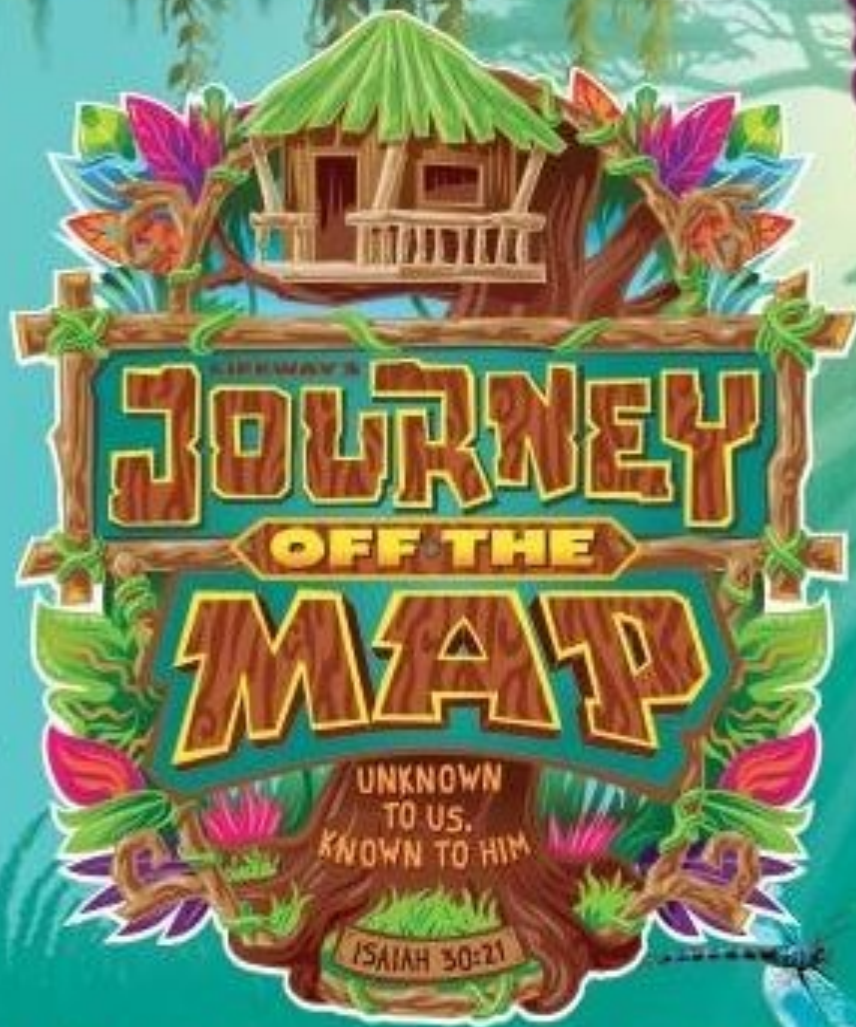


**May Connections  
Lakewood Baptist Church**

**VBS 2015**



**TAKE THE JOURNEY!**

**May 31 - June 4**

## Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

What can I say about May? Well, May is a great month for the church as Mother's day is second only to Easter in our attendance. In preparation for that we are once again having two identical worship services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. We will be combining the praise team, choir and orchestra for a music program that will need to be seen to be believed. It certainly does give all the mothers out there a perfect excuse to invite their families. I think it is right that we as a church and a nation stop to recognize the importance of the gift that God has given us in Mothers. In the Bible we see so many stories of the power and influence of Mothers in God's plan to change the world. Some of those stories inspire us, while others leave us heartbroken at the missed opportunities. This is played out in the way we choose to name our daughters after the women in the Bible and our own family history who we admire. We named our daughter Elizabeth, and I have met a lot of girls named Mary, but never have I met a girl named Jezebel. I thank God for my wife because she is the mother every child deserves and we are so blessed. It is right that we should honor such a ministry as being a Mom. We should not take for granted the sacrifice and significance of the place in God's plan that only mothers can fill.

