

WBC NEWSLETTER

May 2023



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

A WORD FROM OUR ELDERS

1 Corinthians 15

I will always remember the first time I had the opportunity to go fishing. My grandpa took me to Buster Boyd Bridge in Lake Wylie S.C. (we went under the bridge for those thinking we fished from the bridge...we were all legal). That was a long journey for a small fellow back then. We gathered all of the gear and had one of those gallon size ice cream buckets left over from Harris Teeter to put the fish in. What I enjoyed most was casting of the fishing rod. I was instructed many times that I would not catch any fish if I didn't let the line sit for a while. Eventually, my ears worked and to my surprise fish started to bite. The feeling of catching a fish for the first time is indescribable, it's the opposite of how we describe something tasting like chicken.

This was far better than anything that I had ever imagined, especially since I had started catching fish. The fight was brief, and the initial shock of catching a fish came to a pause when my grandpa said, "you have to take the fish off the hook, and you better hold him tight." Wait, what did he just say? Taking the fish off the hook meant actually having contact with the fish. Let's just say, that the instruction to "hold tight" didn't go so well the first, second, and even third opportunities to put it to practice. Learning to "hold tight" took a whole new meaning.

The language Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 15:2, to "hold fast to the word which I preached to you", unless we would believe in vain, has a similar meaning for us concerning what we believe. What is it we are holding fast too, and how does this relate to our hope? Maybe the "here and now" has more prevalent grasp on our thoughts than it should. Evidence of hope in earthly gain has taken root of many in the evangelical Christian faith. Instead of holding fast to the gospel, the grip of something else occupies the mind.

Challenging times are before us, and the uncertainty of a prosperous future can be a hindrance in the life of a believer. The truth of 1 Corinthians 15 remains in the resurrection power of Christ. The illusions before us give many opportunities for life in the "here and now" to appear greater than what awaits the believer. Friends, make no mistake as you read this chapter, there is evidence given for what awaits those who hope in Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior.

My prayer would be for our church to reflect this hope, and that we would be overcome with a desire to hold fast to these promises. Fishing has always been a great experience and has created many memories along the way in my life. Throughout my time fishing there have been occasions where I was able to learn and then also times to teach my own children. I often think back to the words my Grandpa said, "you better hold him tight." I think Paul sets forth the reminder for us to hold fast, and truly be captivated by the victory that is provided by Jesus.

Chris

WBC PRAYER FOCUS

WBC PRAYER MINISTRY

“Prayer Matters”

“So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” Acts 12:5

The rest of the story following the verse above is powerful. Peter is in prison again in Acts 12 and this time heavily guarded as a prior arrest resulted in angelic release! As the intensity of anger for Christ's followers grew among the Jewish religious leaders, the church is in fervent, earnest prayer for Peter. This time God supernaturally intervenes through an angel who leads Peter to freedom and guides him to the very house where the church is praying. God's power is clearly revealed to a praying church!

During WBC's annual prayer emphasis, **One Voice – One Focus**, our church family has intentionally been praying to see our hearts embrace God's passion for souls as our own mission. We have been praying as Christ's followers to be His light in darkness, to be His laborers for the harvest, His witnesses sharing the gospel, and ultimately, His disciple-makers in obedience to His command to the church. Please set an intentional time daily to specifically pray for God to show each of us our part in reaching others for Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives. Perhaps you could set an alarm on your phone as your daily reminder.

For what and who will you be praying earnestly for in this season of opportunity before the church? James 5:16b states “. . . The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” Let's pray, watch, listen and believe in the power of God to equip and use WBC as we surrender our hearts to His passion for the souls of unbelievers and prodigals.

Please join in praying for and being part of the upcoming important community opportunity listed below.

National Day of Prayer Community Observance

Thursday: May 4 12:15 PM – 12:40 PM

McCord Family Park – Downtown Lowell

Invite others to join you in standing together in prayer with area pastors and leaders. Many other communities across this nation will hold similar events praying for the seven areas which influence our society. These are listed in the prayer guide available in the sanctuary. At 8 p.m. on May 4, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org for the livestream event featuring well-known leaders from across the nation. It is also available via radio and television on numerous Christian stations.

