

# WBC NEWSLETTER

## September 2023



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

# A WORD FROM OUR ELDERS

## *The Blossom of Humility*

Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give  
Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Genesis 41:16

The very thought of being able to interpret dreams for someone would be pretty impressive. Imagine the capability to tell people what their dreams meant and even being precise as to the very details of such things. Dreams can sometimes paint pictures for us that normally we wouldn't come up with while awake, being fully caffeinated. Here in this passage, we find a fellow named Pharaoh, and he has had a dream that has horrified him. He sends for his wise men, who aren't able to interpret the dream he has had. He then quickly sends for Joseph.

The understanding of why this dream was so frightening, is that it questioned Egypt's ability to produce healthy grain, and also of the description of cattle in verses 3-7 that appeared to be very ugly in appearance. Joseph is released from prison to come and interpret this dream, but quickly received an extreme makeover in verse 14. Remember that the very action of interpretation of dreams is what landed him in a place of captivity, with his brothers, and now that very thing which had caused such devastation would bring freedom.

Joseph tells Pharaoh that seven years of hunger are on the way, and though this revelation would be frightening there would be seven years of plenty that would precede this famine. Joseph's life shows us that God's plan and provision always meets our needs, and thus we only succeed by the grace that He provides for faithful service. These events that were completely outside of Joseph's power, now he could stand before Pharaoh and speak such wisdom that God provides.

Do you see how humility came about in Joseph's life? Maybe the posture of where he saw the need to place trust in God and not focus on the frustration of the environment. There are many issues and troubles we all face in this life; but be reminded of the control that God has in the instance of where things appear to be completely out of control. Joseph's life sure had some mishaps, and even in those instances there was divine arrangements being orchestrated that brought forth the greatness of God. 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul states "by the grace of God I am what I am." We are limited in our own capabilities and strengths, and we may not be able to interpret dreams for kings, but we are humbled by the King of kings who knows best for us.

Chris Norris

# WBC PRAYER FOCUS

## WBC PRAYER MINISTRY: *“Prayer Matters”*

**"HE guides the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way."**

*Psalms 25:9*

It is wonderful to know God clearly provides guidance for those who seek Him. Our “humble seeking” will provide the guidance God longs to give His children. A *guide* will direct, point or lead others in a way or to a destination! Think of the child holding their parent’s hand. If they tug or jerk their hand out and seek their own way, we know often it causes disappointment or even harm! Learning to hold God’s hand is also important. He is the Way. He knows and will lead us if we don’t run away or wander off into our solutions, plans, distractions or simply give up before His way or leading is clear. At times it could be difficult or perhaps you are even delayed to a destination in order to learn His truths or given opportunity to recognize His Presence more along the way. Thankfully, God has given us resources to focus on as we seek to follow Him consistently.

Of course, the two ways which we continue to cultivate that divine guidance is by reading and seeking guidance in His Word and by praying, asking God for guidance. As we seek to constantly recognize our need for His guidance and keep our hand in His, we can trust HE will be faithful – like His Word says! We will praise Him as we see needs met and receive endurance for the journey, including fresh insights, which are found on the path His ways lead.

In September we ask the WBC family to join in praying for students, administration, and teachers as they return to school campuses. A bookmark is available in the church’s foyers and the Family Life Center entrance to help you pray one simple prayer prompt daily for this important group. Please pick up one and join in this churchwide prayer effort. Below are the prayer prompts listed on the bookmark.

- Opportunity to nurture or seek a personal relationship with Christ for nonbelievers
- Encouragement for students who stand for Christ on their campus
- Modeling of godly character and principles by believers on campus
- Safety on campus and at school functions
- Nurturing and respectful family relationships for students
- Wisdom for staff in daily classroom challenges
- Diligence by students for academic achievement

Additionally, know that on September 27 many will observe a time of student-led prayer on school campuses across our nation and in other countries (info and resources available at: [syatp.com](http://syatp.com)). Pray especially for students who seek to stand publicly around the world unashamedly for their fellow students and their school’s academic leadership. May God honor efforts and prayers offered for others, leading some to see new or renewed relationships with Christ as Savior and Lord.

