

*Congratulations!*

2025

Lakelands Baptist Association

Volunteers of the Year

Wanda Alexander

and

Mike Thigpen



The Lakelands Baptist Association's Women's Ministry Team Invites You To The Following Ladies Event

## *Able Then. Able Still.*

*"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20*

### Guest Speaker

Martha McMinn



**November 13 at 6:00**

**West Side Baptist Church**

**215 Bypass 225, Greenwood**

*Doors open at 5:30*

**Music led by Abbeville First Baptist Church Praise Team**

**Do'Right's BBQ Nachos will be served for dinner**

*Donations are accepted and appreciated to help offset the food cost*

Martha has served in area local churches alongside her best friend and husband since 2009. She's a grateful mom to a daughter and son-in-law who live nearby, and a son, who moved to his eternal home in heaven in 2023.

A lover of reading, writing, and the outdoors, Martha's greatest joy is found in her relationship with Jesus Christ. She shares openly about how even the most painful circumstances of life are no match for the sustaining grace of God; a grace that not only saved her soul but also provides her all sufficiency in all things at all times.

**Come and enjoy door prizes, worship music, a powerful testimony and fellowship that is sure to be a blessing to all!**





## World Day of Prayer Observance

Sponsored by WMU

Monday, November 3 at 6:30pm

Lakelands Baptist Association



## Pastor<sup>2</sup>Pastor

Tuesday, November 4 at 11:00 at LBA office

Guest Speakers:

Rev. George Atkins

Rev. Matthew Woodyard

Followed by lunch out, Dutch-treat

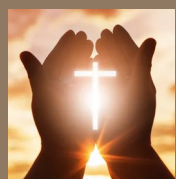
## SeraphSong will be at

Ware Shoals First Baptist Church

Saturday, November 15 at 4:00

You are invited to join us in worship and fellowship. This is a great opportunity for senior citizens, choirs, families & anyone who loves music & worship to come together for a time of beauty and worship.

For more information call Frankie Jacobs at 770-826-9033 or Ware Shoals First Baptist at 864-456-7712



## LBA Prayer Intercessors Meeting

Tuesday, November 18 at 10:30

Lakelands Baptist Association

Sandra Massey, Frances Kidd, Janet Vandiver, Virginia Someillan, Bettie Rogers Ward, and Brenda Smith

## CONNECTIONS Fellowship for Pastors

We meet monthly for breakfast and discussion and occasionally meet for dinner with our wives.

The next two are Nov 18 and Dec 16 at 7:30am at Besto's.

Open to any pastors. Come join us!



## Season of Prayer for International Missions &

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

November 30 - December 7

100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached.

## Prisoner Packet Packing List

**DUE TO LBA BY THURS. NOVEMBER 20**

Approved Packing List from the SC Department of Corrections

**ONE** black non-retractable pen (*No wire clips, no other color ink*)

**ONE** 5" x 8" junior legal pad – white or yellow only

(*No wire bound books, composition books, journals, or post-it notes*)

**ONE** adult toothbrush (*individually factory sealed; no multi-packs, holders, floss, or folding/travel toothbrushes*)

**ONE** 4 oz. to 6 oz. toothpaste (*No travel size*)

**ONE** 3.2 oz. to 6 oz. bar of soap (*No travel size, no unwrapped/unboxed bars*)

**TWO** rolls of hard candy like LifeSavers, Breath Savers, or Mentos

(*No Smarties, Sweetarts, Necco Wafers, Rolos, Starburst, or TicTacs*)

**TWO** first-class #10 stamp-embossed envelopes (*from US Post Office – NO regular stamps or other size envelopea*)

**ONE** gallon size zipper bag – press and seal AND slider bags accepted.

*ALL ITEMS MUST FIT IN THE ZIPPER BAG WITH ZIPPER CLOSED*

*DO NOT INCLUDE: washcloths, toothbrush holders, floss, combs, or any item not on the above list.*



## Shepherd's Hands

Ministry

Winter Boots

for Christmas for

Children in W.V.