Oh yes, May is about flowers and the first hot days that announce the coming of summer now only a few days away. May also brings an end to yet another school year as we watch our children move one step closer to graduation and the journey God has laid out for them. May has a lot in its schedule and with those events God has opened wide an opportunity to use them to advance His Kingdom and plan. I pray that we will be found faithful with all the opportunities ahead of us this May and make sure to take the time to smell the flowers as we really did have those April showers!



## I will sing to the Lord

The University of Mobile RamCorps will perform at Lakewood Sunday Night May 10 at 6 p.m. This will be one **GREAT CONCERT** you don't want to miss. They have played in numerous churches across the state of AL and will be leaving us the next day to catch a plane in Atlanta to go on mission tour. As an alumni I would encourage any student seeking a liberal arts education to consider Mobile University. I'm sure information will be available at the concert, but you will see first hand a sample of the music program that Mobile University has to offer. RamCorps is just one of probably 20 performing groups at the University. It will be an awesome night of music. Please spread the word.



## Children are a gift from God

“Journey off the Map”, this year’s Vacation Bible School, begins on May 31st and runs through June 4th. VBS is open to any children who are currently in the 3-4 year old SS class up through current 6<sup>th</sup> graders. A nursery and a 2 year old class will be available for those who are working in VBS. A light supper will be served at 5:15 and the worship rally and rotations begin at 6:00. We end at 8:30 each evening. This year we’re taking the kids on a trip to uncharted territory where they will begin to understand that obedience to God can lead them beyond the expected. We will learn how to prepare to listen for God’s direction in this journey that is unknown to us, but known by Him! If you are interested in getting a T-shirt they are \$10 and Patrick has a sign up sheet.

Our Children’s Choir did a wonderful job performing their spring musical, “I Am a Promise.” Diane Bush and Lauren Ny lead the preschool choir and Carole Thornton and Lindsey Tidwell lead the elementary choir. Thanks to these leaders who work hard with the kids each week. The choirs will continue to meet through May while they learn the new music for VBS. After VBS, they will not meet again until after Labor Day.

On Wednesday nights, beginning June 10, we will once again be having “Wet Wednesdays.” All elementary age kids, and any preschool age kids accompanied by a parent, are invited to come for a time of fellowship, devotion, and swimming fun. We will meet in the children’s church room at 5:45 for devotion and will return to the church by 7:15. Make sure you bring your swimsuit and a towel with you!

## To know Him and make Him known

The Ten Commandments are divided into two sections. The first part deals with our relationship with God, so we call those commands the vertical commands. The second part deals with our relationship to others, so we call those commands the horizontal commands. We must first be right with God before we can be right with others. It's significant that God starts the second section of the Ten Commandments with the statement that we are to honor our father and our mother, because it is a pivotal command. You see, our parents are the first people we meet. If we cannot learn to love and respect our parents, then it's obvious we cannot learn to love and respect anyone else. What God is saying is that the religion that doesn't begin at home does not begin at all, because what happens at home is the basis of everything else. If the home decays, then the church decays. If the church decays, then society decays and the state decays. The basis of all of our relationship to everybody else and everything else on planet earth, after we get right with God, is a home where we learn to honor our father and our mother.

The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody said, "I have lived over sixty years and I have learned one thing if I have learned nothing else. No man or woman who dishonors father or mother ever prospers." Proverbs 1:8-9 exhorts, "My son hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head and chains about your neck." The chains are not chains of bondage, but chains of ornament like a gold chain. It's amazing how much smarter our parents get the older we get. When we're sixteen, we think they're really out of it, and at nineteen we feel that we've surpassed them so far they'll never catch up to us. At twenty-two they're completely out of sight back in the dark ages. Then when we get to the point where we think we know everything, our parents start to get smart again. At about age forty, we think they're just about perfect, and the older we get the smarter our parents will get.

