CONNECTIONS

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2026 VOL XVI: ISSUE 11 LBCPC.ORG



A Message from
Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

As we are near the end of 2026, we are looking forward to 2027. With the end of the year in sight, it's time to let the cat out of the bag on a couple of fronts. Lakewood Baptist Church has developed several new strategic partnerships with the Russell Baptist Association.

The first is that Josh Elliott has volunteered to serve as the RBA's Student Ministry Coordinator. What does this mean? It means Josh will develop relationships & partnerships with other student pastors in our area & within our association. He will meet regularly with other student pastors for meals, accountability, prayer, & the cooperative planning of events. This should strengthen the bond between our local student pastors & increase their opportunity to reach & impact the next generation with the life-saving truth of the Gospel. This should also allow smaller RBA churches with bi-vocational student pastors to offer things to their students that they may not normally be able to plan on their own. In the future, these partnerships will extend to the planning of game nights, worship nights, camps, & weekend retreats. Many of you know that for many years I led a group of student pastors called One Accord. This group was an immense blessing to me & to the churches & student ministries of the Chattahoochee Valley for decades. I look forward to seeing how God will use Josh & his efforts to come alongside some of his peers here in the Phenix City/Smiths Station area for the glory of God. Also, don't worry, this won't impact his service here at Lakewood in any way, but it should expand the reach of his ministry.

Second, Lakewood is expanding the scope of our mission efforts by extending the missional call to other churches within our association. What does this mean? For several years, I have served on the RBA's Missions Planning Team & have helped to plan & execute RBA-sponsored stateside service/mission trips. We are now going a step further by extending our opportunities here at LBC to other local RBA churches. One thing that holds many churches back from the mission field is a lack of experience in planning & execution. They want to empower their members to live missional lives, but the fear of costs/fundraising, travel planning, & relationships with missionaries they can trust often holds them back. Smaller churches may not have the numbers or resources to execute a mission trip at all. We wish to remove those barriers by removing the stress in these areas. We will provide the game plan, the partnership with missionaries, & help them get on the mission field much faster than they could on their own.

Many of you know that we have been strategically walking through 'The Missional Call' series on Sunday mornings & that we have our 2027 initial missions interest meeting on Nov. 1st. I hope that we here at Lakewood will have more people answer the missional call in 2027. Add to that, we have now extended an invitation to other RBA pastors & interested people to attend our initial interest meeting so they can prayerfully consider involvement alongside us in 2027. Our goal is to equip & empower other RBA churches to get on the field & experience the joy of serving the Lord locally, stateside, & around the world. Why do this? (cont.)

We truly believe that we are one church, one body of Christ who meet in different locations. As such, each local church is blessed in different areas, as they have people who excel at different things. We want to combine efforts to widen the impact, to use the time, talent, & treasure of all to work together for the sake of the Gospel. We want to eschew territorialism & show the oneness of the body of Christ as we serve & work towards a common goal. We believe that when individual people have a missional mindset & answer the missional call, they, in turn, take that back to their church & encourage others to heed the call as well. It's a win-win.

I ask you to pray for Josh & his leaders as they embark on this new field of working together. I also ask you to pray for our mission partnership efforts; pray that God will build teams to go & serve wherever He leads. Pray for those first-timers, both here at LBC & other RBA churches, who will answer the missional call to serve the Lord. Our prayer is the same as always: that His Kingdom be expanded as He calls new people to be part of the body of Christ.

On a personal note, I want you all to know how thankful I am for each of you. I am thankful for our staff, our deacons, our small group teachers, our lay leaders, & the body of Christ here at Lakewood.

Happy Thanksgiving, & may God get all the glory!

Yours in Christ,
drew
John 3:30



A Message from
Josh Elliott

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

Hey Church!

October was an exciting month for our Student Ministry. Through our Great Pumpkin Games, we placed a special emphasis on outreach, challenging our students to invite their friends and encouraging our GROUPS to welcome new faces. It has been encouraging to see new students join us on Wednesday nights and begin building relationships within our ministry! While the games, competition, and excitement were a lot of fun, our purpose was much greater. We want our students to recognize that inviting a friend to church can be an opportunity to introduce someone to Jesus. My prayer is that the relationships being formed in GROUPS will lead to lasting discipleship and that students will continue reaching out to their friends.

I would also like to remind all of you of an exciting opportunity that is right around the corner. Our Missions Tree Lot opens on November 22nd, and we would love our entire church family to be involved. Whether you're purchasing a Christmas tree for your home, or sponsoring a tree, your participation helps support missions and provides opportunities to share the love of Christ beyond the walls of our church. As you begin making plans for Christmas, consider making the Missions Tree Lot part of your family tradition this year. Come purchase a tree, sponsor one, and help us make an impact for the sake of the gospel!

