

# WBC NEWSLETTER

July 2023



**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH EXISTS TO  
GLORIFY GOD BY LEADING PEOPLE INTO A  
GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST**

# A WORD FROM OUR ELDERS

God is Good All of the Time, And All of the Time God is Good

“Non-binary” has become a hot button term in society, specifically concerning gender. “Non-binary gender” is an umbrella term for anything that isn’t solely male or female. Beyond our culture’s popular use of the term in the gender conversation, binary/non-binary are simply terms that refer to the nature of something’s composition. Binary means that something is composed of two parts. Non-binary means something is composed of more than two (or countless) parts. So, concerning gender, a binary understanding is that there is only male or female, and a non-binary understanding is that there are more options than that. One of the implications of a non-binary understanding is that someone has the ability to choose exactly what gender they are.

It seems that in the sinful decline of civilization this non-binary understanding of the world is accelerating at break-neck speed! This view of the world is contrary to God’s design, and not just in terms of gender. God’s creation is filled with good, binary distinctions. These distinctions are never less than rock-solid truths, but when embraced and held tightly they become so much more. To understand and embrace God’s good, binary distinctions in creation is the path toward a vibrant, meaningful life of worship. Here are a few of those distinctions found in God’s creation: Creator / creature, right (righteousness) / wrong (sinfulness), obedience / disobedience, male / female, husband / wife, parent / child. The list could certainly go on, but the point is that in any of these categories a person is either one or the other.

We all rebel against these distinctions at some point. We justify “small sins” that we know are wrong, making them right in our minds. We abdicate our responsibility as parents and let our children make the rules. Wives want to lead their husbands and husbands want to be led. Withholding the truth becomes honesty. Telling lies becomes loving. Why would human nature want to challenge these binary distinctions that seem so helpful and true? I believe it is because we don’t trust the goodness of God.

Certainly, in part, this is a failure to acknowledge and respect the authority found in the Creator / creature distinction, but more specifically, it is not trusting in God’s goodness. If we study Scripture’s account of the fall, we will find Eve doubting God’s goodness. She succumbed to the temptation to doubt God’s goodness by believing that God’s wanted to keep good things from her (Gen. 3:1-5). Because of this misunderstanding of God’s goodness, Eve no longer trusts God and she takes matters into her own hands, determining right and wrong for herself (Gen. 3:6). Paul refers to this as exchanging the truth about God for a lie, and he says that it is a misunderstanding of the truth that distinguishes the Creator from the creature (Rom. 1:25).

God is good and he is our Creator. There are many things in life that we cannot choose but can only understand and embrace. Don’t question God’s goodness in the things he has decided for you. Rather, trust in his goodness and seek to understand how he wants you to live in the life he has given you.

Justin Morehead

# WBC PRAYER FOCUS

## WBC PRAYER MINISTRY:

### *“Prayer Matters”*

*“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”*

James 1:27

As God’s church, His believers, we tend to think of actions as our witness and that does speak . . . not simply our words. So, with both orphans and widows we understand the importance of opportunities to help in these areas as His witness to the world. But the importance of keeping oneself “unstained from the world” can be more difficult to sort out on our day-to-day journey at times. We are certainly in this world, and yet, not of this world. But we must be capable of reaching this world with God’s love, kindness and truth. Eternity’s destination for others may be at stake and responsibility of the purpose we were created for will be accounted for one day by all who received the gospel truth for their salvation. Thank God for Christ Jesus making salvation a real possibility for ALL!

We must seek to be “unstained by the world” but we do need help not to be polluted as one author said by the world. While we know 1 John 1:9 states we can be cleansed from all unrighteousness, we also know seeking to keep close to Christ can guide our heart into His Word regularly and that consistent prayer will keep us tender to talk to and hear from His Spirit. God desires to have that heart relationship with us – and will lead us into paths of light and life.

Below are three simple ideas one writer expressed as important when we seek to avoid the world’s “pollutants.” Perhaps you can add to the list some things more personal and even more obvious for believers, but recalling these can help us be stable in an unstable world of changing stains and choices on our journey of being wholly HIS!