I want to share with you an anonymous article called "The Meanest Mother." "Surely mine was the meanest mother in the world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast I had to have stuff like oatmeal, cereal, milk, eggs and toast. While others were enjoying cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich and fruit. I was not alone in suffering. My sister and two brothers had the same cruel mother that I had. She insisted on knowing where we were all the time. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing, and if we said we'd be home in an hour that meant an hour or less, not more. When we were young and disobeyed, this tyrannical mother of ours would strike us with a switch. Imagine! And now you begin to see how really mean she was, but even this physical brutality was not the worse. We had to be in bed early and get up early. We never got to sleep till noon like our friends. While they slept we worked. My mother broke every child labor law there is. We were not yet sixteen when we had to wash dishes, make beds, help cook and all sorts of cruel things. Surely that meanest mother must have laid awake nights thinking up mean things for us to do. She demanded that we tell the truth even if it hurt, and sometimes it hurt like everything. By the time we were teenagers life became increasingly unbearable. Our dates were not aloud to toot the horn and bring us running as other girls' dates did. My cruel mother embarrassed us by insisting that our dates come to the door and get us. And where some of our friends got to date when they were twelve, my cruel mother refused to let us date until we were fifteen, and then only for school functions. Finally we got away from our mother, and we could do as we pleased. But by then we were helplessly warped and twisted in our behavior. We grew up taking baths and tithing to the church, and we never learned not to do such things. None of us ever had the opportunity other young people have to wreck schoolhouses or burn flags or smoke pot. Each of us went to school and learned and went to work and earned. Each of us got married once and still is. We're in a rut, still going in the same direction in which my meanest mother in the world pushed us. We're still into bathing and learning and earning and giving and living and loving and telling the truth. Mine was the meanest mother in the world." We need more mean mothers--mothers who mean business for God.

## Shaping the future

When trouble comes...

I think back to the verses found in *Job 2:10* where Job is on the defense while his wife is encouraging him to curse God and die. Job's words are evidence of the depth of his understanding of God when he says; "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" Although we know the rest of the story of Job and how much God blessed him in the end, none of us would freely volunteer to walk in his shoes. Still, many of us face trials of many kinds in our lives that others know nothing about. We go on, put a smile on our face and pretend everything is alright while inwardly we are being destroyed by worry and fear. I'm also reminded of Peter and John in *Acts 4* where they were arrested, jailed, and put on trial before the very same men who had been responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. I'm sure they expected to suffer the same fate yet the power of the Holy Spirit emboldens Peter to give a defense of the gospel and they end up being released with only a warning. Life is tough, but God is good. I'm reminded also of this truth; God is too good to be unkind, too loving to let anything harm you. When you can't trace His hand you can always trust His heart and watch and see that He will bring a blessing out of the hardest situations for your good and His greater glory. This has been proven over and over again in my life and the lives of others around me. So, I encourage you to follow the formula found in *Philippians 4:6-7*; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Prayer and thanksgiving are the answer to your problems and the wonderful result is the peace that only God can bring. As we see in the lives of Job, Peter, and John God also provides, as His great love drives Him to save, restore, and bless. The trials of life remind us of how truly dependent we are upon God and how finite our abilities and resources really are, so let us practice thankfulness in the good times and the bad and we will find ourselves living in the peace of God.

*Do not be anxious* about anything,  
but in everything, by *prayer* and *petition*,  
with *thanksgiving*,  
present your requests to *God*.  
And the *peace* of God,  
which transcends all *understanding*,  
will guard your hearts and your minds  
in *Christ, Jesus*.

**Notes of Appreciation**

The family of  
Linda Rollo

Carolyn Pruski

**New Members**

Christie Smith  
Benjamin Casey  
Janice Venuto

**Congratulations**

to Chris and Amber  
Dover on the birth of  
their son, Leeland

**Sympathy to**

Mark Scruggs in the loss  
of his Father, Bill Scruggs

Jean Russell and Shannon  
Scruggs in the loss of  
their mother-in-law and  
Grandmother,  
Ethel Russell

