

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 5

LBCPC.ORG



Happy
Mother's
Day

WE LOVE YOU MOM!



Welcome Home.



A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

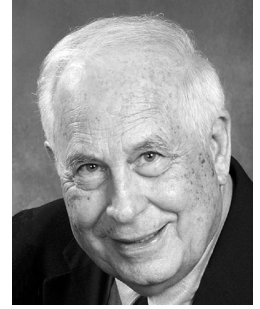
SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I find it hard to believe that it is May! May has certainly changed for me since I was a child and May was the most glorious month of the year because school got out for the summer. I can remember when I could not sleep because of my excitement when the calendar turned to May back in 1976. You see I had just turned 16 and I had my drivers license and the last day of school was the departure date for my 1st great escape into the wilderness of Canada. I had been reading and studying maps and making plans for months in advance. I would drop in my canoe at Eli Minnesota on the Boundary Waters and travel like the early explorers enjoying shore lunches of fresh caught fish as I explored northern Minnesota and southern Ontario. I had made arrangements to meet up with a bear hunting guide in Canada named L.L. Edwards and he was in my mind one of the greatest men alive, a real world wilderness legend who guided hunts for Black Bears in the spring and fall and was a professional trapper through the winter. I can remember being troubled by the fact that I only had two months to spend there. I just knew I was going to have the time of my life out there all alone in a canoe navigating my way through the wilderness. I guess at 16 you don't yet know enough to ask yourself honest questions like, how will you know where you are or where you're going? This was way before GPS and trust me those little blue lakes on the maps looked more like the great lakes in a canoe. I also failed to take into consideration that all those lakes exist there because it rains a lot there and when the storms hit those lakes I discovered that a well-made canoe floats even when half full of water, but it really moves slow. Another thing I failed to realize until it was too late was the fact that you never clean fish or cook your meals near where you plan to sleep, unless you really enjoy hearing the bears fight over who is going to get your food supply right outside of your tent. It was there that I first learned that being alone, I mean really alone for weeks at a time with no real idea where you are or if you are even going the right way is not nearly as exciting as it seemed in the movies. Another thing I discovered is why people used canoes to travel instead of traveling on land. Mosquitoes, not the kind that make life uncomfortable but the kind that make life impossible. Clouds of millions that would cover your whole body and make it hard to breath or open your eyes to see without a head net. I learned how to cook and set up my tent on top of my canoe so when I reached the bank all I had to do was find a flat spot and jump inside where I would stay until I got back on the water. As I look back today I now realize just how slow a learner I really was. The realities of why the wilderness was a wilderness were everywhere but I refused to let go of my life-long dream that I could find there something I couldn't find anywhere else. You see I believed that everything wrong inside me was being caused by the world around me. I did a lot more than believe it, I had faith in it and I was not about to let reality get in my way. You see L.L. Edwards turned out to be a lot less desirable than I had imagined as well but I was ready to kiss that ugly rascal when he actually showed up to meet me. I laugh now at just how foolish I was back then because after I got home the first thing I did was start planning for next May and I had learned my lesson. This next May I was going to the Rocky Mountains, after all my only problem was that I had just gone to the wrong wilderness!

I did say slow learner and I finally did learn that everything wrong all around me was being caused by what was really wrong inside of me. I was looking for something in creation that only the creator could give to me. I was looking for something outside of me to fill the place only God's Holy Spirit could fill inside me, and that was my great mistake. So it's May and I am dreaming again of maybe going fishing, but this time I am planning on a day trip.

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



I am writing these words in the midst of a torrential downpour in Singapore. It has been a hot tiresome day, but now the heavy rain is cooling and cleansing the atmosphere and resounding a symphonic chorus as the myriads of individual wind-driven drops beat against the window. The storm brings not only physical refreshment, but spiritual as well. It calls to mind the transforming wonder of God's grace, which we may define simply as His favor to us even when we don't deserve it. Our most dramatic encounter with that grace is at our conversion, when God broke into our life and did something for us that we could never discover or achieve by our own insight or intelligence or effort. Here is the wonder of God's marvelous grace, that it cleanses and renews even the filthiest and most defiled life.

