



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

As I write, I am 17 days post-operation. I want to convey to you how incredibly grateful my family and I are for you, our Lakeview family, in your innumerable expressions of love, encouragement, and tangible kindnesses to us. I simply cannot imagine how those who are not invested in a local church can bear up to such a challenging test as open heart surgery without an army of brothers and sisters in Christ present to encourage and build us up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Today, I wanted to express my love and gratitude to you. I would also like to report on my progress in recovery and offer some thoughts as to why Christians often go through times like I have experienced as of late.

As for where I am in my recovery journey, my numbers are good. Every day I am getting stronger. Sleeplessness due to physical discomfort has been a real issue, but I am starting to sleep better. I am walking more and more each day and doing everything I have been told to do. By God's grace, I am on track for a full recovery in due time.

As for why God's people often have to go through health issues as I have, there are many things that could be said. I have written and preached previously of the purpose of trials in a believer's life. Today, I would like to consider that question from another perspective. In Romans 8:10, the Apostle Paul gives every believer an inspired vantage point on our physical struggles that would do us all well to consider. Paul asserts "But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

First, note that even for those of whom it could be said, "Christ is in you," "the body is dead because of sin." When Paul uses the term "body," he means all our existence in this fallen world. That would include our physical bodies and all that entails. That is, our embodied existence in this world. Paul says our "bodies" are "dead" that is, condemned to death. That is why we are vulnerable to sickness and accidents, loss of memory, heart disease, etc.

The implications of this are not what we may want to hear. No personal trainer, diet, or physician can fix it. All anyone can do, or any act, or discipline, is to bring temporary improvements to a dying body. In that sense, the best medical care, diets, or physical training are little more than palliatives (a treatment or action that relieves symptoms and reduces suffering without treating or curing the underlying cause) to extend and make easier the often long-drawn process of dying.

I believe stewardship of our bodies demand we avail ourselves of these means. So I have changed my diet. I am taking medications developed from advanced medical science. I am under elite medical care from physicians and when I get the green light, I plan to hit the gym hard again. But it is all palliative, because the underlying cause of our problem is sin. Again, the "body is dead because of sin." We get older and our health may start to fail because we are descended from Adam, who sinned, and because we, too, have inherited his sinful nature (Romans 5:12).

So we naturally and in a sense, rightly, tend to think in terms of physical causality. That is, my heart disease is due to genetics, stress, and maybe diet. My shoulders hurt because of old football injuries. Yes, these are real instrumental causes. But the root cause is "sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

(Pastor's Pen continued on next page)

Think about that. Every sickness, from the most benign to the most life threatening, every year of aging – all these are the shadow of death. Of course, we are not Job’s friends. It is not necessarily the case that my particular sins lead to this or that particular shadow of death. Indeed, I do not think there was a particular sin in my life that led to my heart issue. But my heart issue and all other health and aging struggles come to us because together we are sinners living in a sin-cursed world that is yet to be fully redeemed. So I have heart disease because I am a sinner in a world under sin.

So let me get to my most important point. Because “the body is dead because of sin,” then I should increasingly learn to direct my negative feelings about sickness and mortality to my attitude towards sin. I do not like getting older and weaker, but I need to take that dislike and transfer it to a hatred for my sins. So here is a good goal for us. Every time we dislike getting older or despise our poor health, turn our loathing into a fresh revulsion of our sin.

Hating sin is a reflex step to fighting/killing sin. Conversely, we will never die to a sin we do not hate. But here is the good news: the last part of Romans 8:10 asserts, “the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” No matter my health condition or the challenges aging has wrought, God the Holy Spirit has given to me, in Christ, the empowerment to hate and forsake my sin. There is a “law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2), from which God has set us free by the Spirit. The Spirit gives us grace to walk “not according to the flesh,” “but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4).

So every time we feel the effects of an aging body, we should say to ourselves, “This is because we are sinners in a world under sin. Lord, give us grace today to hate our sin more and to fight sin in our lives.” When we do that, just know that God is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28) – even our physical afflictions.

Here is the greatest news of all. The sin that is behind our struggles? Romans 8:3 tells us “by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin,” God “condemned sin in the flesh.” So our sin has already been condemned in the flesh “in Christ” our substitute. So though we still experience the effects of our bodies being dead because of sin, when Christ returns, we have the hope of the “redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23), where there will no longer be any more sickness or aging. For that, we can “wait eagerly” (Romans 8:23).

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



praise
WORTHY

RE/GEN ON-MISSION – ORLANDO, FL MAY 29 – JUNE 3

This Friday, our Re/Gen Youth Choir will be leaving for its annual On-Mission trip. This year’s trip takes us to Orlando, Florida, where we will be singing, serving, and ministering. We will be taking 78 Re/Gen choir members, as well as chaperones and band members, for a total of 100 people. What a blessing! With this in mind, I have listed prayer points, as well as some of the places we will be singing in hopes that you will pray for us before, during, and after our trip. We are so grateful for your prayer and support!

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for traveling mercies and a spirit of unity.
- Pray for gospel conversations and favor with the community.
- Pray for the NAMB church plant we will be serving with Restoration Church.
- Pray for the gospel to go forth through song.

