

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

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• NEW YEAR •
PURPOSE

GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

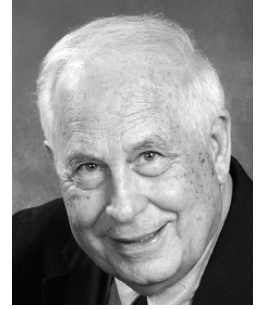
Life has a purpose and God has a plan to bring us to the place to run the race He has laid out for us. At a glance, in just a moment one might believe that our world is chaotic, spinning out of control. Our plans constantly forced to change lead us to wonder where we are heading and what tomorrow we be. Then God speaks into our lives the words of truth that all things are working together for good because He is good. As we look ahead at another new year we have a choice before us. **We can choose to listen to a voice of fear or embrace the truth of God.**

The world we have lived through was a world with a loving God in it. The world we are facing is the same one and it will remain the same for our children and grandchildren. My world these past few days has been like nothing I have ever known before. Heart bypass surgery was something I'll never forget. A journey that will no doubt leave me forever changed. I will be a better pastor because of it. Empathy, and very real sympathy for those who are going through real suffering are now real for the first time. God is already bringing about good from what in the moment was a painful lesson. I now understand the true meaning of dependence. I now know and appreciate the value of so many things I have taken for granted. To breath deep once again will be such a blessing when that day returns. The legs that once carried me to mountain tops can barely lift me to my feet but each day they grow stronger. Soon and very soon the Bible will live its truth through me as I wait upon the Lord I will not grow weary. No I will rise up on wings like an eagle but this time I will recognize the source of my power and not take the gift of this life for granted. I am being restored to run the race laid out for me. I hope and pray your view of this new year is even better than my own. I thank God He has chosen for us to go through it together.

Run with endurance the race that God has set before you



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

After forty years of wandering around in the desert, the Hebrews were getting ready to cross over the Jordan River into the land that God had promised them. By way of preparation, their leaders gave them certain instructions, found in Joshua 3:1-5. They were to keep the Ark of the Covenant far enough in front of the mass of people in order that everyone could see it, and when it moved they were to follow it. Verse 4 gives the reason: "That you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." We can certainly say the same thing about the new year that we are facing. We have not been this way before, and we don't know what this year may bring. The key to this passage is the Ark of the Covenant, which was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ and represented God's presence with the people. The Ark had been in their possession for forty years, and they had been carrying it around with them in their midst, but now there was a dramatic change in the position of the Ark. Now the Ark would not be in their midst, but in front of them, leading them.

Why are some Christians victorious and other Christians not victorious? All Christians possess Jesus, but the difference is not in possession; it's in position. All Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ, but not every Christian follows the Lord Jesus Christ into victory. You see, when the Ark that they possess becomes the head and the leader, when the Lord becomes the leader, when the resident becomes the president, when the Christ who abides comes to preside, then there is victory. **Victory is seeing which way God is going and then following Him.** The people of Israel were told that when they saw the ark move, they were to go after it. And that made the difference between forty years of wandering in the wilderness and crossing over into the land of promise. If your New Year's resolution is not to take a step without your eyes on the Ark and to go wherever the ark goes, I can give you the same promise that Joshua gave in verse 5: **"The Lord will do wonders among you."**

A new year is an adventure. Just as Israel had never been this way before, we will be walking through unexplored territory, not knowing what the future holds. But you don't have to know where; you don't have to know when; you don't have to know why. **If you are following the Ark, God will guide you through uncharted places, He will grant you unfading promises, and He will guard you with unfailing power.**



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

As we enter another New Year we often begin to think about what we'd like to change in our lives. As humans, our greatest motivation is often **reward**, and we make resolutions because we think the reward is worth the effort.

This reminds me of an old story I once heard. It's called; **"And What Will My Reward Be?"**

One day, a salty old fisherman sat in his chair at the edge of the surf with his fishing pole propped up in the sand. His single line cast out in the distance as the surf lapped at his feet, as he watched the sun begin to set. Soon, a businessman, still in his work clothes, ambled slowly along the shore. His pant legs were rolled up, he carried his shoes and socks in hand, as he tried to de-stress from a long day at work.

As the two men crossed paths, the businessman remarked; **"You aren't going to catch many fish that way! Maybe you should work a little harder, rather than just sitting in your chair, waiting for a single fish to swim by?"**

The old fisherman smiled, looked up at the businessman, and replied; **"And what will my reward be?"**

The businessman, shocked by the man's reply said; **"Well, if you catch more fish, you can sell them, buy some nets, and catch more fish to sell."**

The fisherman again replied; **"And then what will my reward be?"**

The businessman shocked at the ignorance of the lowly old fisherman said; **"You'll make more money, then you can buy a boat, get out into deeper water, and catch many more fish."**

The fisherman repeated his phrase; **"And then what will my reward be?"**

Agitated, the businessman said; **"Then you can buy a bigger boat, you can hire some people to help you, and it'll make your work easier!"**

The fisherman again said; **"And what will my reward be?"**

Now angry, the businessman changed his tone sternly and said; **"What don't you understand? Then you can buy a fleet of boats, you can fish all over the sea, and hire dozens of men to work for you, and they will do all the work, and you'll make a lot of money!"**

One last time the fisherman replied; **"And what will my reward be?"**

Now furious, the business man shouted; **"You'll be so rich you'll be able to retire, and spend the rest of your days doing nothing but sitting on this beach, watching the sunset."**

The fisherman smiled, looked up at the businessman and said; **"Why all that effort to do what I'm doing right now?"**

Everyone seems to be looking for contentment in all the wrong places. Some in success and career achievements, or the number of degrees on the wall. Others in money or possessions. Others in good things such as family, and children.