1. Trust God with ALL your heart, even when you can’t understand or see HIS method of help . . . HE is a good Father.
2. Surrender to HIS ways, even when they don’t make sense to you . . . HE is the source of all wisdom!
3. Seek to focus on Him and remain in communication with Him through the Bible and prayer . . . HE sees you and HE hears you.

Being a child of God through the forgiving and powerful blood of Christ Jesus has benefits. HE will never leave us or forsake us – and HE will keep His word. Learn His promises and the benefits of being a child of God; and please, pray regularly for those who have not yet made that decision to follow Christ or who have wandered from the awesomeness of these truths and are living in the lie of spiritual defeat!

Thank you to those who prayed for students during the 2022-23 school year. Hopefully, the student whose name you chose last fall to pray for has grown closer to Christ and had a safe, successful school year. Also, thank each of you who prayed for those involved in WBC’s VBS in June. May spiritual fruit continue to grow from seeds sown in lives this year during that week. May you be blessed by caring for others through your own prayers.

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. “*

Psalm 103:2

# PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY



## PRAYERS FOR SALVATION:

Emilee, Stephen, Joshua,  
James, Josh, Jessie, Robert

## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Joyce Beatty, Michael and  
Dianah Minges, Terry Collins'  
daughter Marsha

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

STRENGTHENING & BUILDING OUR  
*Community*  
THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER

Community Prayer  
Gathering  
First Saturday of Each Month  
July 1  
9:30-10:30am  
WBC Sanctuary

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ  
from area churches to pray and believe that  
God's Word in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is true for today

HOW CAN WE  
**PRAY**  
FOR YOU?

To initiate a prayer, call the  
church office or visit  
[wbclowell.com/connect/prayer](http://wbclowell.com/connect/prayer)



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Twists & Turns" VBS! 54 children attended, 67 students and adults volunteered, and just over \$400 was raised for Least of These Carolinas Bag of Hope program for foster kids in Gaston Co. Continue to pray that lives will be changed because of the gospel!



**Woodlawn Kids  
Celebration Luncheon  
Sunday, August 6  
12pm, Gym  
For all children, their families,  
and Kids Ministry volunteers!**



## Woodlawn Kids Weekly Ministries

### *Sundays*

9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Kids Worship (K-3)

### *Wednesdays*

7:00pm KidsROC  
(Kids Rely on Christ)  
and Preschool Kids Club

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. July 5, 6:45 pm Poptarts & Pajamas  
Movie Night

Wed. July 12, 7 pm Scavenger Hunt

Wed. July 19, 6 pm Water Slide Fun

Wed. July 26, 7 pm Glow Party

Wed. Aug 2, 7 pm Back to School Party

Sun. Aug. 6 Woodlawn Kids Celebration Day:

Children who start Kindergarten this year will move from Preschool to Elementary, and kids who start 6<sup>th</sup> grade will move into Student Ministry during the Sunday School hour. Join us for lunch in the gym after the morning worship service as we celebrate.

# STUDENTS



# SUMMER SUNDAYS

**STARTING  
JUNE 4TH**

Food.  
Games.  
Friends.  
Gospel.

6-8pm  
@ the Veazey's



”  
Our goal with  
Woodlawn Students is  
to equip them to follow  
Jesus, to be made like  
him, and to become  
fishers of men.

GABE VEAZEY, STUDENT MINISTER

July 24-28



# ADULTS

## DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

If you have questions you are encouraged to talk to  
Justin Morehead

OR

Visit [wbclowell.com](http://wbclowell.com) and click on resources tab for more information

### MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

WE WILL TAKE  
THE SUMMER OFF  
BUT LOOK FOR  
OTHER MEN'S  
MINISTRY EVENTS  
COMING UP.



### Young at Heart

We will not  
meet through  
the summer.

We will  
resume in  
September



# Matthew 5-7

Kingdom Teaching for Kingdom Living



# LOWELL CRISIS MINISTRY



**FOR THE MONTH OF JULY  
WE WILL BE COLLECTING:**

**PAPER TOWELS, TOILET PAPER,  
RAMEN NOODLES, VIENNA  
SAUSAGES, PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP,  
TOMATO SOUP, SPAM**

## **Woodlawn Food Pantry is Reaching Our Community.**

Since we first opened our doors and introduced food for our fellow citizens in Lowell our vision was to feed the immediate problem of hunger. Since this time of humble beginnings, and over the following years, we expanded and began the intentionality of introducing the Gospel as a vital means of response to the immediate problem. Without the Gospel there is no real change and no real reason for meeting any need. Without God's truth, reason is not reached in the life of an individual because the immediate reason is based on a temporal outcome without God's love.

