



## *pastor's* PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

Sunday, I asked you, the Lakeview family, to pray about the of planting an autonomous, congregationally governed, Southern Baptist church in North Auburn. Our hope would be to launch in the fall of 2027, giving the new church plant a year to become established before Plains High School opens in the fall of 2028. Of course, we cannot answer every question right now, but we will have a meeting for questions and answers on June 3rd and then the vote of church affirmation on June 14th. Additionally, in next week's *Lakeview Life*, we will publish some likely questions you might have along with answers to those questions.

Today, I would like to reiterate why the leadership senses this call. Yesterday, I broke it down into three reasons: (1) Biblical Mandate; (2) Eternal Opportunity; and (3) Internal Need. Today, I would like to expound on those again.

**Biblical Responsibility.** In a passage that everyone at Lakeview knows, in Matthew 28, Jesus said to his disciples<sup>18</sup> "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This text teaches us how Jesus' church is called to carry out the original mandate in Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it." Clearly, this call to multiplication is a corporate calling.

Why do I make that claim? Well, all the way back in Matthew 16, the authority that we know Jesus has, is entrusted to the apostles. Indeed, after Jesus asserts, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (16:18), he gives the authority of the keys to his kingdom to his apostles. 16:19 says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." These keys refer to the authority to make official pronouncements on behalf of God's heavenly courtroom.

Of course, the church is built on the foundation of the apostles with Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). That is why it is not surprising to see in Matthew 18 that Jesus extends that same authority to the local congregation.

Indeed, in the context of church discipline, Jesus makes clear that the church has the authority to make a public declaration or verdict on Jesus' behalf by using the same language he used with the apostles. Matthew 18:18, "Truly I say to you (the gathered congregation, see v. 17), whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

When we get to Matthew 28:18-20 and the Great Commission, the stipulations of Matthew 16 and 18 are in the background. In other words, the authority to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all Christ commanded is entrusted to the local church. After all, baptism marks a new identity. It is also a use of the keys because the church is saying, "because you have repented of your sin and are trusting in Jesus' finished work alone for your salvation, we are pronouncing you are forgiven of all your sins." In other words, it is given to the church to pronounce on earth what has already been declared in heaven.

Because baptism is entrusted to the church, so is discipleship. To teach all that Christ commanded is not a one-off action. That is not to say that parachurch ministries are not legitimate. They are, and we are grateful for them. They are important but every parachurch ministry should always be directing converts to the local church. The consistent pattern of the New Testament is that churches, not individuals, take responsibility for baptizing and teaching. In Acts 2, when the church baptized 3,000 converts, they were "added" to the Jerusalem church (Acts 2:41).

(Pastor's Pen continued)

Of course, we also see how the apostles obeyed this Great Commission command. They obeyed by planting churches. For instance, in Acts 13, the church at Antioch commissioned Paul and Barnabas. Over the course of thirteen years, Paul embarked on three missionary journeys, during which he traveled more than 7,000 miles and planted somewhere between 14-20 churches. Of course, the text does not immediately say he planted churches but Acts 14:23 informs us they "appointed elders in every church."

**External Opportunity.** Plains High School will open in the fall of 2028 in north Auburn where the city recognizes growth. Yet there are few churches in north Auburn. In the December 6th, 2025, edition of the *Montgomery Advertiser*, an article was published that called Auburn a "boomtown." It said Auburn is the state's fastest growing city. It has grown 34.2% between 2015-2023 and locally, church plants are not keeping up with the population increase. How will this influx of image bearers be evangelized and discipled? Church plants are a large part of that answer.

**Internal Need.** We still have space for new growth, but only in the worship center. We are busting at the seams in Sunday School classes. Now let me say, that is a good problem to have. Praise God for the growth, but if it continues, space will be a real issue. Convictionally, we do not plan to go beyond one service in the morning. That is not because we do not want to do the extra work. Our reason is that the biblical assumption is the church gathers as one. Five times, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "when you come together" (1 Corinthians 11:17, 18, 20, 33, 34). So rather than going to multiple services (which, admittedly have benefits like doubled space and time flexibility), we sense the call to plant.

So a biblical responsibility, external opportunity, and internal need are our reasons to plant an autonomous, congregationally governed church in North Auburn. Please be in prayer. It is the most important thing you can do at this point. Next week, in the *Lakeview Life*, we will present potential questions you might have along with answers and then you can come loaded with more questions on June 3rd.