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and HIS ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12

PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY



PRAYERS FOR SALVATION:

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

PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND OR THOSE IN ASSISTED LIVING:

Hazel Currie,

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Joyce Beatty, Robert Willard,
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
May 6
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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.
**For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.
**For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.
**For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with
fertility, for those women whom
society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.
**For their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom, for their lives,
we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



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



VBS 2023

**June 12-16, 6-8pm
for kids who have
completed K-5th.**

Register Online Today!

<https://www.myvbs.org/woodlawnkidslowell/>

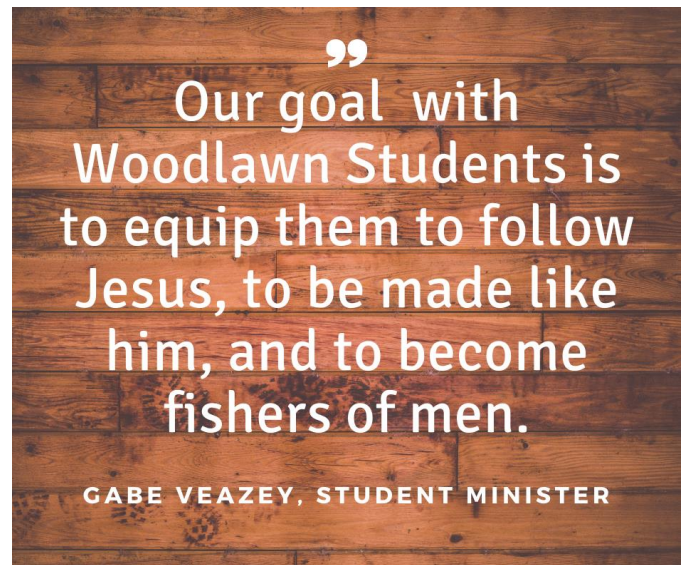


FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME

**Please pray about serving in this important
church ministry. Contact the church office
if interested.**

**"MAKE YOUR WAYS KNOWN TO ME, LORD;
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS." PSALM 25:4 (CSB)**

STUDENTS



ADULTS

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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

OR

Visit wbclowell.com and click on resources tab for more information

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

MAY 4, 6:30AM
1ST THURSDAY EACH MONTH
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
SHORT STUDY/DEVOTION
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR VISIT THE WEBSITE



Young at
Ages 50+
Every other
Tuesday
May 9 and 23
11:30am
Pick-ups
and 1st Tuesday of each month
May 2, 6pm
Covered dish to share



Matthew 5-7

Kingdom Teaching for Kingdom Living

LOWELL CRISIS MINISTRY



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

**PAPER TOWELS AND
TOILET PAPER, RAMEN
NOODLES, VIENNA SAUSAGES**

The churches ministry in reaching the community is made up of several churches in the Lowell city area and provides assistance in times of need by sharing our resources and proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Church Food Pantry is a staple ministry for serving the poor. If you work in a church, you know that it's not uncommon for people in need to gravitate towards churches. Let's be honest. This is a good thing. This means that they see a church as a place where they might find the help that they need.

The food pantry is a simple but effective way to meet this need. Our food pantry is a ministry of the church that provides food to people in need and also to reach them with the gospel. We are open to all individuals that have fallen on hard times and need our help. We will deliver the food as our resources allow to better address the need.

A church food pantry consists of four basic elements: storage space, volunteers, food and funds as needed for the purchase of any requirements that may not be donated.

In 2023 we are adopting a new Mission Statement to better address the needs of our community. We are focused on the diverse needs of those who come to Woodlawn's Food Pantry. We support their dignity by how we treat them, how we listen to their story, by what services we provide them and how we can help them access other help in the community.