Due to LBA by Monday, December 1

## SECRETARIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 4 from 12:00-1:30 at LBA Office

All full time, part time, and volunteer church secretaries/administrative assistants are encouraged to attend.!

**RSVP by November 19**

## Pastors & Wives

Christmas Dinner

December 11

6:30 at LBA Office

Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Youth Ministers and their wives are invited.

**RSVP by December 1**



## Congratulations!

LBA has awarded for 2025-2026  
Jacob Nelson

with the Sonny Noblin Scholarship Award  
for Ministry Related Education. Jacob is a member of Ware  
Shoals First Baptist Church and a student at Erskine College.

## "Too Focused"

So, like I have been reminded of late just how strong one's focus can be! And why is that important, well, because if one can indeed be "too" focused on one certain thing or maybe a couple of things, then other important things in life may lose out. And if that's the case, then one must make certain that what one is overly focused on is worthy of that intensity of focus.

I have come to realize through the years that I may have had ADHD or ADD or whatever it's called or so designated by letters, that I may have unknowingly had something akin to that my whole entire life, but just never knew it. When I was in grade school, I was a poor reader and thought I was going to be imprisoned in "summer school" while all my brothers played, all for the purpose of improving my reading skills. The actual problem though, wasn't my reading proficiency, but my retention inefficiency. I could read just fine, but when tested on what I read, I had a hard time remembering. I talked my way out of that dreaded summer school thing and ended up with a master's degree years later. Apparently, I could indeed read.

But what I have discovered of late is that my Retention Deficit Disorder (RDD), which I'm pretty sure I just made up, wasn't due to the fact that I can't retain information, but was in fact, a direct result of my inability to focus on what I was reading simply because what I was forced to read in school wasn't what I wanted to focus on. So while I was reading, my mind focused on something that I wanted to focus on instead. Now this may seem a bit academic, but stay with me, I'm getting to my point.

To prove that I, like many people, only have RDD, Retention Deficit Disorder, is to realize something my friend Reiny Koschel, the Director of Missions at the Laurens Baptist Association, has taught me. Some of you may know that I serve as the Parliamentarian for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and as such, I get called into church and associational meetings from time to time to "referee" a business meeting.

Now, serving as a Parliamentarian requires a certain degree of familiarity and knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order. And anyone who has ever tried to learn Roberts Rules of Order knows that learning it can be a hot mess and very complicated...not to mention, extremely boring. Try to read through the Roberts Rules of Order, all 548 or so pages, which I have done, and you will discover very quickly if you truly enjoy reading and have Retention Deficit Disorder. Not only have I read through Robert's Rules of Order, I have even attended an on-line class at the University of Wisconsin to get CEU credits in Parliamentary Procedure, all to pass a test that would make me eligible to become a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. All of which I have actually done!

Now, back to Reiny, who used to think that I didn't like to read, but has since discovered that I only like to read stuff that interests me or teaches me something that I am interested in. And granted, that may be true for most people, but when you have RDD like me, it's REALLY true. Reiny used to be perplexed that someone who doesn't like to read, could/would actually read the whole of Robert's Rules of

Order and reread sections of it multiple times, and actually enjoy doing so. Now, granted, that may seem strange indeed, until you add in the caveat that the reason I read Robert's Rules of Order and actually enjoy it is that I actually love Parliamentary Procedure. And what I love I can focus on and what I focus on I can learn and retain, even if it is Parliamentary Procedure, something most people look with disdain upon.

Now, fast forward briefly to the past eight months of my life. What has been a primary focus of my life...you guessed it...the building and completing of my new home. Between that and my associational work, about everything else in my life has fallen through the cracks. Shucks...you know you are overly focused on something when it is five weeks into hunting season and the rut is full on and I have only been hunting three times. Man oh man, somebody help me please! That's what being overly focused looks like! But focusing on one or two things to the exclusion of other really important things in your life, can be detrimental indeed. In fact, such behavior turns many a wife into a "hunting widow" every fall. Now, I wouldn't do that, nope not me, but some men get so overly focused on hunting that they neglect their spouses at least two months every fall. Can't even imagine anyone ever doing anything like that! But anyway, I'm certain it happens...just say'n!

