

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2022

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SPRING FESTIVAL EGGstravaganza

Sunday, April 10th

From 12pm-2pm

We need small individually wrapped
candy donations to fill eggs please



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

April showers bring May flowers or so the saying goes. In reality this saying is simply people trying to see the benefits that come from the rainy days of spring. As it is with all of creation so it is with God. Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities and eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. (Romans 1:20) Our God is a God of seasons and He reminds us that the storms and rain of one season only come to bring forth a blessing in the next. April showers make possible May flowers for everything has a reason and though we can't know or understand those reasons at times we can know and understand the heart of their creator and know He is always up to something good. It certainly is a stormy season for all the world around us but this too has a place and purpose in the plans of our God.

I have been asked often times how I can believe in the sovereignty of God in such a depraved and evil world. Well that really is a great question and one I hope you have given a good bit of thought. How can we believe in the sovereignty of God? God can and does take what men mean for evil and turn it out for the good and Satan will never be able to reverse that truth. For example the death of Jesus was meant for evil but God made it the greatest good in all of world history. When we look around we might believe we are experiencing our greatest defeat in a battle we are actually winning. Paul would write to the church "I want you to know that the things that have happened to me have actually turned out for the advancement of the Gospel". (Phil.1:12) Now what did he mean by saying these things have actually turned out to be good? He meant it sure felt and looked bad but God turned it to good. Remember it was Paul who reminded us that all things are working together for the good and he was not

speculating when he said it he was speaking from first hand experience. If you still have questions then tell me when Satan is going to turn the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ around to serve his purposes. He can't because he is not sovereign. God took Satan's single greatest act of evil (Christ Death on the cross) and turned it into the greatest victory in all of history for the advancement of His Kingdom. The disciples certainly felt defeated at the foot of the cross and certainly had doubts about the triumph of good over evil. The Sovereignty of God was not at the core of their thoughts that day but it should have been. Jesus death was simply the April showers that would bring forth the May flowers just three days later. Storms come and storms go but God remains sovereign and they all work together in some way to bring about good for those who are called according to His purpose.

Like Paul I want you to know that everything that has happened to me has turned out for the advancement of the Kingdom and those April showers will no doubt produce the flowers in my not so distant future. Everything really is working together for the good and not a single promise God ever made me has failed to come true. It may not have happened like I wanted it but that is as it should be because God never said a thing about my sovereignty just His. So with every season God is allowing only those things that He can work out for my good and that my friends is a very good reason to just sit back and enjoy the stormy weather.



VOLUNTEERS

CALLING ALL HELPING HANDS

Church Work Day

Saturday, April 9th 9:00am Breakfast Provided

Celebrating

70

Years

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR AN
ANNIVERSARY PARTY
HONORING
DAVID & PAISLY
SLOCUMS



Lakewood Baptist Church

Family Activities Center

April 16th, 2022

2:00pm—4:00pm

No Gifts—Casual Dress

Fancy Hats, Pearls & Tea!
Come & celebrate all you can be!

You are cordially invited to attend a Morning Tea!

All ages included

Saturday, April 23rd @ 11am
Lakewood Baptist Fellowship Hall

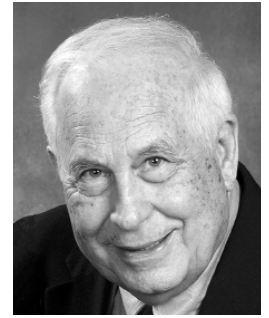
Hosted by The Women's Ministry

RSVP to church office or Sign Up sheet by April 10th.

**Hats, Pearls & Sunday Dresses encouraged!*



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

A few days ago a group of United Methodist leaders who believe what the Bible teaches about certain doctrinal and moral issues announced that they were forming a breakaway denomination to be called the Global Methodist Church. This departure has been brewing for several years in response to the widespread acceptance in the established church of certain practices contrary to clear biblical teachings. Hundreds of churches, with multiplied thousands of members, have declared their affiliation with the new movement, and I applaud them for their loyalty to biblical truth and authority. Similar schisms have taken place among other denominations, such as Presbyterians and Anglicans. So what's the significance of such happenings? Briefly stated, when the Lord returns He is coming for a pure and spotless bride, holy and unstained (Eph. 5:27). Jesus Himself asked if He would find faith on the earth when He returns (Luke 18:8).