SINGING & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- Friday, May 29 | 10:00 AM (Viva Senior Living, Albany, GA)
- Saturday, May 30 | 8:30 AM (Freeway Ministries, Sanford FL)
- Saturday, May 30 | 3:00 PM (Outreach Event with Restoration Church)
- Sunday, May 31 | 9:30 AM (Restoration Church, Sanford, FL)
- Sunday, May 31 | 5:00 PM (Central Church, Sanford, FL)
- Monday, June 1 | 9:00 AM (Vitality Senior Living, Sanford, FL)





children's CHATTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 27TH: WATERSLIDE AND PIZZA

Tonight, 5:30-7:30 PM on the grass field. Bring a towel and wear a swimsuit. Parents must fill out a children's ministry participation waiver. This event is open to our upcoming first graders through graduating 6th graders!

JUNE 3RD: BOWLING AND PIZZA

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Lucky Strike in Auburn. Cost: \$10 per child (Payable via cash, check, or Venmo @Lakeview-Kids). Pizza and drinks will be served. A completed child medical release form is required to participate. Parents are responsible for transportation. Please meet us in the lobby for drop-off and pickup.

We will provide childcare during the Church Plant meeting on June 3rd from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Children in 1st through 6th grade will meet on the grass field.

JUNE 22ND-26TH: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Every day from 8:00 AM – Noon. Available for all kids entering K5–6th Grade. Online registration is open now through June 14th at www.lakeviewvbs.com.

VBS DONATIONS

- Like-new solid color t-shirts with minimal print on them.
- Plastic pringle can lids (just the lids).
- Glass jars: spaghetti sauce/quart-size only with labels/lids removed.
- Cereal boxes, flattened.
- 16–20oz water bottles (empty, but with the lid).

Please drop these items off in the lobby before June 14th. We really appreciate your help!

VBS T-SHIRTS

Vacation Bible School T-shirts are \$12 each and will be sold in the lobby on Sunday mornings starting May 24th through VBS. Shirts are available in youth and adult sizes.

VBS SNACKS NEEDED:

Every year our Lakeview family is so gracious to donate items for our VBS participants. Thank you so much for your generosity! We could not do this without you!

Snacks:

- Oreo Cookies (golden & regular - packaged 2 cookies per pack).
- Chips-Ahoy Cookies (packaged 2 cookies per pack).

(Donation boxes are located in the lobby.)

If you would like to bring homemade snacks for leaders, there will be sign-up sheets in your Sunday school class folders. You can drop off leader snacks in the fellowship hall. Thank you so, so much!





jim's JOTS

OFFICE POSITION AVAILABLE

On July 1st, there will be a part-time administrative assistant position open at Lakeview. This position supports the Youth ministry. If you have an interest, please email me at jwilkerson@lakeviewbaptist.org.



congregational CARE UPDATE

FOOD PANTRY HELP

We need some men to help unload our truck(s) of food from the Food Bank, Mondays in June (except 6/22), July and August. Come on Mondays starting at 7:20 AM and leave after unloading, or you are welcome to stay and volunteer at our Food Pantry. Please email megancoppenger@gmail.com if you would like to help. Any dates you are able to volunteer is greatly appreciated and helpful, whether it is weekly, once or twice a month or just one time.

Also, we would appreciate donations of dry spaghetti noodles, pasta sauce, rice (1lb. bags) and/or canned fruit. Thank you ahead of time.



CHURH LIBRARY CLEAN OUT PICK-UP FOR FREE IN ROOM N212

We are cleaning out our church library and adding more books. From Monday, May 18th, through Sunday, May 31st, children and adult books, DVDs, CDs, and VHS tapes will be in N212 for church members to take for free. If you have any questions, please ask someone at the front desk in the office.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER GATHERINGS

Summer Gatherings is a time when internationals and Americans can come together and have round-table discussion and fellowship to practice English language skills. Each session will cover a different topic of discussion. We will meet in the Youth Center at 6:00–7:30 PM on May 27th, June 10th, July 1st, and July 17th. No training is required, and we will have a list of conversation starters.

If you are interested and/or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jerry Ferguson at jferguson@lakeviewbaptist.org or Marie Foshee at mfoshee@lakeviewbaptist.org.