As a Gospel centered "Food Pantry" we are reaching our community in ways that are far beyond bodily needs, we are reaching people with God's Word. In other words, we are feeding our community with real food that transforms a person by introducing them to the true God of the Bible, the Creator Himself.

Woodlawn Baptist Church will address and minister to the social issue of hunger by providing nourishing food items to families within our congregation and surrounding community trusting in the Lord to expand our program as the need increases.

Our "Food Pantry" is here to serve those who come to our pantry, with compassion and respect and with a Christ-like servant attitude. We remain open to listening and working diligently to meet the needs of the individuals and families in our community.

As the body of Christ, we encourage all members to help us reach this specific need in our community through giving, prayer, and reaching those in need by letting us know who may benefit from this assistance ministry so that we as a church may proclaim the gospel, feed the hungry, by planting and watering that God may give growth.

"So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

## **How Can You Help? ... Volunteer! ... Donate! ... Give!**

The "Food Pantry" depends on the help of the congregation and the community to continue this valuable service for those that need assistance. **Please Help!**

**To Volunteer** - please contact the church office at (704) 824-4261 or text Stephen Abbott (deacon) (704) 813-9460.

**To Donate Food** - to the "Food Pantry" stop by during church office hours of operation. Particular needs will be listed in the Church bulletin each week. Please check expiration dates of items donated; we only accept items that are not expired.

**To Give a Monetary Donation** - please stop by during church office hours of operations, give online or send a check to Woodlawn Baptist Church (*Food Pantry in the memo line*). We use your monetary donations to purchase food and for pantry operational costs.



# MEN'S MINISTRY

## Woodlawn Men's Ministry



**The greatest need we have in America today is to reach our men.**

There is an obvious need for developing men in their personal commitments to God, their family, and their church. However, studies show that only a small percentage of men will change through sharing and receiving information in a normal church service. Another group of men will never change regardless of what you try to do for them. The majority of men will make needed changes in their lives only after they have experienced intimate relationships with God and other Christian men. These same studies also have shown that the average man in the church has no or few close Christian friends with whom he can relate, share and learn. As the Men's Ministry we must provide the means by which men can learn to be men of God, turn their hearts toward God, their wives and children, their churches, and to the lost (Luke 14:25-35). We have the potential to see the greatest revival the world has ever known. God's Spirit is sweeping across this world, searching for men who are trustworthy to stand in the gap (Ez. 22:30).

Throughout history, revivals have stirred God's people. These revivals were sparked by prayer, repentance, humility, preaching of the Word, holiness, Christian service and saving the lost. These revivals, called awakenings, have brought about great spiritual and sociological change. They were pivotal in setting a direction for culture, law, education, business, ethics, and – above all – personal morality and integrity. The church and devotion to God became paramount in the family, church and community.

We are to strengthen our brothers (Luke 22:31-32) As men of Woodlawn Baptist and fellow believers in the body of Christ we are called to build one another into the men God has called us to be through encouragement, fellowship, and lifting one-another to be strengthened in the faith.

As the world has encroached its liberal view and since the "Second World War" the churches have turned most of their time to women and children and we have lost a generation of men to find themselves alone.

Men's Fellowship must be prioritized by all men in the church - whatever the age, demographic, or life stage - because Men's Fellowship is vital to a man's spiritual health.

Stephen A

# MUSIC MINISTRY

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

God has created music as a means of worshiping him! We have all experienced music's ability to enhance and stir our passions. I believe that music is intentionally designed in this way. When we attach the truths of Scripture to the songs we sing we can see very clearly why God has designed music this way! I pray that our love for the Lord would continue to deepen as a result of singing together each week.

