



The Link

Vol. 64, No. 18

May 3, 2023

A NOTE FROM ANDY BARKER

We at Lakeside are blessed: blessed to have Jody Wright as our Senior Minister, friend, and spiritual guide for 25 years; blessed to have his involved and supportive wife, Deborah, to encourage him; blessed to have had only three pastors in the last 68 years. Rarely can a congregation boast of that!

Congratulations to Jody, Deborah and their family as they prepare for a new, exciting, and, hopefully, relaxed time in their lives when his retirement begins after January, 2024. (See the insert for Jody's message to our congregation.)

Our Bylaws state, "Whenever the church is without a Senior Minister, the Diaconate shall recommend to the church a special Pulpit Committee of not more than 10 members . . ." As Diaconate Chair, I have asked the three active Lakeside members who served on the previous Pulpit Committee to assist our Diaconate in developing a new Pulpit Committee. These previous members are Vel Johnson (former Chair), Norma Turnage, and Theo Pitt. We are again blessed that the previous committee retained thorough notes, documents, timelines, forms, etc. This resource will be a great benefit to our new Committee.

What can we as a Congregation do?

First, pray for this new committee and for God's guidance in the search for a new Senior Minister. Second, let me know as soon as possible the members of our church whom you feel would be good candidates for our new Pulpit Committee.

Third, pray for our Pulpit Committee as they prepare and implement such an arduous task. Ultimately, pray that whoever we call as our next Pastor will continue to lead us to be the special compass for faith and life God calls us to be.

May God continue to bless Lakeside,

Andy Barker, Diaconate Chair

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CIRCLE 10

Lakeside Circle 10 will have its famous salad luncheon Monday, May 8, at 11:00 a.m. in Robbins Hall. Greens, dressings, and water will be provided. Please bring something to go into a salad. All are welcome.

PARTY FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S FAMILIES

All the Lakeside kids and their families (including the preschool families who were rained out last Sunday) are invited to a party this Sunday, May 7 at 5:00 p.m. in Robbins Hall. We'll celebrate the end of the school year with a taco bar and ice cream sundaes, play some games, and begin planning for fall activities. Come and bring a friend!

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

The Lodge at Rocky Mount, 3322 Village Road, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

David Ozment, Room 329

Emerald Health & Rehab Center, 54 Red Mulberry Way,

Lillington, NC 27546

Robert Bridgers (Marie Bridgers' brother-in-law)

At Home:

Stancil Barnes, 101 Briarwood Court, Tarboro, NC 27886

Denise Bennett, 9773 Groffs Mill Drive #404, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Chuck Daniel (Brenda and Dennis Culpepper's nephew)

Michele Costa Foster, 105 Gloucester Court (03)

Bill Jones (Dorrie Wright's brother), 2957 Tillinghast Trail, Raleigh, NC 27613

Cody Richardson, 1518 Fountain Branch Road (03)

Joe Stanton, PO Box 41, Nashville, NC 27856

Joe Warner, 137 Steeplechase Road (04)

Bill Watts, 616 Nichole Drive (03)

Our Members-at-Home

Doris Booth, Room 236, The Lodge at Rocky Mount, 3322 Village Road (04)

Martha Bulluck, Spring Arbor, 1251 South Winstead Avenue (03), Room 205

Carlton Kimbro, 1100 Pointe Summerset, Wilmington, NC 28403

Ann Bishop, 2600 Croasdaile Farm Parkway, Apt. S210, Durham, NC 27705

AT THE TABLE

We will gather At the Table once again on Wednesday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m. at Benvenue Country Club. Those who are able will enjoy lunch together afterward. This year we are reading *Dwelling with Philippians*, which invites us into "conversation with scripture through image and word."

LAKESIDE COFFEEHOUSE WRITERS

If you have an interest in writing, join us on Tuesday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Lakeside's Parlor. We gather monthly to explore ideas, share stories, offer suggestions and encouragement. Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* is our guide. Let us know if you would like to join us!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Lakeside's Discussion Class is using the PBS series, *Ear to the Common Ground*, to guide our conversations on a variety of current critical issues. Filmed on Cash Lane in Nashville, TN, each episode features one musical artist and a diverse cross-section of their fans who represent a broad spectrum of viewpoints. The participants share a meal together while discussing a given topic, with only one rule: to listen and speak with compassion. We will spend the first 20 minutes listening to the conversation and the remaining 30 minutes "joining in" the conversation ourselves. On May 7 we will discuss Voting Rights. The group meets in the Lecture Room of the Education Building at 9:45 a.m.

YOUTH NEWS

I hope all youth and children's families can join us on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate the end of the school year and make plans for the fall. We'll enjoy dinner and games, so please let me know by Friday how many from your family will attend. We are planning a meaningful time of worship and celebration with our graduates for May 21. Gatekeepers registration forms have been sent out by email. Be sure to register by May 26. I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday!
Elizabeth

VBS REGISTRATION

Last call for VBS registration! Lakeside is hosting the Community VBS June 12-16. The registration forms for children, youth helpers, and adult volunteers can be found on the website under the Ministries tab and should be submitted as soon as possible. We will also need donations of snacks and volunteers to help with set up and decorating on June 11. Please contact the church office if you can help.