***“... I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation.”***

Psalm 5:3 NIV

# PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



## PRAYERS FOR SALVATION:

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

## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Abbey Veazey, Robert Willard,  
Wade and Courtney Lawing,  
Terry Collins' daughter Marsha,  
Robert Messer

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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

Community Prayer  
Gathering  
First Saturday of Each Month  
September 2  
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

We need Kids Ministry Volunteers! Please pray about joining our Preschool Team or Elementary Team (substitutes needed). We don't always need teachers. Often we just need an assistant who doesn't teach lessons but helps monitor the kids. We ask our volunteers to serve once per month. Please contact Lydia Riley, Preschool Kids Director or Melissa Botts, Elementary Kids Director or call the church office if you want to join our team. Thanks!

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



## Woodlawn Kids Weekly Ministries

**Sundays**  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Kids Worship (K-3rd)  
**Wednesdays**  
7:00pm KidsROC, K-5th  
(Kids Rely on Christ)  
and Preschool Kids Club



**Wednesday, Sept 13**

**7:00 pm**

**K-5 Classrooms**

**Bring a friend and your favorite board game.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7:00 pm*  
*Board Game Night*  
*Classrooms*

*Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 pm*  
*Fall Party*  
*Classrooms*

*Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 pm*  
*Operation Christmas Child*  
*Shoebox Collection Kickoff*  
*(Nov 13-20 National Collection Week)*

# STUDENTS



”  
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



# 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

Join Us for

## BEYOND THE BASICS

Sept 10, 4pm MP Room

## MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

WE ARE LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
HAVING  
BREAKFAST  
AGAIN BEGINNING  
IN OCTOBER.



**FREE  
CONCERT**  
**Everyone  
Welcome**

**Tuesday, September 5, 7pm  
Woodlawn Baptist Church**

Sponsored by Young at Heart

CHRIST'S AUTHORITY, OUR ALLEGIANCE

MATTHEW 8-12

## Ladies Sunday School Brunch

Sat. Sept. 9,  
10:30 – 12 noon  
Multi-purpose room

Brunch, fellowship  
and discuss the  
hope for Women's  
ministry

**ALL LADIES  
INVITED**

# LOWELL CRISIS MINISTRY



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

**PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, MAC & CHEESE,  
PASTA SAUCE, CANNED POTATOES,  
CARROTS, TOMATO SOUP, CANNED MEATS,  
BEEF STEW**

## **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 Tom Robb (deacon) (330) 412-9699.

**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 Case for Men's Ministry

As a church leader, we must be convinced that men's ministry is essential to the vitality of the church. So, why target men? Why is men's ministry significant to a church – to the Church?

### Current Issues

Men in our society – even Christian men – are taught subjective qualities, attributes, or characteristics considered typical of or appropriate to a man. They are continually deceived about their masculinity.

Alexander Mitslerisch says that, "Society has torn the soul of the male, and into this tear the demons have fled – the demons of insecurity, selfishness and despair. Consequently, men do not know who they are as men. Rather, they define themselves by what they do, who they know, or by what they own."

Men have colleagues and work buddies, golf partners, and maybe a "couple" friend or two, where the bond is really between the wives. If they say they do have a best friend, often it turns out to be an old friend whom they see or speak to once every few years. Sadly, for most men in our culture male friendship is a part of their distant past. This leaves men feeling isolated. Studies show that most men past the age of 30 do not have any friends. One man spoke for many when he said "I haven't made a new friend in 25 years." Society has torn the soul of the male, and into this tear the demons have fled.

Ninety-five percent of men are so dis-connected that they have no best friend. Many believe this to be the result of our culture's discouraging true friendships between men in our modern society. Close friendships between two males who are not relatives are seen as suspicious and unhealthy. Society has convinced us that a relationship like Jonathan and David had in the Old Testament is impossible. The younger generations of men present a picture even more sobering. One pastor wrote, "There are not enough fathers and role models for our boys and girls. Some single parent females lack confidence in reaching and understanding their sons."

In the streets our boys are being influenced by evil men and being raised by television to believe in a fantasy world.”