The family of  
Chris Maurer

**Wednesday Night  
Supper Menus**

**May 6**

Baked Spaghetti,  
Garlic Bread,  
Salad & Dessert

**May 13**

Scrambled Eggs,  
Bacon, Biscuits &  
Sausage Gravy, Grits,  
Cinnamon Rolls

**May 20**

Ham, Candied Yams,  
Lima Beans, Rolls,  
Salad & Dessert

**May 27**

Meatloaf,  
Mashed Potatoes,  
Black-eyed Peas,  
Cornbread  
Salad & Dessert

**~ In Memory of ~**

Dan Pruski for Challenge to Build from Carolyn Pruski

Lucile Cason for Challenge to Build from Carolyn Pruski

Maggie Mae Taunton for Challenge to Build from Eva and Janet Turner

Ethel Russell

For Challenge To Build from Clara Jean Watson  
For Challenge to Build from Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wilson  
For Amen Choir from Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Ezell

**~ In Honor of ~**

Chris Bankston for the Food Closet from St. Paul UMC

Jean Russell, Mark, Shannon and Russ Scruggs for the Food Closet from Dorothy Atkins

**Lakewood Baptist Church  
Ministerial Staff:**

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brothermr@LBCPC.org

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Andrew Spires, Students and Singles  
andrew@LBCPC.org

Patrick Thornton, Children  
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Jerry Horner, Discipleship & Outreach  
hornerjerry@hotmail.com

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onezima@LBCPC.org

Carol Breault, Office Assistant  
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Linda Keown, Music Assistant & Media  
linda@LBCPC.org

**Child Development Center:**

Cabbi Black, Director  
cabbi@LBCPC.org

Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant  
tammy@LBCPC.org

March Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
3/1/15	\$19,298.00	\$3,604.00	\$2,196.00	\$2,176.00	\$27,274.00
3/8/15	\$17,045.07	\$2,397.00	\$1,795.00	\$1,321.00	\$22,558.07
3/15/15	\$8,912.25	\$635.00	\$585.00		\$10,132.25
3/22/15	\$8,017.97	\$4,760.00	\$1,952.11	\$189.50	\$14,919.58
3/29/15	\$9,271.76	\$1,856.00	\$645.00	\$170.00	\$11,942.76

# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Children's Camp Out  --Golf Tournament-----	2
3 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 Youth / Braves Game	4 Amen Choir @ 10:30	5 Jim Bob's Spirit Night 5-9 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 VIP Co. 6:30  -----Mother's Day Shop-----	6 VK Baptist Women @ 10	7 Chick Fil A Day For Sam Beman	8 Game Night 5:30 - 8:30	9
10 Mother's Day Kidz Ch @ 6 S.N.A.G @ 6 PM Ram Corps	11 Amen Choir @ 10:30  Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	12 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	13 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	14 CDC Graduation @ 6:30	15	16
17 Graduate Recognition Yth Ch. @ 5 Awana Night @ 6 S.N.A.G. @ 6	18 Amen Choir @ 10:30  Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	19 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	20 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	21	22	23
24 Kidz Ch @ 6 S.N.A.G @ 6	25 Memorial Day Office & CDC Closed	26	27 CDC Meeting @7	28 JEG Baptist Women @ 7	29	30 Feed the Homeless 11-2
31  VBS Begins						

## Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

### SUNDAYS

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 AM Bible Fellowship Classes  
11:00 AM Blended Worship Service  
11:15 AM Kidz Worship  
6:00 PM Evening Worship

### WEDNESDAYS

5:00 PM Family Night Supper  
5:45 PM Youth Get R.E.A.L.  
5:45 PM A.W.A.N.A. / FLYTE  
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study  
7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

### THURSDAYS

2:00 PM Clothes Closet  
2:00 PM L.O.A.F.

\* All times are Eastern

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## LAKEWOOD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



**Mother's Day Shop / Downstairs Lobby**  
**May 5th, 6th, 7th**  
**7:30 - 10:30 am & 2:30 - 6:00 pm**

### Contact Information:

#### Lakewood Baptist Church

Website: [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org)  
4011 Lakewood Drive  
Phenix City, AL 36867  
Main Office: 334.298.6433  
Fax: 334.298.4873  
Hours: Mon - Thur 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

#### Child Development Center

Website: [LBCPC.org/cdc](http://LBCPC.org/cdc)  
334.298.6461  
Hours: M - F 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

**May  
2015**

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**Issue 2**

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