite you to support our missions yard sale fundraiser, with donations currently being accepted. The sale will run March 5–7, and we are in need of volunteers to help with setup, sorting, and working the sale. Thank you for continuing to pray for and invest in the next generation as we seek to point them to an "unshakable" hope in Christ.

In Christ,
Josh



Baby Bottle Boomerang

Supporting Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic



Pick up a baby bottle to fill with coins, bills, or a check

Return your bottle on
Mother's Day, May 10



SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY

FEBRUARY 8TH
5:00PM
IN THE FAC

Bring a game day food
to share.



SOAK THE STAFF SOUP-ER BOWL CHALLENGE

The staff member who collects
the most food items in their box
will take an ice bucket
challenge!

Challenge ends on Sunday, Feb. 15

A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

This month in Children's Church, we are focusing on the foundational truth: Jesus is Lord of all. Jesus is Lord over rules, nature, people, and even time itself. Throughout Scripture we see Him prioritize people over societal expectations. He met earthly needs to draw hearts toward God. At the same time, Jesus revealed His divine nature on the mountaintop. Reminding us that He is not only human, but the son of God. Because of this, we can trust Him completely as our Savior.

Our monthly memory verse reinforces this truth: "So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10-11)

Children are learning these truths through God's Word, engaging lessons, meaningful discussion, and fun activities that encourage fellowship and growth in faith.

Merge spots are filling up. Do not miss the opportunity for your child to be part of this Christ-centered experience. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

We are still actively seeking a full-time Children's Director/Pastor. Please pray that the right person hears our call. However, we are deeply thankful for the leadership that Amanda is providing as she helps lead and support our children during this interim season.



JULY 6-9, 2026

MERGE KIDS CAMP

COST
\$289

Where
Shocco Springs Conference Center

Age
Outgoing 3rd graders thru outgoing 6th graders

Activities
Worship
Small Group
Recreation
Color Games
Pool and Lake
A LOT OF FUN!!

Contact Amanda Owens for more information
(706) 341-2773.



LBC Awana Family Bonfire Night

Grades 1st-5th



Join us for hot dogs,
s'mores, fun, and fellowship!

Friday, February 27th

6:00-10:00 PM EST

Behind Family Activity Center



YARD SALE

FOR MISSIONS

MARCH 5TH-7TH

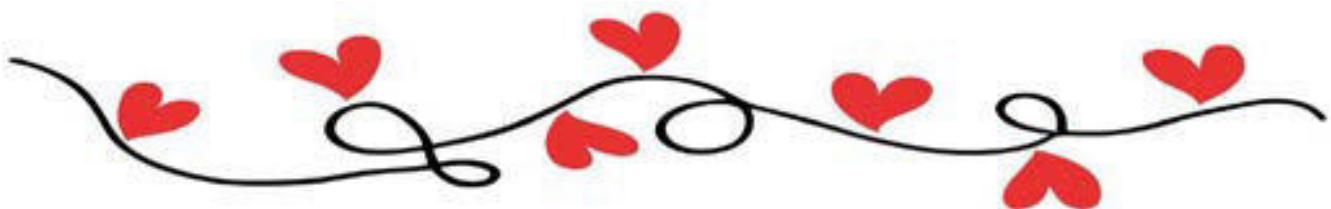
We are currently accepting items for the yard sale. Please drop off donations at the FAC. Contact Josh if you have any questions.

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKWOOD DRIVE, PHENIX CITY

Lakewood Happenings

February 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
5:00pm Deacon Ordination & Reception 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2		10:30am VK/WMU 4			
5:00pm Super Bowl Watch Party FAC 8	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister to Sister F/H 9	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 10	10:30am VK/WMU 11		5:30pm Senior Game Night 12	Valentine's Day 14
5:00pm Deacons Meeting 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting 18	Young Adult Retreat 19	Young Adult Retreat 20	Young Adult Retreat 21
Young Adult Retreat 22	10:30am Amen Choir 23	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 24		6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Mary Kay Wilson 25	6:00pm AWANA Family night FAC 26	10:00am Feed the Homeless 27



December Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
12/07/25	\$21,733.64	\$330.00	\$6,185.17	\$3,109.87	\$31,358.68
12/14/25	\$19,749.28	\$415.00	\$8,254.87	\$5,413.00	\$33,832.15
12/21/25	\$24,679.71	\$525.00	\$2,889.55	\$700.00	\$28,794.26
12/28/25	\$37,453.36	\$2,356.86	\$5,986.55	\$11,544.86	\$57,341.63

In Memory of:
Nancy Stainsby
For RRR
From Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead
Clara Jean Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
For Circles of Influence
From Janice Noble

Mike Harris
For RRR
From Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
For Homebound
From Clara Jean Watson
For General Fund
From Scott, Diane & Kaylen Bush



Senior Game

Night

Friday, February 13th
5:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Menu:
Pizza & Salad

Welcome
New Members

Larry & Kandace
Plinske

Thomas & Deborah
Bunch

Feed the Homeless
Saturday, February 28
10:00am - FAC

- 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'S LEADER

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

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

