



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

We just completed our time in Genesis on Sunday nights and beginning this Sunday, we begin our trek through the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes has 12 chapters, 222 verses and its implied purpose is twofold: (1) to make us sense the futility of a life lived only by earthly values; and (2) to lead us, to use Charles Simeon's words, "to enjoy God in everything and everything in God."

There are wide differences regarding the main point of the book. Jerome wrote a commentary on Ecclesiastes partly to persuade a woman from Rome named Blessila that she should choose a life of monasticism. He argued that the book was "to show the utter vanity of every sublunary (belonging to this world) enjoyment, and hence the necessity of betaking oneself to an ascetic life, devoted entirely to the service of God." Others have asserted that the main purpose is that worldly pleasures are the highest good: eat, drink, and be merry! Conversely, others have made the case that the main point is fatalism.

I will make the case that the central burden of the book is the problem of our fallen attempt to find meaning in creation apart from our Creator/Redeemer. Nothing in creation can give meaning, purpose, and joy when we separate it and elevate it above the Creator.

Despite its relative brevity, the book covers virtually every aspect of life you can think of: work, leisure, entertainment, time, worship, nature, money, death, sleep, eating, drinking, sex, farming, commerce, education, and government.

The most important phrase in the book is "under the sun" (or variants such as under heaven), which occurs 28 times in 12 chapters. The phrase denotes life lived by purely earthly, temporal values without regard to spiritual and heavenly values.

Another key to the book is the word translated "vanity" or "meaningless," which appears some 38 times. The word suggests fleetingness and emptiness of life without God at the center.

One more phrase that is seen in Ecclesiastes is "chasing after the wind" found nine times, and by its very words, it speaks to the futility of enjoying creation apart from the Creator.

One point that I want to bring out throughout this study is that God's goodness is really present in his gifts, and because of that, we are free to enjoy them for his sake. These created gifts "become avenues for enjoying him, beams of glory that we chase back to the source" (Joe Rigney, *Strangely Bright*, 48).

The most compelling division of the book is as follows (per John Currid's Commentary):

- 1) 1:1-11 – The Problem. What is the purpose and meaning of a fleeting life?
- 2) 1:12-3:13 – The Quest. Here Solomon goes on a journey to find the meaning of life.
- 3) 3:14-7:29 – Objections. These objections are raised against the sovereignty of God.
- 4) 8:1-11:10 – Practical Advice. Solomon provides counsel on how to live life based on divine sovereignty.
- 5) 12:1-14 – Conclusion. Solomon argues that meaning is found in God alone.

I hope this helps. Please pray for me as I prepare.

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



college LIFE

COLLEGE MINISTRY EVENTS

Just dropping another reminder to please pray for the college ministry this week as we have two big events. Tonight is our Valentine's Banquet with the Senior Saints. It is always a great and encouraging evening for both the Senior Saints and college students. Please pray that all goes well with that event and all will be blessed.

Venture Weekend is this weekend. We currently have 100 students participating and a few more may join that number this week. Our theme is prayer, and no matter the theme, the gospel is always clearly communicated. Pray our students will be blessed by their participation in Venture weekend.



jim's JOTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Lakeview will have an opening soon for part-time employment in the office. Please call me at 334-887-7094 if you have an interest. Thank you!



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAY AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

I hope to see men of every age on Thursday, February 12th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon–1 PM. Steve, one of our new members, will be our guest speaker. He has traveled into many closed countries, including the tunnels of Hamas. He will challenge us to not "take care," but to take risks. I asked him to come back and tell us more of his intriguing life story. Come and bring a friend. It is also a great way to get to know more men in our church. See you soon! Our next meeting will be March 12th, 2026.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MISS PATTY CAKE
MARCH 28TH | 10 AM



LAKEVIEW WOMEN SPRING RETREAT FEBRUARY 27–28

Ladies, join us for our women's retreat on February 27th & 28th for fun with friends, engaging Bible study and worship, delicious food and coffee, crafts, and laughter. Tickets are \$75 (\$55 for college-aged women.) The deadline to register is February 22nd. Please visit the lobby table or call the church office for details. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to register.





children's CHATTER

MPAC SWEETHEART BABY SHOWER

Help us throw a "Sweetheart" baby shower for our local Women's Hope Medical Clinic Wednesday, February 11th, from 6:00–7:15 PM. Our 1st–6th graders are invited to join us during MPAC for a night of fun and games as we celebrate God's precious image bearers! Children can bring coins for our Boys vs. Girls baby bottle challenge and items on the Women's Hope wish list!

WHAT TO BRING:

Nickels, dimes, and quarters for the Baby Bottle Challenge! Boys vs. Girls — who can bring in the most coins for their team?

NEW BABY ITEMS:

- Diapers (Size 3 and up)
- Wipes
- Baby socks
- Baby scratch protection mitts
- New crib sheets
- Baby girl onesies

We have a fun night planned with games, snacks, sweet messages to share, and prizes for the team who brings in the most coins! We invite the church body to contribute baby items for our Women's Hope Sweetheart Baby shower by dropping off items in the KidZone or church office by Wednesday evening. Thank you so much!



DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Pastor Brian and 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.



CARPENTERS FOR CHRIST AT MARANNOOK MARCH 19TH-21ST

The Carpenters for Christ will be on mission to Camp Marannook near Lafayette, AL on March 19th–21st, 2026. We will be assisting in the construction of two structures to support their ministry to campers.

Plan to arrive at the camp at 8:00 AM on Thursday, March 19th, for a biscuit breakfast. Work will commence at 8:30 AM each day. Work will conclude no later than noon on Saturday, March 21st. Camp Marannook will provide housing and meals for those wishing to stay at the camp overnight. There is no cost for this mission trip, but registration is required. Transportation assistance is available, if needed.

You may register for this event at www.CarpentersforChrist.com.



fellowship MEAL

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

FEBRUARY 11

Baked Potatoes, BBQ Pork, Toppings,
Broccoli, Rolls, Salad, Peach Cobbler

FEBRUARY 18

Chicken and Dumplings, Green Peas,
Corn, Biscuits, Salad, Brownies

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.**

thank YOU

Dear Lakeview Church Family,

On behalf of the Near His Heart Team and families, we'd like to thank you so much for your incredible help last Friday night. Each and every gift you shared – gifts of service, resources, talents, and prayer – contributed to the most successful night of giving encouragement, respite and the gospel to this special group of families. An extra thank you to Jonathon Middleton for cooking all of the meat and Wynne Wages for cooking the sauce (in addition to all else you do on this night!). The food received so many complements! Also, a special thank you to our maintenance staff who worked over time Thursday, Friday and Saturday for this night, and to our church pastors and support staff, each of whom contributed in some way, praying and giving to this night. Well done, good and faithful servants. Each and every gift you shared, seen and unseen, contributed to the success of the night!

Thank you so very much,
The entire Near His Heart Team

REMEMBER IN **prayer**

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

THE PHOENIX AT OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause
Jerry Knause
Dick Lane

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship

BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

MONARCH ESTATES

Bill Thornton

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West
Joe Youngblood

FEBRUARY 8 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE ————— 1,256
EVENING SERVICE ————— 484

FEBRUARY 8 GIVING

BUDGET ————— \$122,890.07
RESTRICTED ————— \$18,035.98

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 67, NO. 6

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.

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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WEBSITE | www.lakeviewbaptist.org



FAX | 334-826-6512



PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783