



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

I have been reading Jim David, Michael Graham, and Ryan Burge's recent book, "The Great Dechurching," which shows the outcome of an extensive research project centered on whom they call the "dechurched," defined as someone who used to go to church at least once per month but now goes less than once a year.

Their study shows that in the United States, we are presently seeing the largest and fastest religious shift in the history of our country, as tens of millions of formerly regular Christian worshipers nationwide no longer attend church at all. Approximately 40 million adults in the US today used to go to church but longer do, which accounts for 16 percent of our adult population. In fact, for the first time in the eight decades that Gallup has tracked American religious membership, more adults in the US do not attend church than attend church. This has largely transpired in the last twenty-five years. One startling point is that more people have left the church in the last twenty-five years than all the new people who became Christians from the First Great Awakening, Second Great Awakening, and Billy Graham crusades combined.

Now, there is a variety of reasons for this. For instance, our culture has become less accommodating and even hostile to the Christian faith. That would obviously have an influence on those who are more "nominal" with regard to their faith. Some moved to a new city but never took the initiative to find a church. The rise of children and youth's sports on Sunday has also played a major factor. Then others stopped attending church during Covid-19 and so developed new Sunday routines and rhythms that they now prefer over Sunday morning corporate worship. Others experienced genuine pain in their church that led them to lose hope in the institution of the church. Still others went through family changes like divorce or remarriage and it made the church feel uncomfortable.

But I would like to offer you one aspect of this research that we should find encouraging. "Dechurched evangelicals" are still largely orthodox in their faith. Sixty-eight percent still believe in the Trinity; 64% believe in the divinity of Jesus; 65% believe Jesus' death on the cross and paid the penalty for the sins of those who believe in him; 67% believe in the resurrection; 62% believe that Jesus is the only way to God and 61% believe that the Bible is reliable for all matters of faith and practice.

And here I come to my main point. When asked how willing these "dechurched evangelicals" would be to return to church, 51% said they are either somewhat willing or very willing. The takeaway: many "dechurched evangelicals" simply need a friend to invite them to church. For hundreds of thousands of dechurched evangelical Christians, all they need is a personal invitation. In fact, the authors gave their early research to a Presbyterian church called The Crossing in Columbia, Missouri, and they began initiatives to engage this group of people. They identified "dechurched evangelicals" and in just a matter of months, they had 120 formerly dechurched people worshipping with them in person.

In other words, the "Great Dechurching" is reversible, and should not be and does not have to be the final word for the dechurched. Ask the Lord to direct you to those who were once in church, but are now dechurched. Then commit to do something very loving. Invite them to Lakeview. God does great things through small acts of obedience. Andrew Bonar once said, "A holy life is made (Pastor's Pen continued on next page)

up of a number of small things: little words, not eloquent speeches or sermons; little deeds, not miracles or battles; not one great heroic act or mighty martyrdom, make up the true Christian life. The little constant sunbeams, not the lightning...are the true symbols of a holy life." We often miss the great by overlooking the little. That little act of inviting a dechurched image bearer to church may just have a multigenerational impact on that person. And it will, in turn, have a significant impact on your personal walk and the vibrancy of the church.

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



children's CHATTER

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 17-21 | LAKEVIEWVBS.COM



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEEDS YOU

The mission and vision of Lakeview Children's Ministry is to support our Lakeview Baptist Church mission statement by coming alongside families in shepherding their children to know Christ as Savior, to love and memorize God's Word, to consistently grow in prayer and in obedience to Christ, to develop a Biblical worldview, and to serve Him in fellowship with other believers.

Please consider volunteering in the following Children's Ministry areas:

- Sunday School 5th Grade Girls Co-Teacher
- Sunday School 2nd Grade Assistant

Email jvail@lakeviewbaptist.org if you are interested in volunteering for VBS or Sunday school.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

We will be collecting the Annie Armstrong Easter offering through May 12th.



college LIFE

SECRET CHURCH

The College Ministry will be hosting Secret Church again this year on Friday, April 19th from 6pm to midnight. The theme this year is a study through the book of Ruth. We will host the event in the Fellowship Hall. Registration to participate with us is now open to everyone, not strictly college students, and the cost is \$14. If you plan to come, we encourage you to eat dinner prior to the event or bring your own dinner with you. We will provide snacks and drinks throughout the evening. You can find a link to register and more information at www.lakeviewbaptist.org/secretchurch24.



