

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2022

VOL XII: ISSUE 3 LBCPC.ORG

## MARCH HAPPENINGS

### *Youth Missions Yard Sale*

Saturday, March 5 ~ 7:30am - 2:30pm

Family Activity Center

### *DATE NIGHT PC*

Friday, March 11 @ 5:30pm

Sign up with David

### *Senior Adult Game Night*

Friday, March 11th @ 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Hamburgers & Cheeseburgers

### *Women's Bible Study ~ 7 Weeks*

"Under the Son" ~ A Study of Ecclesiastes

Sunday, March 13th @ 4:30pm

Prayer Meeting Room

Led by Katie Hamilton

(Materials Provided)

### *"Sister to Sister"*

Monday, March 28th @ 6:00pm

Tammy Smith's House

### *Women's Morning DVD Bible Study*

*"Take Courage" A Study of Haggai*

Tuesday, March 15th @ 10:00am

Prayer Meeting Room



Welcome Home.



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

March has been a magical month filled with anticipation all my life as my birthday is March 10th. Not only did I come here to preach my 1st sermon in the pulpit of Lakewood Baptist Church on March 10th 2013 and yes your math is right I have been here nine years already. This year March is even better than ever as I have been working hard to get here as March first marks the end of three months since my open heart surgery and I was told I would start to feel a lot better after three months so I am claiming that promise. Too bad a doctor and not God made me that promise but I still have hope because they have seen first hand how fast God has made our bodies to recover from the damage they have done. So March this year has a lot of promise for me and the fish will be biting soon on top of all that. God really is good to me and He continues to fill my life with promises that make hope burst forth in me like the flowers that also spring forth in March.

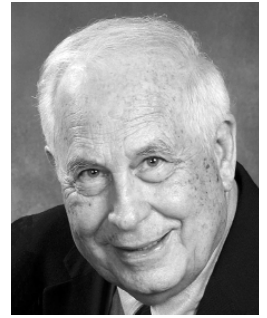
I have known so many people in my life and ministry who never seem to know or experience that same hope that boils up in anticipation. That hope that makes dreams flourish and each day another adventure. So many seem to be already disappointed in tomorrow as though they live in a spirit of expectation but not in the right things. They seem to expect a cursing and not a blessing. They seem to expect people to do them wrong instead of expecting the best of others. Most people I know and have known all my life are trying to do what they think is right. Most people don't break in your house and steal from you only a few people do that. I must admit that it seems to be getting worse but still most people will never break in anyone's home and rob them. God commanded us to lean not on our own understanding for a reason. He doesn't want us living out a lie! God did say

He had a plan for us and that He planned to bless us and not curse us to give us a hope and a future. I understand concerns about the future because I have children and grandchildren and I worry about what kind of world they are going to live in. Then God commands me to not worry because they are going to live in a world with a loving God just like I do. Wow, that is good news as long as I dare to believe God and take Him at His Word. So if you just might be feeling a little down about today and even worse about tomorrow just turn off the dooms day media for a minute and read about the God of the Bible and what He says He has in store for you. Even now after 62 years March is still as magical and full of hope as it ever was. I am praying to share that sense of hope with all those I know who have lost their peace. I am praying for everyone I know who lives angry and afraid that God would release them from their demons of their own making. I know it is possible because I once lived in rage and can easily return there even to this day. My storm that brewed within me was of my own creation. My own lack of understanding, my unwillingness to forgive as I had been forgiven. My unwillingness to love as I was loved. I was afraid and that fear made me a slave until finally I really heard the truth behind the healing words of Jesus. "Don't let your heart be troubled you believe in God believe also in me", "Love God, and love your neighbor as you love yourself". "Whatever things are noble whatever things are true think about such things and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts in Christ Jesus".

"For I Know the plans I have for you" \_\_\_\_\_ please fill in the blank and see how you feel about tomorrow!



# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Since March is the month of St. Patrick's Day, and since St. Patrick's Day is focused on things like "luck," I want to write a gentle but emphatic reprimand to those of you who identify yourselves with pagans by the language you use. Would you intentionally say to someone, "I pray that the gods of chance and fortune will bring success to you"? That's exactly what you are saying when you say "good luck" to someone. All heathen cultures, both ancient and modern, have at least one god or goddess of luck or good fortune. Isaiah 65:11-12 pronounces judgment upon those who forsake God and look to the pagan gods of Gad and Meni, the gods of luck and fate. Did you ever hear of "Lady Luck"? She is the Roman goddess Fortuna, the goddess of luck, fortune, and fate. Did you ever thank your "lucky star" or read the daily horoscope? Then classify yourself with pagans who think that the stars determine what happens in your life. Did you ever carry around a so-called good luck charm? Then you're in the company of those who faithfully rub the belly of a statue of Buddha for a blessing. Don't you know that the Bible expressly forbids amulets (Isaiah 3:18-20; Ezekiel 13:18-21; Psalm 31:6)? Have you never read such Bible verses as James 1:17 or Romans 8:28, that tell us that God is the source of all good things? Don't you know that luck is an idol? An idol is anything one turns to instead of God. So if there is such a thing as luck that is uncontrolled by God, and it causes events to happen, then luck must be a god too.

At this point you're probably thinking, "That's not what I mean when I wish someone good luck or when I talk about being lucky." Then why don't you say what you mean? Why use the language of pagans, when you know that it's only through God that we receive blessings of goodness? Why not honor God with your words? Instead of saying, "Good luck," why not say, "God bless you," or "I pray God's favor on you"? If you fear that such expressions make you sound like a religious fanatic, then say

something like, "I hope all goes well with you." I don't mean to appear condemnatory, and I know that you would not deliberately offend God, but I want to write this unequivocal statement, based on the Word of God: When you talk about being lucky, you are insulting God, because at its root luck is a denial of the sovereignty of God over the details of daily life, a reluctance to trust Him completely, and a refusal to give Him glory and honor and thanks in everything. The word "luck" has no place in the Christian vocabulary, even if it is used innocently.

While we are on the subject of offending God, let me offer another suggestion in cleaning up your language. Do you ever use the name of God as a byword? It pierces my soul to hear someone, especially a child of God, exclaim "Oh my God," or "My God," or "Good God," or even use the abbreviation OMG. God is not a generic or impersonal god, and the Bible makes it clear that He expects His people to refer to Him, either directly or indirectly, with reverence and respect. Have you never read Exodus 20:7 or Matthew 6:9? You may regard "Oh my God" as just an innocent expression that doesn't mean anything, but the Bible specifically states, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." The words "take in vain" mean "don't empty the name." It's speaking of God in a way that empties Him of His significance. Again I don't mean to appear condemnatory, but a Christian who says, "Oh my God" or "OMG," is insulting the majesty of God. Jesus taught that we are to pray that God's name be hallowed on earth as it is in heaven, that His rule and reign be established, and His will be done. If we are praying for that while at the same time we are referring to God irreverently, then we are no better than the hypocrites that Jesus described.

God bless you!



# A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

A few weeks ago we traveled to North Carolina for the annual Snowbird Pure & Holy weekend retreat. We are extremely grateful to those who sponsored students for this event. This weekend challenges students and young adults to live an overall life of purity before the Lord, and to be set apart for His plans and purposes. It also challenges our young people in the area of sexual purity, which is the largest temptation and struggle for every one of them. In our opening session, we were challenged with a text from Luke 19, you might not ordinarily associate with a purity conference; it was the familiar story of Zacchaeus. You remember Zacchaeus and his story (and probably the song) from Sunday School. How he was a wee little man who climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see!

As we uncovered the truths of his story we saw that Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector, a position that made him exceeding wealthy, though it likely made him hated by his own people as a traitor. Hearing Jesus was coming to Jericho (another children's SS song comes to mind), Zacchaeus decided to see what all the fuss was about. His curiosity led him to the top of a tree because he was short man and couldn't get a good view of this man called Jesus. Zacchaeus was intentional with coming to see Jesus, but Jesus was even more intentional with coming to Jericho to redeem Zacchaeus.