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(Willie Richardson, A Plan for Getting More Men into the Church and Keeping Most of them, Upper Darby, PA Churches Research Development, 1997)

## **Current trends**

The following are current trends among men:

- Men commit suicide at four times the rate of women.
- Men between the ages of 18 and 29 suffer alcohol dependency at three times the rate as women in the same age group.
- More than two-thirds of all alcoholics are men; 50 percent more men than women are regular users of illicit drugs.
- Men account for more than 90 percent of arrests for alcohol and drug abuse violations.
- Life expectancy for men is 10 percent shorter than for women, and the incidence of stress related illness, such as heart disease and certain cancers, remains inordinately high among men.
- More than 80 percent of the homeless are men.

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Men's Ministry Leadership Seminar, (Denver: Promise Keepers, 1995)

## **Influences on men in our society**

Dr. Gary Rossberg in a 1993 survey suggested the following four major pressures on a man:

Pressure on a man:

1. Career and success pressures
2. Distractions from pressure of finances
3. Relationship pressure
4. Sexual temptation pressure

Challenges facing men:

1. Search for significance
2. Tendency to withdraw or to be passive
3. Desire to be in charge or to take control
4. Sexual temptation pressure

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Vibrant Men's Ministry Resource Kit, (Denver Promise keepers, 1996)

Stephen Abbott



# 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

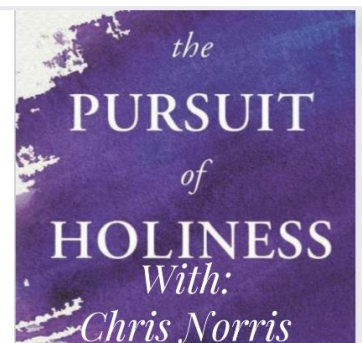
Preschoolers – Preschool  
Department-Ed Bldg.

Children – Children's  
Department-Ed Bldg.

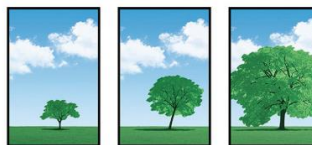
Students  
Student Room-Ed Bldg.

Sunday,  
Sept. 17  
11am

The  
*Lord's*  
Supper



how people change  
with:  
Jeremy Eastburn &  
Justin Morehead



THE BIBLE AS  
HISTORY With:  
Mitch Evans



Beginning September 13

# SPECIAL OCCASIONS - September 2023

## Happy Birthday

2 Luke Bradley	4 Anna Grace Norris
7 Carla Demaree	7 Jim Maricle
16 Tracie Philbeck	17 Donna Mitchem
17 Tony Watkins	19 Myra Black
22 Caden Sprinkles	24 Jeferson Rodgers
25 Tommy Helm	28 Chris Norris
29 Bob Wolfe	30 Tom McAferty



## Happy Anniversary

1 Buddy and Linda Barnhill
4 Max and Terry Collins
12 Jeremy and Theresa Eastburn
19 Gary and Martha Ann Huffstetler
29 Justin and Jordan Farr



## Bible reading plan

- ❖ 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@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Music and Discipleship Pastor  
Justin Morehead  
justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Student Minister – Gabe Veazey  
gabe@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Volunteer Elder – Don Trapp

Volunteer Elder – Chris Norris

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

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

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

## **FINANCIAL DIGEST** **AS OF JULY 2023**

### **INCOME YEAR TO DATE**

**\$256,885.04**

### **OFFERING JULY 2023**

**\$43,095.12**

## **AVERAGE ATTENDANCE**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

JULY 2022- 88

JULY 2023 - 108

### **WORSHIP**

JULY 2022- 164

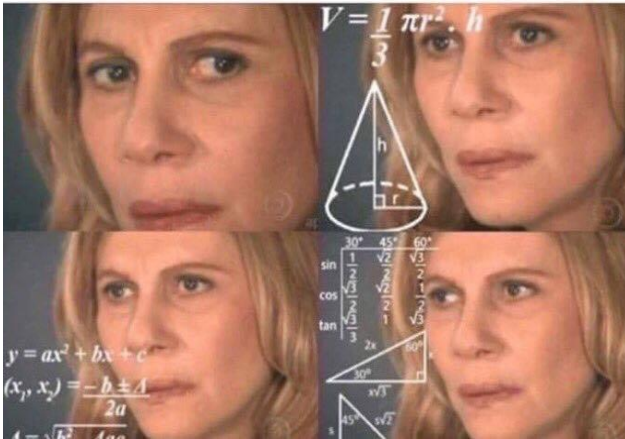
JULY 2023 - 172

**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



## 10 Not-so-stupid questions to ask about missions.

If you are thinking about missions, you probably have the answers to the big questions. But what about the usual day-to-day questions that seem silly and trivial? As the saying goes there are no stupid questions just stupid answers

### #3 Will there be time for hobbies?

Everyone including missionaries needs downtime for leisure and hobbies for a healthy balanced life. Further hobbies can also open up new opportunities for ministry.