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

MEN'S BEAST FEAST RECAP

Beast Feast last Friday night was a great success. Jack Armstrong delivered an encouraging message. We had over 300 men pack into our fellowship hall. All the food was delicious. Thank you to the ladies and men who brought dessert and chili. Thank you Jodie Escoe of Chuck's BBQ for helping us with the pork. Thanks to Bobby Thompson and his team of high school cooks for frying our fish and fries. I think observing a half dozen of our teenagers cooking and serving their church was most heartening to see that night. These young men will be our next generation of leaders and servants no doubt! Thanks to all who donated door prizes and especially those who lifted up prayers for this event. I believe our men were greatly encouraged as we gathered around the gospel!



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Please mark your calendars for our next meeting Thursday, April 11th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon-1 PM. Caleb, with the company in SE Asia, will be our guest. Pass on the word and bring a friend. It is always a good time.

SENIOR SAINTS

If you are 55+ years of age, come join the Senior Saints for monthly fellowships, activities, day trips and spiritual growth. The next meeting will be on April 18th at 11:30 AM and Sharon Holder will be sharing her testimony. This is a covered dish meal, so please bring a dish to share if you are able. Meat and beverages will be provided. Information about the next day-trip will be announced as well. If you have any questions, contact Jann or Jenny Swaim OR Larry or Miranda Webb.



youth NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY 101

Hey 6th grade parents! We are so excited to welcome you and your student to the Youth Ministry! One of the ways we do that is by hosting Youth Ministry 101 – an event, for you and your upcoming 7th grader this Thursday, April 11th, at 6:00 PM in the Youth Center! During the dinner, we will provide a brief overview of Lakeview's Youth Ministry, our convictions, and a schedule of all the exciting events and rhythms for the upcoming year! There will also be a Q&A time to answer any questions you may have! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for this event please contact Camdyn Ferguson (cferguson@lakeviewbaptist.org).

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week, our Youth Girls Director, Raxia Bailey, announced that she will be leaving Auburn and Lakeview to pursue ministry opportunities in the Birmingham area in the near future. We have been and continue to be richly blessed as a ministry by her faithfulness both to serve Jesus with passion and love our youth girls so well. Join us in praying in the weeks and months ahead as she prepares to transition and as we consider who the Lord has in store for us as the next Youth Girls Director!

stay connected

 @lakeviewauburn



fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45PM.

APRIL 10

Chicken Fajitas, Flour Tortillas,
Toppings, Black Beans, Salad, Peach Cobbler

APRIL 17

Baked Spaghetti, California Veggie Blend,
Garlic Bread, Salad, Chocolate Cake

Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.

IN *memoriam*

Erick Chavez
June 18, 2013 – April 5, 2024

SCRIPTURE MEMORY BANQUET APRIL 21ST

There will be a luncheon and ceremony following the morning service on April 21st for all families of 1st–6th grade children who earned a medal in scripture memory.

DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Bro. Cliff will walk through what we believe as a church, membership and our covenant. We need a reservation from you with the number attending for lunch and childcare. The class will follow the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Laura Gray at lgray@lakeviewbaptist.org to reserve your spot.

REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE
Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

VALLEY PARK MANOR
Kay Gaillard

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
Mike Cannon

AZALEA PLACE
Barbara Blankenship

BETHANY HOUSE
Rosalyn Payne

CAMELLIA PLACE
Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH
CARE FACILITY
Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE
Anne Dodge
Harriett McNelly
Larry Ryan

MAGNOLIA PLACE
Nancy Thornton

AT HOME
Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Ambers Hanson
Fred Holmes
Latriece Jones-Thomas
John Kennedy
Renaë O'Mary
Jane Parker
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango

APRIL 7 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,008
EVENING SERVICE _____ 540

APRIL 7 GIVING

BUDGET _____ TBA
RESTRICTED _____ TBA

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WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



Lakeview
BAPTIST CHURCH

1600 E Glenn Ave | Auburn, AL 36830



PHONE | 334-887-7094



WEBSITE | www.lakeviewbaptist.org



FAX | 334-826-6512



PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783