Even our subsequent service in the kingdom of God is possible only because of His grace. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 the apostle Paul spoke of his hard work as a missionary, but he added the rider, "Yet it wasn't I, but the grace of God which was with me." He owed everything to God's favor toward him.

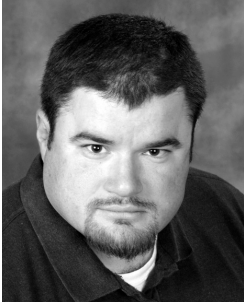
But there is another way in which we may experience God's grace, one that is especially needed, and that may be illustrated by an incident in Paul's life. In 2 Corinthians 12 he describes a personal crisis that he was undergoing and how his prayers didn't bring the answer that he wanted. He had been wrestling in prayer with God over his trials, and instead of deliverance from his circumstances, God simply gave the assurance: "My grace is sufficient for you." There were many things that Paul could not understand about his "thorn in the flesh," but the one thing that mattered more to him than anything else was the certainty that God was smiling upon him.

All of us find ourselves at times pricked by thorns, but like Paul we can discover with the key of faith that our trials become triumphs through the provision of God's grace. His grace is not a bridge over troubled waters, but it is certainly a pathway through them. And that grace more than matches the need, because its source is infinite and its supply is abundant. Is the mighty ocean sufficient to fill the bucket of the child playing on the beach? Does the vast cornfield provide enough to feed a solitary mouse? Can the expanse of the atmosphere give enough oxygen for one person? Can the waters of Lake Michigan satisfy one thirsty person? Even more is God's grace sufficient. Underneath all our care is His care for us. A man returned home one evening carrying a package containing a gift for his wife. His little girl asked if she might have the pleasure of taking the package to her mother. "But, Sweetheart," said the father, "you know that it's too big for you to carry." "Give it to me and see," she challenged. So he handed the package to her, and then she said, "Now I'll carry the package and you carry me!"

So it is with us. If I must carry a burden, Christ will carry me. Underneath us are the everlasting arms of an all-sufficient grace that never fails. We can experience God's grace at every step of the way—grace for the big things and grace for the little things.

God's grace is great enough to meet the great things,
The crashing waves that overwhelm the soul,
The roaring winds that leave us stunned and breathless,
The sudden storms beyond our life's control.
His grace is great enough to meet the small things,
The little pin-prick troubles that annoy,
The insect worries, buzzing and persistent,
The squeaking wheels that grate upon our joy.

--Annie Johnson Flint



A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

We have reached my least favorite time of the year, it's graduation time! I always feel a little down at this time of year, because I know from this point forward the student and I will never be as close. I won't get to see them each week, they will come home less and less, life will get more and more busy, and other people and things will become more important to them. The realization sets in; my time with our seniors is short. This is the time when I tend to get reflective; I think of ways that I could have shown them a more accurate reflection of Christ, how I could have discipled them better, and how I could've prepared them more for the world they are about to face? Ultimately, I come to the same conclusion each year, I did my best, and truly I have little to do with the results, as they are up to God alone. I firmly believe and know that Scripture confirms that God never lets go of His children, they are sealed by the Spirit in His mighty hands. I give this visual to our students all the time; when you are God's child you can run, you can try and hide, you can seek other things, but that unbreakable chain only has so many links and it is attached to an unmovable force, and there will always be a yanking back point! I do warn our students that those yanking back points can be painful and pray that they all would walk hand in hand with Jesus always, but I know the great temptations this world throws at each of them. I think about how diverse the group of our seniors are this year, some are defined by athletics, some by academics, and others by their leadership qualities, but above all those things I hope each is defined by their personal walk with Jesus. College and early adulthood are serious spiritual transition points, the point where we choose whether we are merely consumers of religious traditions or real followers of Christ. The love of Christ, and His body of believers, has to become our own as some of our outside influences are removed. These are the things that keep me up at night, praying that the inner man will come forward and the flesh will fall away. Please pray for our seniors as they launch into the world and as they experience new freedom and join us on Sunday, May 21st in the 2nd morning worship service to recognize our seniors' achievements and future plans. We will also treat them to lunch that same day after church. Continue to pray for all our students, and thank you for your investment in their lives.