## **Rehearsal for Singers!**

- \* If you are interested in helping us lead our congregation in worship through music, please join us for our weekly rehearsal on Wednesday evenings 6-7pm!**

## **Instrumentalists!**

- \* If you play an instrument and would like to talk about serving the church through music please reach out via email!**

**[justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com](mailto:justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com)**



# WHAT'S GOING ON AT WOODLAWN?

## **Sunday morning services:**

**Sunday school for all ages  
9:45am**

**Worship in the Sanctuary  
11:00am**

**Sunday morning worship  
live at 11:00am**

[www.wbclowell.com](http://www.wbclowell.com)

**Services are archived on our  
website for your viewing  
convenience.**

## **Wednesday Evening**

**At Woodlawn 7-8pm**

**Adults-Prayer and Bible  
Study - Gym**

**Preschoolers – Preschool  
Department-Ed Bldg.**

**Children – Children's  
Department-Ed Bldg.**

**Students  
Student Room-Ed Bldg.**



**Sunday,  
July 16,  
11pm**

The  
*Lord's*  
Supper

## **KNOWING GOD BY HIS NAMES**

*Learning to trust the Father fully*

New Wednesday Night  
Summer Series beginning June 21

# SPECIAL OCCASIONS - JULY 2023



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Lawana Hovis  
8 Anna Grace Stewart  
10 James Sears  
14 Ruth Abbott  
18 Louann Gates  
22 Canaan Morehead  
26 Hannah Moore  
28 Melanie Hawkins  
31 Justin Clements

2 Harrison Swindell  
10 Mark Hall  
12 Hensley Evans  
16 Sandra Simonds  
21 Abby Jones  
25 Caroline Grant  
27 Kim Collins  
29 Betty Walker  
31 Carolyn Patton

6 Emily Rodgers  
10 Pauline Philbeck  
12 Kayla Hawkins  
17 Keylee Calvert  
22 Shirley Falls  
26 Nathan Eastburn  
28 Ashleigh Grant  
30 Reagan Evans



1  
Eddie and Debbie Calvert  
4  
Nathan and Holly Bell  
9  
Rick and Joyce Fowler  
18  
Chris and Leslie Lamb  
21  
Tom and Karen Robb  
29  
Chris and Ragan Norris  
29  
Gabe and Abbey Veazey



- ❖ Read through the Bible in a year
- ❖ Read through the New Testament
- ❖ Read through the Bible Chronologically
- ❖ Read through Mark

Call the church office if you would like to have a copy of one of these reading plans.



## **WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **STAFF**

Lead Pastor: Mitch Evans  
mitch@wbclowell.com

Music and Discipleship Pastor  
Justin Morehead  
justin@wbclowell.com

Student Minister – Gabe Veazey  
gabe@wbclowell.com

Volunteer Elder – Don Trapp  
don@wbclowell.com  
Volunteer Elder – Chris Norris  
chris@wbclowell.com

Ministry Assistant: Crystal Watkins  
admin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

The WBC Newsletter is a monthly publication for  
Woodlawn Baptist Church  
1101 N. Main St.  
Lowell, NC 28098  
Phone: 704-824-4261

Sunday School is at 9:45am  
Worship service is at 11:00am

Wednesday adult Bible study and discussion,  
preschool, children and student activities are at  
7:00pm

## **FINANCIAL DIGEST**

### **AS OF MAY 2023**

#### **INCOME YEAR TO DATE**

**\$180,170.80**

#### **OFFERING MAY 2023**

**\$29,534.42**

### **AVERAGE ATTENDANCE**

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

MAY 2022- 80

MAY 2023 - 105

#### **WORSHIP**

MAY 2022- 177

MAY 2023 - 165

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY  
THRU  
THURSDAY  
8AM – 4PM**

**Woodlawn Baptist Church is  
happy to allow members to  
use our facilities.**

We just ask that you complete a  
“Facilities Use Form” and give it to the  
Ministry Assistant so she can be sure  
there are no scheduling conflicts and  
can add your event to the church  
calendar. The “Facilities Use Forms”  
are available in the church office or  
workroom.

# MISSIONS



## VBS Missions

Every year at VBS we have a session for Missions. We have a primary country that we study and we watch a video series of a missionary family from that country. The Burkhalters were this year's missionary family working with the impoverished women of the Embera in Medellin, Columbia. Most of these women are uneducated and are refugees who fled their native homelands for safety. The Burkhalters noticed them begging for food and money and started to share the gospel with them. They also taught these women life skills to support themselves such as making fine-beaded jewelry and teaching them Spanish.