Lakeview Women



Coffee &
Connections

JUNE
2
7:00

the Henderson Home

Guest speaker: Julie Brown
Email lakeviewwomen@gmail.com
for address

JULY
14
7:00

the Nahikian Home

Guest speaker: Anna Claire Moore
Email lakeviewwomen@gmail.com
for address

Church Plant

June 3rd @ 6:00 PM
CHURCH DISCUSSION

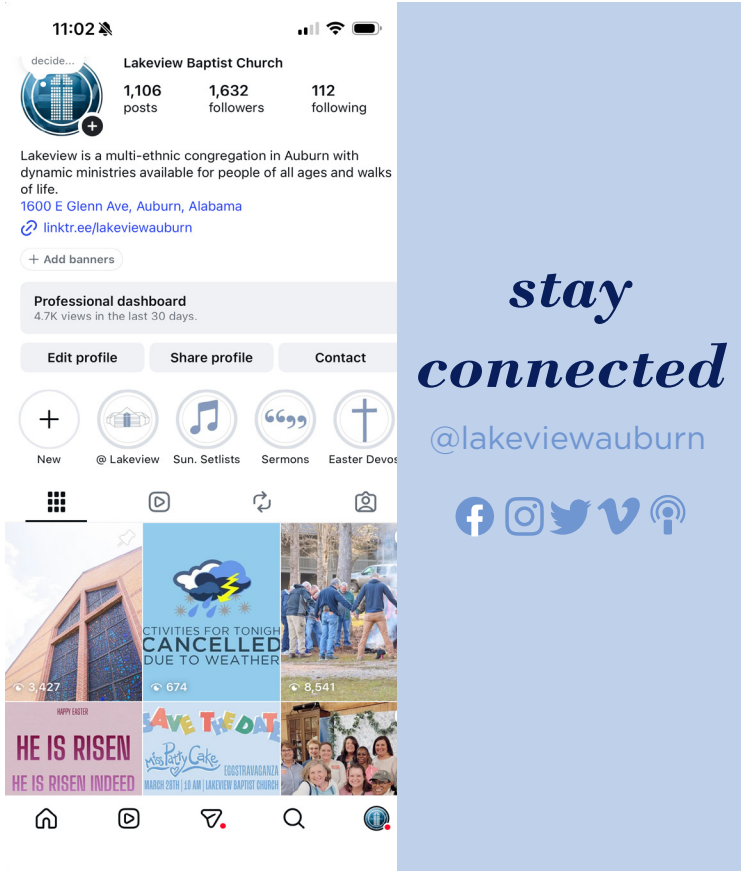
June 14th @ 10:45 AM
CHURCH-WIDE VOTE

*Meals are finished for the semester. They will resume in the Fall.

SAVE THE DATE

IMF 2026 | SEPTEMBER 27-30

Mark your calendars for September 27th-30th for the International Missions Festival. This years theme is "The Church: God's Chosen Instrument for His Glory Among the Nations."



*stay
connected*

@lakeviewauburn



REMEMBER
IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE
Nancy Brownfield
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

MONARCH ESTATES
Bill Thornton

AZALEA PLACE
Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby

THE PHOENIX AT
OPELIKA
Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause

BILL NICHOLS STATE
VETERANS HOME
Ira Hayes

AT HOME
Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth

CAMELLIA PLACE
Linda Currie

Dennis Clark
Nelda Kennedy
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Iize West

CANTERBURY HEALTH
CARE FACILITY
Dean Baker

CHAPMAN HEALTH
CARE
Jerry Knause

EASE HOUSE
Anne Dodge

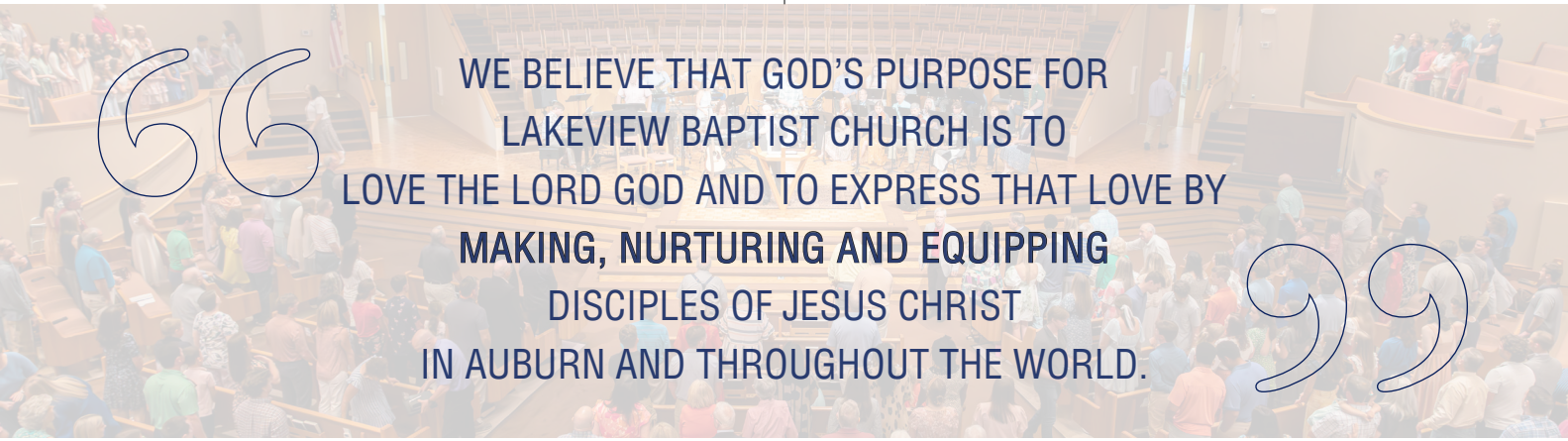
MAY 24 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 948
EVENING SERVICE _____ n/a

MAY 24 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$78,407.76
RESTRICTED _____ \$13,014.00

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 67, NO. 21



“ 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