We are living in times in which appeasement and compromise define the primary policy in dealing with controversial issues in political, social, and religious issues. I don't need to comment on political appeasement, because history repeatedly shows us that you cannot compromise with evil without allowing evil to grow stronger. A case in point is the yielding to Hitler's demands in the infamous Munich Agreement of 1938, which was supposed to guarantee "peace in our times." Instead, it gave the Nazi dictator an open door to engage in unspeakable atrocities. Appeasing an adversary's demands may defuse a crisis, but it can also embolden the adversary to demand more. The same pattern is found in morality. The movie industry was once governed by a rating system that showed at least a sensitivity to decency. A crack in the code opened slightly in 1939 when in the movie *Gone with the Wind* Clark Gable uttered a mild expletive beginning with the letter d, and audiences gasped. Now the filth that spews forth from Hollywood is accepted as the true culture of society. This degeneration in moral views reflects a pattern shown in the Bible and throughout history. The first downward step is when something that is abhorred and unthinkable is tolerated. The next step is when it is accepted and even embraced. Then it is legalized. Soon it is applauded and lauded. Finally, those who express opposition are criminalized. If you don't believe me, trace the movement of homosexuality from scandalous secrecy to open acceptance and public celebration, even to the extent of American embassies around the world flying the rainbow flag and the White House illuminated with the rainbow colors. Those who object are charged with hate crimes. You still don't believe me? Read about the lady in Finland who is on trial for hate speech because she posted a Bible verse on Facebook condemning homosexuality. Read about the pastors in various countries who have

been incriminated for quoting certain Bible verses from the pulpit. Read about the hateful castigation of Bible believers who have taken a stand. The same can be said about other issues, such as abortion.

The Bible plainly describes a world that casts away all moral restraints. According to Jeremiah 6:15, there is no sense of shame. Isaiah 5:20 says that they call evil good and good evil; they regard light as darkness and darkness as light. Jesus said they have dull hearts, deaf ears, and blind eyes (Matt. 13:15). Proverbs 17:15 says that they justify the wicked and condemn the righteous.

The point I am making is that in a day when some pastors, churches and denominations are yielding to the pressure of public opinion and are compromising biblical principles, true believers must stand firm in their convictions concerning biblical authority. As Vance Havner said, "It is better to die for a conviction than to live with a compromise." A conviction is a solid, unshakeable belief based on confidence in God's Word, so thoroughly convinced of its absolute truth that you are willing to take a stand regardless of the consequences. That kind of conviction causes us to have courage to stand firm against criticism that we are bigoted, narrow minded, discriminatory, prejudiced, and outdated. Some compromisers argue that we must have an open, tolerant view. The only problem with that kind of thinking is that the Bible is very intolerant when it comes to anything that contradicts truth, and tolerance that accepts teaching contradictory to the Bible is a cancer that corrupts the church. Others argue that we can find the truth in the middle. That suggestion is more dangerous than the one about tolerance, because it denies the existence of absolute truth. The Bible presents truths regarding human conduct, both toward God and others. These rules are not suggestive guidelines, but non-negotiable standards. Places like Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 teach that if we live by them, we will receive all sorts of blessings, but if we reject, ignore, or violate them, we had better prepare ourselves for calamity. With God and His laws, there is no middle ground. In reality, those who seek alternatives to God's commands are guilty of rejecting Him in order to fulfill their own desires, and the result is sin and its destructive consequences.

Committees have been formed to discuss issues such as homosexuality, same gender marriage, and abortion. Why discuss something that God has already settled? Fundamentally, those who compromise and those who seek the "truth" in the middle are playing God. They have assumed the responsibility of determining what is right and wrong, and that is a position that God has not abdicated. I can simplify the work of these committees and end all debates. All they have to do is choose between God's way and the wrong way (see Deut. 30:15-20).