The Word says in Luke 19:5; "When Jesus reached the spot". What spot? The spot where He knew He'd be in view of Zacchaeus. The spot of a divine intervention. "Jesus looked up and said to him; Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today." Can you imagine the stunned people around Jesus. How'd He know Zacchaeus name? Why him, he's a crook? Out of every person there, including His disciples, Jesus calls out a short man in a sycamore-fig tree? It's truly an amazing story. But the best is yet come. Verse 6 says; "So he (Zacchaeus) came down at once and welcomed Him (Jesus) gladly." Verse 7 records

the crowds astonishment; "All the people saw this and began to mutter: He (Jesus) has gone to be the guest of a sinner." Their supposed righteous indignation for Zacchaeus is clear; he doesn't deserve to encounter Jesus!

Finally, the short man "stands up" and says to Jesus in verse 8; "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Can you imagine the crowd's response now? Bet they were lining up to get repaid by the diminutive sinful tax collector!?! Then Jesus speaks in verses 9-10 and says; "Today, salvation has come to this house, because this man too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus has the final word; He saves even the most wretched sinners for His glory.

See, true salvation comes only through absolute surrender. For Zacchaeus his money, status, and wealth defined him, but on that day, Jesus would redefine him. He was lost, on the outside looking in, but now was found, a true son of Abraham, and child of God. True conviction is a convinced conscience. Are you convinced of your wretchedness? Are you convinced of your need for a Savior? Remember, true repentance isn't something you come back from. It's a permanent state. Therefore, true repentance bears lasting fruit of righteous obedience. When Zacchaeus encountered Jesus and saw his wretchedness he wanted to settle accounts, to repay good for his evil, and give to others, instead of take. Jesus didn't ask Zacchaeus to do these things, but because of his redeemed heart and new nature, his first act was to get rid of what had previously defined him (wealth). Our students were challenged to stop defining themselves by other things, and instead to live a life set apart and holy to the Lord. **Jesus is still seeking and saving that which was lost, what was/is/should be your act of obedience?**

# A Message from David Stephens



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CHILDREN'S MINISTER

## Seek First

Thoughts on Matthew 6:25-34. Why are we anxious? Why do we concern ourselves so much about what we eat or drink or our clothes? The Father feeds and cloths the birds better than Solomon and all of his splendor. Aren't we not of greater value to God than the birds? Why do we think that we can add time to our life by being anxious? The heathens seek after all these things, and the Father already knows what we need. We must 'seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you'. Do we present a 'seek first' life? Are we seeking God first in our time, money, talents, careers, relationships? Are we running to the Father or are we running from something? Anybody who know a little about my story will know that my 'seeking first the kingdom' definitely can mean endings to relationships with people and organizations. But I've tried with a pure heart to run to the Father and not run away from a situation. A pure heart is not a perfect heart, it's an honest heart. I challenge myself and you to seek first God and run to the Father with a pure heart. As we seek first the kingdom sometimes the greatest opposition to what the Father wants to do next comes from the people who were on the front lines or the cutting edge of what the Father did last. This struggle is not new. As the new becomes known and practiced by the majority the old becomes obsolete. Believe me, I have a techie teenager. I'm trying to prepare him for a lifetime of continual learning, so that he can remain valuable to his future employers. As we 'seek God first' he is new every morning. Am I seeking God anew every day what he is doing? Are you? My breath and my gifts

are on loan from God for this moment in eternity. Am I using my breath and my gift to help the kingdom of God advance or not? Are you? All that I am, all that I have is by the grace of God.

What is the first of the 10 commandments, 'you shall have no other God's before me'. If we are left to our own devices, we will not seek God first.

Prov 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all you heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths. Seek God first.

You find yourself in the valley and feel rejected, seek God first. In the valley when you seek God first you begin to understand the perfect love that you have received from the God who created you. This perfect love helps you, to love you better.

Seek God first in our fears. David sought God first to kill Goliath.

Seek first God as we look at our world today. We live by faith not by sight. God is not confused. The empty tomb is real. Sovereignty is real. Power over sin is real. I know that God will come thru because we have a living hope. The likelihood of it happening on my timetable is small, but he will come through.