Again, let me leave you with a Spurgeon quote from a sermon he preached on April 23rd, 1865, titled *The Waterer Watered*. "We encourage our members to leave us to found other Churches; nay we seek to persuade them to do it. We ask them to scatter throughout the land to become the goodly seed, which God shall bless. I believe that so long as we do this we shall prosper."

Of course, this is not every Lakeview member's calling, but it just may be a core group's calling within Lakeview.

Love and Gratitude,  
Pastor Brian



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7th at 5:30pm

At Embrace Church

2142 North College Street ~ Auburn, AL

Hosted by the Auburn Pastors Prayer Fellowship

## RECIPE SWAP FOR SENIOR SAINTS WOMEN

The Senior Saints women will hold a recipe swap on Thursday, May 7th, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Kem Jackson will be our speaker, sharing funny moments during her years of ministry. We welcome you to bring a dish to share with others, but it is not required. Recipes will be collected for a cookbook. If you have a family cookbook, please bring it to display. For headcount purposes, let Jenny Swaim know you are coming by email at [swaimje@gmail.com](mailto:swaimje@gmail.com) or by phone at 334-559-0342, or contact Miranda Webb.



## congregational CARE UPDATE

## THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Hope to see men of every age Thursday, May 14th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon-1 PM. Josh, who serves with "the company" with his family, will discuss the dangers and joys of serving in a closed country. 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 June 11th, 2026.



## children's CHATTER

### VBS CRAFT 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!



## praise WORTHY

### RE/GEN ON-MISSION CONCERT AND COMMISSIONING

SUNDAY, MAY 17 - 6:00 PM

Join us for our annual Re/Gen Youth Choir Concert and Commissioning. The concert will feature the Re/Gen Choir singing songs for their upcoming On-Mission trip to Orlando, FL. Please make your plans to support and pray for our Lakeview Youth Choir by attending this special time of worship and commissioning.

### RE/GEN ON-MISSION PARENT, CHAPERONE, AND STUDENT MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 17 - 7:15 PM

Immediately following the Re/Gen Concert on May 17th, we will have a parent, chaperone, and student meeting in the Fellowship Hall. This very important meeting will cover the details for the On-Mission Trip to Orlando.

Annie  
Armstrong  
Easter  
Offering

### How Your Gifts Resource Missionaries

**\$200**

for print materials  
for a new church plant

**\$400**

for a portable  
baptismal and heater

**\$2,000**

monthly worship  
facility rent

**\$50,000**

one year of support & benefits  
for a first-year church planter

### Gifts received through May 17

Annie  
Armstrong  
Easter  
Offering

“

Our missionaries and their families plant their lives in some of the most spiritually challenging and difficult-to-reach places in North America, carrying the light of Christ where darkness prevails. They are only able to do this because Southern Baptists are faithful to give, providing the prayer, encouragement, and resources needed to fuel this mission.”

Kevin Ezell  
PRESIDENT, NAMB

reGEN  
YOUTH CHOIR

# fellowship MEAL

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

MAY 6

Chicken Fingers, Chips, Steamed Veggies,  
Rolls, Salad, Ice Cream Cups

*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

Lakeview ministers and church family,

Thank you for the many ways you have ministered to us since the death of our daughter, Allison: prayers, phone calls, visits, fellowship, flowers, food.

God has richly blessed us through this church family with love, support, and encouragement.

- Alice and Sylvan Dyer

### stay connected

 @lakeviewauburn



## REMEMBER IN prayer

ARBOR LAKE  
Nancy Brownfield  
Jennifer Hood  
Joe Waller

AZALEA PLACE  
Barbara Blankenship  
Susan Lazenby

BILL NICHOLS STATE  
VETERANS HOME  
Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE  
Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH  
CARE FACILITY  
Dean Baker

CHAPMAN HEALTH  
CARE  
Jerry Knause

EASE HOUSE  
Anne Dodge

MONARCH ESTATES  
Bill Thornton

THE PHOENIX AT  
OPELIKA  
Jerry Clark  
Judy Clark  
Charles Knause

AT HOME  
Matthew Baker  
Daniel Benjamin  
Matt Beth  
Dennis Clark  
Nelda Kennedy  
Jane Parker  
Janice Powers  
Lottie Sides  
Jackie Snead  
Larry Swango  
Iize West

### MAY 3 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ 1,232  
EVENING SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ 616

### MAY 3 GIVING

BUDGET \_\_\_\_\_ \$71,064.93  
RESTRICTED \_\_\_\_\_ \$36,561.00

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 67, NO. 18

“ 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