Lakewood Happenings

APRIL 2022

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 6:00pm Womens Ministry Meeting 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night Tacos & Dessert 8 | 9:00am Church wide work day 9 |
| 4:30pm Under the Son Bible Study 5:00pm Deacons meet 10 | 11 | 10:00am "Take Courage" Bible Study 12 | 13 | 14 | Good Friday Office Closed 15 | 2:00pm David & Pansy Slocumb 70th Anniversary Celebration FAC 16 |
| Lord's Supper Easter 17 | 18 | 10:00am "Take Courage" Bible Study 19 | 7:00pm Finance Team meets 20 | 21 | 22 | 11:00am Women's Tea F/H 23 |
| 4:30pm Under the Son Bible Study 6:00pm Conference 24 | 7:00pm Sister to Sister @Tammy Smiths 25 | 10:00am "Take Courage" Bible Study 26 | 27 | 6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 28 | 29 | 11:00am Singles/Young Adults Feed the Homeless 30 |

February Giving

| | BUDGET | CTB | MISSIONS | OTHER | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 2/6 | \$44,026.59 | \$395.00 | \$2,275.80 | \$7,315.00 | \$54,012.39 |
| 2/13 | \$12,441.85 | \$135.00 | \$996.34 | \$1,004.00 | \$14,577.19 |
| 2/20 | \$22,031.19 | - | \$944.51 | \$530.00 | \$23,505.70 |
| 2/27 | \$15,638.85 | \$100.00 | \$871.50 | \$1,144.22 | \$17,754.57 |

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE
6:00pm Prayer Meeting
6:30pm Youth Worship



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

When I reflect on the ministry God has graciously allowed me to take part in, I always feel awe, joy, and thankfulness. However, there's a great joy that fills one's heart when someone they invested in follows in their footsteps. I first met Saige Valfre when he was about 14 years old. His older brother James had recently become a part of our group and was dating one of our girls at the time. I preached an evangelistic message and the Spirit moved James' heart that he should be more proactive in inviting people to church. He came up to me after worship asking how he should begin. I said; "Start at home." He looked back at me with a puzzled look and said "okay", kind of shakily. I didn't know James that well, and I certainly didn't know his family. I followed up with a question that brought a surprising response. I asked him; "How many siblings do you have?" He smiled and said; "there are eight of us." Stunned, I asked their ages. Some were teenagers, some were kids, and I quickly found out they were a military family. Then I said something so simple to James; "Well then, invite them to church next week!" Again, James replied "okay" and after a little more conversation he left. I have had similar conversations with many students over the years who are burdened for their families, and few are ever successful in soliciting their families to church. But, low and behold, the next time we met, the three other oldest teenagers came with James to church. Their names were Mady, Lexi, and Saige. I was so proud of James for putting himself out there and inviting his family to church, though I had no idea what God was up to. James got most of his family in church, most of you know Meg and the children, as they have become valued members of our church.

To make a long story short, Mady (the eldest daughter) gave her heart to the Lord, became a leader in our ministry, and interned for me for a couple of years. She has been on full-time staff for the last few years, serving the Lord at Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters. Saige gave his heart to the Lord and became passionate about inviting others to church. Soon he invited a girl from school named Deztanee Woods. I watched as she too began to follow Christ and became a regular part of our group. Years passed, Saige

and Dez were dating, they both showed great potential for leadership and I placed them into our student leadership team. Soon, Saige followed Mady to Snowbird to serve for a summer as a camp counselor (their younger sibling Bailey will go and serve at SWO this summer). Saige called me at the end of summer and asked my thoughts on him staying for a year in their intern program. After seeking the Lord, he made the decision to stay. Meanwhile, Dez was still with us, helping me, leading, and growing in Christ herself. The year passes, and I get another call from Saige; "Would you be willing to take me on as an intern at the church? I feel called to the ministry." That August, Saige came home and began to serve here at Lakewood on a part time basis. Over time, Saige and Dez decided to get married and I had the honor of marrying them last year.

Fast forward to last December, Saige was informed of an opportunity at Britt David Baptist Church in Columbus. The church was looking for a Next Gen pastor, which is a hybrid position covering children, student, and college ministries. Saige and Dez began to pray and seek God's will towards that end. This past Sunday night, I had the opportunity to sit in a service at Britt David, and listen to Saige preach from Hosea. Afterwards, the church questioned him, then they voted, and Saige was affirmed unanimously as their Next Gen Pastor. Whenever we train up young adults with a heart to serve the Lord it is a tremendous blessing. Yet, it hurts our hearts to see them go, and they always leave a hole that needs to be filled. Not only did Saige intern for me, while working full-time at Target, both he and Dez led a Sunday Small Group for me. Saige and Dez aren't the first, there have been many before in 26+ years of ministry, and I know as they go, God's Kingdom gets a little stronger elsewhere. The last Sunday night of March we will get to send Saige and Dez formally through a process called ordination, as Lakewood places its seal of approval on another minister of the Gospel. Please join me in praying for Saige and Deztanee Valfre as they pursue God's call on their lives. Pray also for our ministry as God has a plan and the people to fill their spots within our ministry.