So now, after all that, I can bring this whole thing to full circle. I have to search my own heart from time to time and ask myself what I might be overly focused on? Am I too focused on finishing my new home, or too focused on hunting season, or too focused on my associational duties, to the neglect of family? Or, am I focused enough on keeping the home fires burning, am I focused enough on my big ole family, and am I...and here's the BIGGY...focused enough on my relationship with Christ?

God has already told us what our primary focus in life should be. He has said in His Word, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all the other things in life will take care of themselves." And in Thessalonians, we are told to "...live to please God." You see, it is easy to focus on things we love, and how much we focus on God and read His Word is dependent on how much we actually love Him. Simply put, we focus on that which we love...period! And therefore, how much we focus on our relationship with God demonstrates how much we love Him. Simple question: What do you find it easiest to focus on in life? Answer that and you will find out what you love most in life. Don't get so focused on the minors that you fail to focus on the majors...or as it is often said...keep the main thing the main thing! And there is not a single thing in all of life that is more essential...than God Himself! The only thing in all of life you can never be "too focused" on, is your relationship with God!



### **2026 MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING**

**January 13 at 6:30 at LBA**

This meeting is for anyone interested in going on our 2026 Construction Mission Trip to the Asheville, NC area in April. Exact location and dates will be confirmed prior to this meeting.

### **BUILDING FUND UPDATE**

Amount needed for loan payoff: \$414,209.12

Building Fund Saving: \$77,781.72

Remaining balance: \$336,427.40

We are grateful for your continued support!



## How to Become a Christian

Jesus Christ was with God the Father before the world was created. He became human and lived among humanity as Jesus of Nazareth. He came to show us what God the Father is like. He lived a sinless life, showing us how to live, and He died on a cross to pay for our sins. God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is the source of eternal life. Jesus wants to be the doorway of new life for you. In the Bible, He was called "Lamb of God" (John 1:29). In the Old Testament, sacrifices were made for the sins of the people. Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb offered for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He is waiting for you now.

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. By faith, receive Jesus Christ as God's Son and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness by dying on the cross.

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

You may pray a silent prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you.

"Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen." After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for a baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

The Holy Bible, Book of Romans 10:9-13

Lakelands Baptist Leader

NOV / DEC 2025

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**Lakelands Baptist Association**      **Periodical Paid At**  
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**[dlittle@lakelandsbaptist.org](mailto:dlittle@lakelandsbaptist.org)** (Associational Missionary)

**[finance@lakelandsbaptist.org](mailto:finance@lakelandsbaptist.org)** (Financial Secretary)

**[admin@lakelandsbaptist.org](mailto:admin@lakelandsbaptist.org)** (Administrative Assistant)

**Website:** [www.lakelandsbaptist.org](http://www.lakelandsbaptist.org)

**Telephone:** (864) 227-6261

**Huge thank you to Kim Little for serving as the  
LBA financial secretary from July 2024 - Dec 2025!**



### LBA Part-time Financial Secretary Position

This candidate should possess a working knowledge of ACS and QuickBooks, as well as having strong computer and accounting skills. This individual must be a committed Christian and be a faithful member of their church. Also, having a working knowledge of IRS tax law in general and non-profit tax law in particular, or being able to quickly come up to speed on these issues will be essential. Some manner of experience of financial accounting is required in order to be a serious candidate for this position. This candidate's personality and attitude in working with people and fitting into the culture of our office and association will be important as well.

The position requires 5-8 hours a week with a regular day in office a must, however, this position does come with a certain level of flexibility as well for issues of child care, etc.

Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter detailing briefly their faith walk as well as any other details they would like our Personnel Committee to know, and should include a list of references. Candidates will only be notified if they receive an invitation for an interview.

Visit [www.lakelandsbaptist.org](http://www.lakelandsbaptist.org) for full job description.

Send to:  
Lakelands Baptist Association,  
232 Bypass 225  
Greenwood, SC, 29646  
or email to: [admin@lakelandsbaptist.org](mailto:admin@lakelandsbaptist.org)