The 'seek first' life is confident preparation for action. Jesus and the word of God will bear weight on you. We are called to make disciples proclaiming Jesus is Lord. He is not our 'buddy'. In preschool children's ministry we say Jesus wants to be your best friend forever. As we grow and learn about true friendship relationship there is power, accountability, loyalty, fun, sacrifice, compassion, and so much more wrapped up into this forever friendship with God.

## Calendar:

*March 5 Yard Sale ( we will have a kids area )*

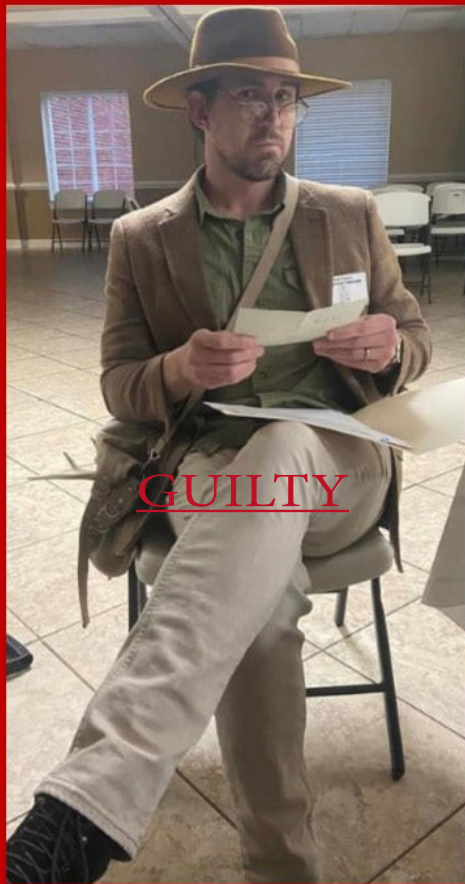
*March 12 Winter Jam ( 5th-6th grade)*

*March 16 : 9:30 – 12 Mom's Morning Out*

*March 26 Feed the homeless (5th-6th grade) 11AM (FAC)*



# Children Workers Murder Mystery Dinner



# Lakewood Happenings

## MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union			7:30am Youth Yard Sale for Missions FAC
6	6:00pm Womens Ministry Meeting	8	2	10	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night 5:30pm Date Night P/C	12
13	6:00pm GriefShare	15	9:30am Mom's Morning Out 7:00pm Finance Team meets	17	18	19
20	6:00pm GriefShare	22	10:00am Bible Study	24	25	11:00am Singles/Young Adults Feed the Homeless
27	6:00pm GriefShare 6:00pm Sister to Sister @Tammy Smiths	29	10:00am Bible Study	31		

## January Giving

		CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
1/2	\$11,116.71	\$230.00	\$847.70	-	\$12,194.41
1/9	\$29,015.00	\$25.00	\$1,617.01	\$672.00	\$31,329.01
1/16	\$15,657.37	\$80.00	\$743.50	\$1,255.00	\$17,735.87
1/23	\$15,180.00	\$100.00	\$1,022.34	\$809.62	\$17,111.96
1/30	\$14,443.91	-	\$955.00	\$150.00	\$15,548.91

### 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

In Memory of

Grason Saulters

**Amen Choir**

Myra Currier

**Food Bank**

Margaret Wilson

Pat Holland

John Bessant

**Buiders for Christ**

Wayne Harris

Lakewood Baptist Church

Cindy Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

**Missions**

Terry Grimes

Linda McCarty

**Feed the Homeless**

Sherri Valentini

Stella Hughes

**Food Bank**

Patricia Thomas

Gwen Davis Newman

**General Fund**

Glenda Medley

**COME & HEAR**

**SENIOR FEST**

**Lakewood Baptist Church**

**Thursday, March 31st @ 10:30am**

**Choirs include:**

**Amen Choir**

**Providence Baptist Church Choir**

**Alabama Singing Women**

**MOM'S  
MORNING  
OUT**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**

**9:30-12:00**

**DAVID@lbcpc.org**

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