A Message from David Stephens



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CHILDREN'S MINISTER

'Crazy People'

Last month my wife and I were able to see Casting Crowns when they were in Columbus. We went together with our awesome Bible Fellowship class. Thank you to that crew of 'Crazy People'. That same weekend I went to the Winter Jam Concert in Birmingham with a bunch of kids. I think maybe I'm a bit concerted out right now. Well, maybe not. My son Caleb loves Skillet so the late night was well worth it. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

For me, music is a vehicle where God speaks to me. There have been many times in my life when a song has gripped by heart to encourage and inspire me. Maybe it was playing the trumpet from 5th - 11th grade, maybe my deliberate exposure to all styles of music, or marrying a collegiate vocal jazz major that developed my ability to hear from God thru the words of a song. I really don't know. Casting Crowns put together this song with Matthew West called 'Crazy People'. It really is a fun song. I do recommend you Google it, and listen to it. It may not be your style of music, but that shouldn't matter. The words are what matter.

This song is asking questions. Who builds a boat with no clouds in sight? Who walks up to a giant and picks a fight? Who brings a bible into a public school? Who shares the Gospel when the world calls them a fool? Who's not afraid to go against the flow? Who sees the world as a mission field? Who believes the letters in red? Who talks to Jesus like he's real?

And many more like this.

Then the Chorus speaks to Crazy People, trusting in Jesus, following him wherever he leads, kingdom seekers, walk by faith believers, well cancel me and call me one of those 'Crazy People'.

This song is really simple and its fun. But, it really drives at a deeper point that I must ask myself. Would I be labeled a 'Crazy Person'? Do I want to be associated with these 'Crazy People'? Do I live this out in action daily? Am I preparing my children and those entrusted to my care to be this kind of 'Crazy People'? I put the question to you. As strange as it may sound, could you honestly call yourself a 'Crazy Person' as defined by this song? Let's be honest, do we like our creature comforts maybe a little too much? I'm not talking about selling all and give it to the poor. I personally can give real testimony to what Godly people who have accumulated wealth can do for those that are in need. So, go get after that promotion, sell those oils. But, regardless of our station in life are we 'Crazy People'? I want to be a 'Crazy Person' and do life with other Crazy People. I want to be known as the guy who steps out in faith into the promises of God. I want to be this example for my children. Do you?

Check out this song. It was an encouragement to me. Whether you like this type of music or not I pray it is an encouragement to you as well.

Calendar

April 9

Church wide work day

Palm Sunday April 10

Spring Festival EGGstravaganza 12-2pm
(we need candy for eggs, donate please)

April 30

Feed the Homeless (Flyte kids, with youth)

In Memory of

Stella Hughes for LOAF
from Patricia Thomas

Clara Grimes for Student Missions
from Terry Grimes

Yvonne Melvin for Amen Choir
from Brenda Slappey
Jimmy & Susan Graham

For Bereavement from Clara Jean Watson
For Samaritan's Purse from Gail Brantley

Gwen Davis Newman for Amen Choir
from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

For LOAF
from Jimmy & Susan Graham

John Bessant for Builders for Christ
from Fran Loftin
Clara Jean Watson
For Amen Choir
from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Grason Saulters for LOAF
From Jimmy & Susan Graham
Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

Lewis Thomason for Kids Camp
from Clara Jean Watson

Douglas Bryant for Kids Camp
from Clara Jean Watson

Jackie Grigg for Kids Camp
from Clara Jean Watson

Linda McCarty for LOAF
from Jimmy & Susan Graham

**SENIOR ADULT
GAME NIGHT**

~
FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH
5:30PM - FH
TACOS & DESSERT

**FOR MORE INFO
VISIT OUR
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