### #4 How will I get around? (Will I need a car or bike?)

How you get around will really depend on where you go. Missionaries travel by various means including cars, motorbikes, and even public transportation. Public transportation is excellent if you are in Europe but in the US a car would be required. Another consideration is the laws for driver's licenses in your country. Some countries allow you to drive with a valid US driver's license while others don't. On our mission trip to Belize, we could drive for up to 3 months on a US license.

### #5 Can missionaries get tattoos?

Tattoos, piercings, etc. are a personal and wisdom decision best discussed with your elders. Missionaries need to consider how tattoos will be perceived by the culture in which they will be serving. What may be considered harmless or meaningless in our culture may be offensive to others which could create barriers to ministry. On the other hand, it might open doors for ministry. Things can be perceived differently from one culture to another. For example, I remember when I was a teenager on the mission field, and a pastor from the US visited us in Glasgow, Scotland. He was a large man with a very loud, strong voice. It was unnerving for the locals as they were not used to very loud, Southern, US revivalist-style preaching. What shocked them even more was his use of hand gestures during his sermon. Unbeknownst to him, he was waving his hands around making what was considered inappropriate and very rude gestures in their culture.

## Pates in Brazil

This is one of the fruits of our support. Brian had the privilege to preach at the installation service of his friend Thiago. Thiago is one of the students at the Reaching & Teaching training sites where Brian teaches.



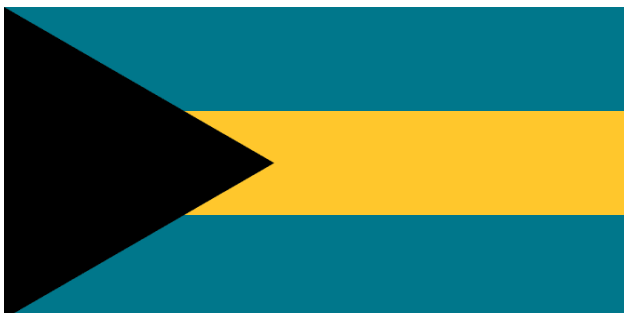
## Wade Lawing Local Missionary with FCA

This past week we had the opportunity to feed North Gaston football team with subs and the Gospel. Coaches Bibles were provided to 30 coaches this month. 16 of those coaches are going through the 360 Coach Bible Study every other Monday night.



## German Interns

Please continue to pray for our interns as they study and bring the gospel back to their churches.



## Missions Geography 101 / Bahamas

People Groups/Unreached: 0/9 Capital: Nassau  
Distance from Lowell: 1050 miles Primary  
Religion: Christianity Population: 410,000  
Christian Adherents: 94.5% Scripture: Complete  
Bible

# **2023-2024 Deacon Family and Ministry Assignments**

***VICE CHAIRMAN* - Ross Bradley – A – Bea**  
Bereavement, Fellowship

**Jeremy Eastburn – Beb – Cal**  
Counseling, Benevolence

***CHAIRMAN* - George Gates – Cam - Eva**  
Finance, Missions

**Steve Abbott – Evb - F**  
Decorations, Men's Ministry

**Tom Robb – G-Ham**  
Women's Ministry, Food Pantry

***SECRETARY* - Tom Botts – Han - J**  
Audio Visual, Website

**Buddy Herndon – K-McG**  
Building and Grounds, Young at Heart

**Tony Watkins – McH - Pat**  
Security, Children, Baptism

**Sean Moore - Pau - Re**  
Recreation

**Gabe Veazey – Rf – Sc**  
Recreation / Students

**Buddy Barnhill – Sd – Sut**  
Prayer, Greeters, Children

**Chris Rodgers – Suu – Z**  
Bus, Building and Grounds

**YOUR DEACON ON DUTY FOR  
SEPTEMBER  
GEORGE GATES AND JEREMY EASTBURN**