A Challenge for Parents: Make Prayer Personal

One of the most important things we can teach our children is that prayer isn't simply something we do before meals or at bedtime. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with our Heavenly Father, who cares about every part of our lives. Philippians 4:6 reminds us, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* So, here is your challenge for the month: Ask your child what you can specifically pray about in their life and then follow up with them. Maybe they are struggling with a friendship, worried about something at school, or facing a tough decision. Whatever it is, take a moment to pray with them about it. Then, a few days later, bring it up again. Ask how things are going and remind them that you've been praying. This simple practice accomplishes two things: it teaches your children to bring their concerns before the Lord, and it demonstrates that you genuinely care about what's happening in their lives. Over time, these small conversations can establish a pattern of prayer, trust, and spiritual openness in your home.

Church family, thank you for continuing to invest in the next generation. Whether through prayer, volunteering, encouraging a student, or supporting opportunities like our Missions Tree Lot, you play an important part in what God is doing at Lakewood. Let's continue working together to make disciples who know Jesus, follow Him faithfully, and make Him known.

In Christ,
Josh



LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Tree FUNDRAISER

FOR MISSIONS

Fresh Fraser Firs
5 FT - 11 FT



ONLINE PRE-ORDER FORM

All proceeds benefit summer missions.

A Message from
Noah Godfrey

CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Hi Lakewood Family,

God is so good, isn't He? I am continually in awe of His faithfulness and goodness each and every day. One reason in particular is how He provided everything we needed to make this year's Fall Festival possible!

I am so incredibly thankful for everyone who served, volunteered, donated, prayed, and helped make this event happen. Although it took a lot of time and hard work, it was so fulfilling to see so many families from our local community come out, enjoy the afternoon, and get a glimpse of all that God is doing here at Lakewood. What a blessing it was to see our church family come together with a shared heart for serving others and sharing the love of Christ!

One of my favorite parts of this year's festival was the hayride! Our theme was the "Bible Hall of Fame," where families heard from five different Bible characters: Moses, David, Esther, Peter, and Paul. At each stop, riders learned a little about who these individuals were, how God worked in and through their lives, and how their stories point us to Jesus. Most importantly, every person who rode the hayride had the opportunity to hear the Gospel! My prayer is that the Lord will use the seeds planted throughout the afternoon, especially through the hayride, to draw hearts to Himself.

<u>Children's Ministry Announcements:</u>

NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH

This Month's Biblical Theme: God is greater than anything.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:3)*

This month, our kids will be learning that God is greater than anything! Through the stories of Elijah and the prophets of Baal and Jonah, kids will discover that God is greater than any false hope and that His mercy is far greater than our own understanding. Our prayer is that they will grow in their trust in God, knowing that He holds them, cares for them, and is always faithful.

AWANA OCC NIGHT

"Praise the Lord! Our goal is to pack 600 shoeboxes, and thanks to the generosity of our church and community, along with funds from our Fall Festival BBQ fundraiser and VBS offering, all shipping costs and remaining Amazon Wishlist items are fully funded! Thank you to everyone who donated financially or through the wishlist! Now, we need your help! We need extra hands to pack shoeboxes and guide our kids on Wednesday, November 4th. If you can help, please let me, Mrs. Linda, or any member of the Children's Ministry team know!"

Blessings,
Noah

Lakewood Happenings

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
TIME CHANGE **4:30pm Missions Interest Meeting** **6:00pm Young Adults** 1	**10:30am Amen Choir** 2	**6:00pm Alleluia Choir** 3	**10:30am VK/WMU** **6:00pm AWANA OCC pack night** 4	5	6	7
9:30am Bible Fellowship **10:30 Worship Gideon Speaker** **Feast of Thanks** **6:00pm Y.A.** 8	**10:30am Amen Choir** **6:30pm Sister to Sister** 9	**6:00pm Alleluia Choir** 10	**Regular Wednesday Night Schedule** **Veteran's Day** 11	12	**5:30pm Senior Game Night** 13	14
3:00pm Turkey Bowl **5:00pm Deacon Meeting** **6:00pm Y.A.** 15	**10:30am Amen Choir** 16	**6:00pm Alleluia Choir** 17	**7:15pm Student Fast Food Friendsgiving** **7:15pm Finance Meeting** 18	**6:30pm JEG Baptist Women** 19	20	21
2:00pm Tree Lot Opens 22	**10:30am Amen Choir** 23	**6:00pm Alleluia Choir** 24	**NO EVENTS** 25	**OFFICE CLOSED** **Thanksgiving** 26	**OFFICE CLOSED** 27	28
6:00pm Young Adults 29	**10:30am Amen Choir** 30					

September Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
9/6/26	$29,217.95	$300.00	$2,167.64	$1,048.00	$32,733.59
9/13/26	$17,615.17	$230.00	$1,797.80	$360.00	$20,002.97
9/20/26	$19,102.33	$395.00	$1,293.50	$954.00	$21,744.83
9/27/26	$12,579.67	$171.00	$427.90	$995.94	$14,174.51



In Memory of:
Natalie Hollon's Birthday
for Circles of Influence
from Janet Turner

New Member
Anderson Southern

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FRI 8:30AM-12:00PM

Lakewood Baptist Church