From the beginning of the project through 2006, our suggested contribution was \$5 per shoebox gift. From 2006 to today, it has been \$7. It's time for a small incremental increase to support the growing impact of Operation Christmas Child. The per-shoebox suggested donation is increasing from \$7 to \$9 in 2017. This donation of \$9 per shoebox gift is critical for Operation Christmas Child. It provides for the collection, processing, and shipping of shoebox gifts to more than 100 countries. It also provides ministry materials such as The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet children receive alongside their shoebox gift and The Ministry Partner Guide, a tool used to assure simple, easy-to-understand local outreach event training and clear Gospel presentations



A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

Spring started with a blast as we hosted our annual Easter “Eggstravaganza” on April 8th. The event began indoors with family time with the kidz. As they listened to the “Jelly Bean Story”, the kidz filled an egg with sacred treasures for a keepsake. While Easter traditions can be loads of fun, the most rewarding part is not the “golden” egg, but the “golden” prize that God gave us in Jesus. The Jelly Bean Story relates biblical truths to each jelly bean color. The 2500 eggs that were placed around the front lawn lasted only minutes as the kidz exited the building with excitement and joy, hoping to fill their Easter baskets with as many eggs as they could hold. Thank you to Patrick and Carole Thornton for making the BBQ lunch fundraiser a great success. Proceeds will go to Operation Christmas Child items and postage for 2017 boxes. We enjoyed a simple BBQ sandwich, but the recipients of those Christmas boxes will have a once in a lifetime box of joy and happiness. Thank you to every person who made offerings to this wonderful event through their service to our Lord with eggs, candy, and time. On Palm Sunday, the Children’s Ministry waved palms toward the sky as the choir raised their voices in praise to the Lord. If you missed this, be sure to watch it on the website, as it was a site to see 40 children praising God in unison.

The AWANA/FLYTE and Kidz Choir programs follow the school year, which brings the program to a close with the last session for AWANA/FLYTE on Wednesday May 17th. Mark your calendar for the Official Awana Night Program on Sunday, May 21st at 6:00 pm. Join us for a presentation and see what these kidz have been up to all year. We are truly blessed with the workers for AWANA/FLYTE as our attendance has grown in excess of 70 kidz. Thank you for all of your hard work and efforts toward helping our kidz learn about God and His world.

Kidz Choir will end for the season on May 7th when they sing during the 11:00 worship hour. We are very thankful for our choir leaders who so faithfully gave their time and efforts to this program. Thank you Debbie Parks, Katie Hamilton, Shawndra Rhodes and Fran Loftin for a wonderful year of Kidz Choir.

The annual AWANA/FLYTE Lock-in was on April 28th. This is a reward for the kidz hard work throughout the year where they sleep over on campus at Lakewood, eat supper, play games, enjoy a movie, and a great time of fellowship.

Baby Dedication is set for Sunday, May 14th on Mother’s Day. Please contact Gina Fusillo as soon as possible if you wish to participate in this glorious ceremony.

“Galactic Starveyors”, this year’s Vacation Bible School, begins June 4th and ends June 8th. The VBS Motto is “Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible.” VBS is open to all children who are currently in the 3-4 year old Sunday School class, up through current 6th graders. A nursery and a 2 year old class will be available for children of VBS workers. Please mark your calendars and save these dates for your children to attend this fun time of learning, crafts, and games! T- shirts are available for purchase directly from Life Way Christian Bookstore for anyone who wants a VBS T- shirt. Some volunteer spots remain unfilled. If you feel led to serve in this ministry, please call or text Gina.