For some people the situation they find themselves in requires them to live with food pantry assistance the rest of their lives. But for others, a 'helping hand' is what they need right now. By providing food and other services at this time in a person's life – we are often able to provide the additional help they need in order to regain their independence.

Our 'Scripturally-based perspective' is referenced as a statement of our Christian values in how we treat others, as well as how we share the gospel as the Lord has instructed us through the God-given abilities and strengths that make each of us unique and valuable.

WHAT we do and HOW we do it – are intentional aspects that make Woodlawn a Scripturally based Food Pantry for the purpose of filling the needs of individuals in difficult times and reaching them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We need your help!

If you know anyone in the community who would benefit from the help we as a church can provide please send them to us. If you are interested in volunteering or donating resources, please call the church office or inform Stephen Abbott - Ministry Deacon

MEN'S MINISTRY

Woodlawn Men's Ministry



Men Need Other Men

It has been said, "So goes the family, so goes the nation." Governments have been investing billions of dollars in its future through programs that affect children outside the home; yet, the family unit is under attack and in many cases fragmented and without purpose. Statistics seem to indicate that one of the main reasons for this is a lack of proper leadership in the home. Maybe it should be said, "So goes the husband and father, so goes the family, so goes the church and so goes the nation." If the Church acts as the spiritual thermometer of a nation, then it needs to turn its' attention to the condition of the family and its leadership.

The church must turn its attention to developing effective husbands and fathers. Government social programs will never be able to capture men's hearts and mentor them into becoming responsible leaders of their homes. This is the greatest opportunity and challenge facing the Church in the 21st century. Unfortunately, most churches do not know how to disciple men into productive leaders. The normal process in many churches is for a man to get saved, and be given a ministry position before he is ready. He must be trained how to lead himself and his home before he can successfully lead the church. The church has a responsibility to teach men how to be the Spiritual leaders.

Men this is our opportunity to mentor and disciple men in our church. You are just as important part of our men's ministry as anyone. You may need the wisdom of those older men or you may need to share the influence that you have been given through your many years as a disciple to mentor another.

In Christ
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

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

**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,
May 21,
11pm**

The
Lord's
Supper

Welcome to our newest
members

**Kelly and Madison
Phillips**



SPECIAL OCCASIONS - MAY 2023



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Melissa Botts | 5 Gil Hutchins |
| 6 Madi Phillips | 6 Ryder Watkins |
| 7 Tracy McAferty | 8 Nicole Anderson |
| 8 Landon Calvert | 8 Ragan Norris |
| 8 Hudson Swindell | 9 Jonah Robinson |
| 11 Paxton Farr | 12 Jane Saunders |
| 13 Max Collins | 20 Leslie Lamb |
| 23 Xander Rankin | 23 Tom Robb |
| 24 Avery Grant | 24 Isaac Phillips |
| 25 James Lee Morehead | 29 Raina Sullivan |
| 30 Hunter Swindell | |