Yet, the Word is clear, we exist to bring glory to God, and we exist for Christ alone. Our reward is not in living my-best-life-now, it's in living with an eternal mindset!

It's in fulfilling the very purpose we were created for; glorifying God with the entirety of our being. Only in that, will we find true meaning and purpose, as we look forward to His promised eternal reward.

Colossians 3:17 says; "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him."

Let your only true resolution be; to glorify God in everything you do, more this year than the last! That's true contentment, and the truest measure of success!

God bless,

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A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



All Year Celebration of the heart of Christmas

It is the new year and we are all looking at making 2022 better than 2021 and we need to celebrate the heart of Christmas all year. What do we celebrate in December? Let's keep it simple. God IS Love, God does not just give us examples of what loves looks like, He IS Love. This is what we are celebrating. The Triune God the Father Loves the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit in one. This love flows out onto the canvas of creation since the beginning of time. Remember in the Old Testament God is walking intimately with his beloved in the garden in perfection. Sin then enters the world and man is fallen. God is relegated to the temple. Remember how the priest had to tie ropes around their ankles because if they were unclean when entering God's presence, they would be struck down dead. There is a separation from God and man. God came to earth in the form of a baby born in a manger. He didn't have to, He chose to come and live among His beloved creation. Jesus then died on a rugged cross as the substitution lamb for you and for me. Then he arose in 3 days. Through Jesus's life, death and resurrection He makes us worthy to be adopted into His family for all who believe in Him. But it's not finished He ascended to heaven and when He did, He left His Holy Spirit to reside in his beloved creation who choose to believe in Him and make Him Lord of their life. He left the earth as Lord.

Our adversary wants you to believe that you and your family to are outside of this story, that you are NOT worthy, your past addiction, un-forgiveness, hidden sin makes you unworthy of being able to be a part of this story. This is a lie. The baby that we celebrate brings redemption to the world not condemnation. Jesus brings new creation and new birth. He told Nicodemus he must be born again. Galatians 2, I am crucified with Christ, I no longer live but Christ lives in me. For the redeemed Christian the Holy Spirit is in you and me. See, His LOVE is a progression in space and time, He was distant (temple). Then He put on flesh as a baby and walked among us. Now He is as close as He can possibly be to His beloved, His desire is to be within us with His Holy Spirit. He is in us and we are in Him.

This is the heart of Christmas that we must celebrate every month of the year. In 2022 let's remember to celebrate and grow in this Love all year. We ALL are living in the space between Jesus coming to earth and his return. What are we doing to help people to be ready for his return?

Calendar

Monday, January 24th Mom's Morning Out 9:30am - 12:30pm

January 30 Sunday Funday 2pm-4pm

**Family Experience - whole family dress as Superhero's
Costume, contest, games/activities**



SOUP & DESSERT

SENIOR ADULT GAME NIGHT

Friday, January 14th @ 5:30pm

Monday, January 24th
9:30am - 12:00pm

Ages 1-5 years

MOM'S MORNING OUT



There is a suggested donation of \$5

If interested Contact David@LBCPC.org

Lakewood Happenings

January 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						New Year's Day 1
Lord's Supper 2	3	4	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union 5	6	7	8
5:00pm Deacons Meet 9	10	11	12	13	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night 14	15
6:00pm Church Conference 16	17	18	7:00pm Finance Team Meets 19	20	21	22
23	9:30am Mom's Morning Out 24	25	26	6:30pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 27	28	29
30	31					

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/7	\$26,318	\$130.00	\$6,315.13	\$625.00	\$33,388.15
11/14	\$15,635.76	\$250.00	\$2,656.70	\$345.00	\$18,887.46
11/21	\$21,122.44	\$160.00	\$3,031.55	\$455.00	\$24,768.99
11/28	\$13,050.50	-	\$2,281.00	\$1,310.00	\$16,542.50

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship

10:00am Bible Fellowship

11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Linda McCarty

From Lakewood Baptist Church for Student Missions
From Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn for Student Missions
From Gail Brantley for Feed the Homeles
From Cathy Golden for Feed the Homeless

Homer Medley

From Glenda Medley for Lottie Moon
From Gabriel Medley for General Fund

Judy Carter

From Virginia Kennedy WMU for Lottie Moon

Nell Holder

From Virginia Kennedy WMU for Lottie Moon

Jean Russell

From Virginia Kennedy WMU for Lottie Moon

Carolyn Pruski

From Virginia Kennedy WMU for Lottie Moon

Dr. Vincent Currier

From Myra Currier for Lottie Moon

Leon Watson

From Heather Thomas for General Fund

Montie & Clide Miller

From Clara Jean Watson for Lottie Moon

In Honor of:

Betty Burrows

From Pat Holland for Lottie Moon

John & Elizabeth Giles

From Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead
for Building & Grounds

Shelrea Funderburk

From Carolyn Jones for Belize Feed A Child

Cathy Greene & Joyful Servants SS

For Lottie Moon

For Food Closet

For Alabama Children's Home

M.R. & Katie Hamilton

From Margaret Wilson for Food Closet

Jerry & Linda Scarborough

For Teen Challenge

Gary Bradshaw

From Carolyn Jones for Amen Choir

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

BETHANY WHITAKER

**BRENNAN & PRISCILLA
MANCIL**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE @
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