“Wet Wednesdays” will begin June 14th. All elementary age kidz, and any preschool age kidz accompanied by a parent, are invited to come for a time of fellowship, devotion, and swimming fun. We will meet in the children’s church room at 5:45 for devotion and return to the church by 7:15. Make sure you bring your swimsuit and a towel each week for water fun! Jesus loves you! Put some love on somebody. You just never know when it might make somebody’s day. Be an answer to someone’s prayer!



Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Alice Spivey for the Amen Choir from:
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tinkler
 Mr. J. P. & Esther Benton
 Mr. J. D. & Diane Whitehead
 From Fran Loftin for Challenge to Build
 From Clara Jean Watson for Bus Maintenance
 From Dot Beck for Food Closet

Mary Jean Wilson
 for Music Ministry from Dorothy Atkins
 For Music Ministry from Fran Loftin
 For Youth Ministry from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Ben Martin
 For Youth Missions from Bill & Margaret Wilson
 For Bus Maintenance from Brenda Slaphey
 For Bus Maintenance from Clara Jean Watson

For Youth Missions in memory of Roland Griffith,
 Ethel Oliver, Tillie Wilson, from Bill & Margaret
 Wilson

Sam Loftin for Student Missions from Peggy
 Gindville

Charles Turner for Youth Ministry from Janet Turner

Harris Henderson for Budget from Fran Loftin

James Stokes for the Budget from Dolly Stokes

Sally Kennedy, Reuben and Mary Kennedy for Food
 Closet from Dolly Stokes

Peggy Roberts for Challenge to Build from Terry &
 Clara Grimes

Chuck and Peggy Roberts for Challenge to Build
 from Melvin & Sherry Scroggins

IN HONOR OF:

Betty Burrows for Homebound from Brenda Slaphey
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Horner for Annie Armstrong from
 Dot Beck

Lakewood Happenings

May 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU			10:00am- 2:00pm Walmart Belize dayfor Missions
	VIP Week 1	VIP Week 2	VIP Week 3	VIP Week 4	VIP Week 5	VIP Week 6
FR Lunch	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting		5:30pm Game Night Sandwiches	All Day Event RUSH 2017
VIP Week						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mother's Day Baby Ded. 9:00am Service Youth Led	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting	6:30pm CDC Graduation		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Graduate Sunday @ 11:00am 2:00pm Bridal Tea for Elizabeth H. 6:00pm Awana Night	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Memorial Day					
28	29	30	31			

March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/5	\$22,566.47	\$400.00	\$1,869.00	\$2,043.00	\$26,878.47
3/12	\$14,542.85	\$640.00	\$1,770.00	\$7,693.46	\$24,646.31
3/19	\$8,876.00	\$139.00	\$3,199.00	\$5,697.35	\$17,911.35
3/26	\$22,501.72	\$120.00	\$979.40	\$1,169.00	\$24,770.12

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- Kidz Choir

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA, FLYTE, R.E.A.L.
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

Only \$5 per adult meal,
\$2.50 per child meal with a
maximum \$15 per family!

Let's Eat!

Dinner is
served from
5:00-6:00pm

May WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

5/3

BEEF TIPS
OVER RICE
BLACKEYED
PEAS
CORNBREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

5/10

PORK LOIN
BAKED POTATO
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

5/17

BBQ CHICKEN
BAKED BEANS
COLE SLAW
BBQ BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

5/24

TACO SALAD
MEXICAN CORN
SPANISH RICE
DESSERT

5/31

BAKED
SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at carol@lbcpc.org or call 334.298.6433.

Welcome New Members

TIM DECKARD

CORBIT & JO

GABLES

CASSIE DECKARD

BRAD POTEET

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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PASTOR
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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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