MUSIC NOTES

The Chancel Choir has only four more Wednesday evening rehearsals, so please make every effort to attend as we build up to Founder's Day. Lakeside Ringers will meet on Wednesday, May 10, to polish bells and store them for the summer, as well as to discuss scheduling for the fall.
Jake

THIS SUNDAY AT LAKESIDE

Deacon Greeters - Sammie Crumley and Don Raper
Ushers - Group II - Wayne Cotton, Captain
Acolyte - Ramsey Ward

*Worship is live on our homepage and YouTube channel at 11:00 a.m.,
but we love having you with us in the sanctuary!*

May 7, 2023 ❖ The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lessons: I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Sermon: "Metaphors, Memories, and Motivation"

Chancel Choir Anthems:

"Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise" - Billings/arr. Rimkus

"This Is My Father's World" - Sheppard

"Taste and See" - Holstein

LAKESIDE'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY PLAN

2023 Missions and Ministry Budget: \$561,922

	Week	YTD	2022
Anticipated Giving	\$10,806	\$194,511	\$206,668
Through April 30	\$3,265	\$144,056	\$156,184
Variance	-\$7,541	-\$50,455	-\$50,484

*The above figures reflect the recent revision of our Ministry Plan.
Our ministry is a responsibility that all of us share.
Are you doing your part to help fund our ministry?*

LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1501 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Phone: 252-446-0126 Fax: 252-446-4997

E-mail: lakesidemc@embarqmail.com

Permit No. 240

NON-PROFIT ORG. Website: lakesidechurchmt.org

CareNet Counseling East of Rocky Mount

Rachel Holloman 355-2801 • toll free: 866-355-2801

ROCKY MOUNT, NC
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

CHURCH STAFF

Jody Wright

Sector Minister

Elizabeth Edwards

Liz Bro. mell

Administrative & Assistant

Alexander Matrick

Susan Skinner

Senior Pastor

27804-5001 Lakeside Baptist Church

Original Link

27804-5001 Lakeside Baptist Church

Address Service requested

LAKESIDE CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 3

10:00 a.m. Spring Study Group, Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 7

9:45 a.m. Growing Together Study Groups, Education Building

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Children and Youth End-of-Year Party, Robbins Hall

Monday, May 8

11:00 a.m. Circle 10, Robbins Hall

Tuesday, May 9

12:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Spring Study Group, Zoom

Wednesday, May 10

10:00 a.m. Spring Study Group, Conference Room

10:30 a.m. At the Table, Benvenue Country Club

6:15 p.m. Lakeside Ringers

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

GRADUATE INFORMATION NEEDED

If a family member graduated from college in December or will graduate from high school or college this spring, please contact the church office by May 16 so that we may recognize them in *The Link*. We need full names, school, degree, and future plans.

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

Just a few weeks shy of twenty-five years ago, you welcomed Deborah, Robert, Catherine and me to Lakeside. I will never forget the room-wide banner, covered with children's artwork, that proclaimed your welcome. I will never forget the musical treat of the ladies' quartet celebrating "Getting to Know You." And I will never forget how my face ached (in a good way) all the way home from several hours of smiles and laughter. And that was just the beginning of our relationship!

For twenty-five years (can you believe that much time has passed?) we have grown to know each other well. You have learned my strong and weak points, my gifts and insufficiencies, my hopes and my fears. We have come to love each other in that blessed way I think God intends for his people to love each other—with compassion, with patience, with correction when needed, and with gratitude.

There are so many things for which I am grateful—above all your inclusion of our family into your family. We have been at home here—and finding home is a precious thing at any point in life. I am blessed to be your pastor and your friend. Deborah and I and our larger family are deeply grateful to be a part of you.

Over the years, I have appreciated that you have included me in the various transitions of your lives: births, baptisms, graduations, weddings, retirements, and deaths. Those are holy moments and I am grateful to share them with you.

Now, I invite you to share with me and my family, a transition of our own. I have decided that the time is right for my retirement. I have been involved in ministry for over forty years, thirty-eight of those as a full-time minister. I love what I do. I love being with you and being church with you. Yet, I realize that it is time for me to do some things that I have not been able to do, especially to spend more time with family and friends.

This decision has unfolded over time. I have talked it over with our leadership and I met with our Deacons last week. My retirement will not be immediate. I intend to continue as your Pastor through January of next year. That will enable us to begin the implementation of our strategies for Growing Together Toward a Bright Future. A plan is being developed so that a Search Committee can be selected and a process implemented for them to begin their work. I expect for the next nine months to be filled with all of the good things that we do as a family of faith as well as exploring what yet lies ahead for Lakeside. I am not simply hopeful about the future of our congregation—I am confident of it!

May God's blessing be upon us all as it has been and is promised to be.

With deep love and gratitude,

Jody