10

Buddy and Donna Herndon

15

Eric and Jamie Gunter

17

Lack and Kim Collins

19

Glenn and Amber Flowe

21

Tom and Melissa Botts

23

Russ and Rosan Sprinkles

26

Joe and Randi Gates

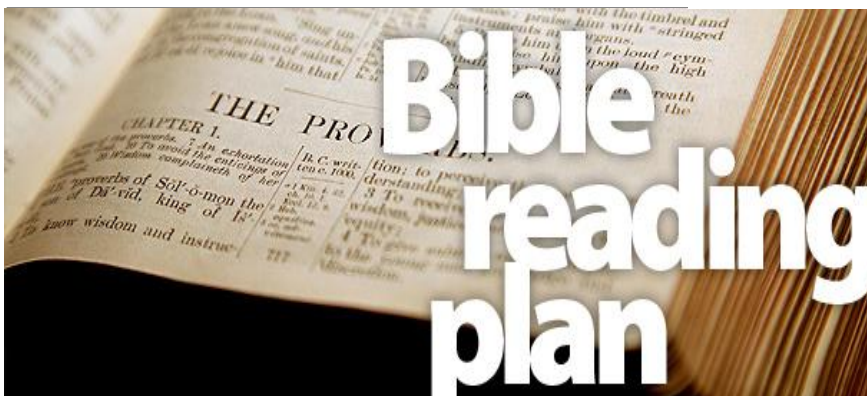


27

Tony and Crystal Watkins

28

Justin and Canaan Morehead



- ❖ 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 MARCH 2023

INCOME YEAR TO DATE

\$106,785.44

OFFERING MARCH 2023

\$37,989.76

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 2022- 86

MARCH 2023 - 118

WORSHIP

MARCH 2022- 173

MARCH 2023 - 168

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



What Do You Do? What Do You Do?

On a Sunday morning on the island of Ferrengi, the congregation gathered for a church service. It was time for the sermon and the missionary pastor stood up. Suddenly, six young men dressed as government soldiers barged into the church. They had machine guns.

The soldiers sat down in the front pew. The congregation was in shock. One member yelled that the soldiers were not real soldiers, but guerrillas. Pastor Smith quickly cut him off and told everyone to remain inside the chapel. The pastor couldn't ignore the memory of a similar incident that occurred a few weeks ago, where a guerrilla band

entered another church during the worship service and requested protection. A church member ran out to seek help and ended up calling the national police for assistance. A battle ensued between the police and guerrillas, resulting in over thirty deaths, including the pastor and all the guerrillas.

Pastor Smith tried to focus on his sermon, which was a basic presentation of the gospel message. As he finished his sermon, he gave an invitation.

Two of the six guerrillas came forward and knelt down to pray. The pastor led the congregation in audible prayer. As he was preparing to dismiss the congregation, one of the guerrillas stood up and began to speak. He stated that he was a Christian and wished to become a church member. The man went on to explain that the people on the island associated Catholics with Spain, which oppressed them during colonial times, and evangelicals with the United States, which controls the island through financial aid, material goods, and sports. The guerrilla claimed that for every dollar the United States gave, they took two or three more from the impoverished island. He argued that it was not God's will for his people to live in poverty, ignorance, and affliction while the governors, backed by the United States, lived in luxury and opulence.

A deafening silence followed, and the pastor reflected on a stream of thoughts. He had only come to preach the gospel, not to get involved in politics, but now he was heavily involved. He realized that the government was corrupt and he had never intended to be associated with it. However, the guerrilla's words made him see how much he identified with it. The United States, the national government, and the evangelical church worked together, which made people believe that the financial aid from the mission came from the same source that was used for repression, political persecution, and ultimately, the country's destruction.

The pastor had always believed that the church could only thrive in a country where there was "freedom" backed by a strong army. What brought his mind back to the present situation was the swift realization that the police had the right to kill guerrillas at any time and any place. What if a shoot-out occurred at any moment here in his church? How could he cope with the presence of the guerrillas and also ensure the safety of his congregation? What do you do? What do you do?



Pates in Brazil

Brian is pictured here with some of his students. Continue to pray for our missionary family the Pates as they labor in Brazil teaching pastors.



Wade Lawing Local Missionary with FCA

FCA provided Wade the opportunity to coach golf at Bessemer City High School. They gave each of these young men a copy of the Athletes Bible. Pray that young hearts in our community come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior through the ministry of FCA.



Germany Trainee Program

Our missions deacon George Gates and his wife Louann are in Germany to assist with the Evangelium21 conference. He will also be meeting with the pastoral intern trainees who we currently support. Pray for a safe and successful journey.



Missions Geography 101 / Austria

People Groups/Unreached: 46 / 8

Capital: Vienna

Distance from Lowell: 4460 miles

Primary Religion: Christianity

Population (Total / Unreached):

8,917,000/356,000

Christian Adherents: 67.68%

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 , Gavaletz
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
MAY
ERIC GUNTER AND BUDDY HERNDON**