On Monday night we talked about the country of Columbia. Columbia is the 4th largest South American country and has the 2nd largest population of Spanish speakers. They have a population of over 50 million with four cities having more than a million people. 94% of Columbians have some sort of Christian religious background with only 10% identifying with evangelical faith. Sixty of the 96 people groups are considered unreached. This is why we need missionaries who will teach native Columbians who can reach these people groups. As part of the Twists & Turns game theme, the kids had a Fortnite dance-off.

On Tuesday night, Gabe gave a presentation on Japan. Japan has a population of 125 million people but only 3% claim any type of Christianity. He gave an amazing visual illustration. He filled up a serving pan with over 1000 white mints. Only a few of the mints were colored. The few colored mints among the many white mints represented the number of Christians in Japan. For their game, the kids became Samurai warriors as they used pool noodles to knock stuff off their heads.

On Wednesday night, Dylan (one of our students) gave a presentation on China. He gave a great gospel presentation and talked about how few Christians there are in China. He also mentioned that most Christians in China have to meet in secret because they are not welcome. For their game, they played a missions trivia tic-tac-toe.

On Thursday we talked about Germany. George Gates, our deacon of missions, recently went to Germany to meet and talk to the interns we are supporting. Germany's churches are very liberal. The interns are studying to take the gospel back to these churches. For our game challenge the kids had to use their feet to retrieve as many plastic bugs as they could from an ice-cold bucket of water.

Friday was our Family Night. We finished viewing our week-long missions video and then showed a gospel presentation video. After that, the silliness began. Our mission offering this year was for Least of These Carolinas - a Christian foster care organization

here in Gaston County. The children raised over \$400. A lot of kids emptied their piggy banks for this effort. As usual, there was a competition between the boys and the girls to see who could raise the most money. The boys won this year. We had two adult volunteers participate in our winner's celebration. The winner got to spin the Wheel of MisFortune and Ragan Norris had to eat a full course meal of baby food. The girls did a wonderful job raising funds as well so Chris Norris had his hair and beard spray-painted blue and pink. Then our classroom teachers came up on the stage to perform the Twists and Turns VBS theme song to show their kids how well they could do the motions to the song.

Special thanks to the missions volunteers Gabe, Dylan, Jonathan Calvert, Landon Calvert, and Evan Botts. Special thanks also to Ragan and Chris Norris for volunteering for our Missions Offering Celebration during Family Night.

Please pray that the seeds planted during VBS week will bring much fruit.

## **Pates in Brazil**

Brian had an opportunity to preach and teach at Brasil para Cristo in Lucas do Rio Verde. Continue to pray for the Pates.



## **Wade Lawing Local Missionary with FCA**

FCA had the opportunity to share the gospel with over 250 coaches and athletes this past month. We hosted a 7 on 7 football tournament at Mountain Island Charter School. We organized a round robin tournament and then fed them lunch and the gospel.

## **Missions Geography 101 / Colombia**

People Groups/Unreached: 96 / 60

Capital: Bogota

Distance from Lowell: 2400 miles

Primary Religion: Christianity

Population: 51,978,000

Christian Adherents: 93.57%

Scripture: Complete Bible



# **2022-2023 Deacon Family and Ministry Assignment**

**Ross Bradley – A-And and Web-Z  
Baptism, Bereavement, Fellowship**

**Sean Moore – Ane – Bk  
Recreation**

**Eric Gunter – Bl-Cars  
Women's Ministry**

**VICE CHAIR - George Gates – Cart-E  
Missions, Benevolence**

**Stephen Abbott – F-Gil  
Men's Ministry, Food Pantry**

**CHAIR - Ray Gilbert – Gim-Her ,  
Finance, Prayer, Children**

**SECRETARY - Tom Botts – Hes-Mit  
Audio Visual, Website**

**Buddy Herndon – Miu-Robe  
Building and Grounds**

**Buddy Barnhill – Robf-Ste  
Greeters, Bus, Security, Decorations**

**Eddie Calvert – Stf-Wea  
Building and Grounds**

**YOUR DEACON ON DUTY FOR  
JULY  
BUDDY BARNHILL AND STEVE ABBOTT**