

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2018

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LBCPC.ORG



Welcome Home.

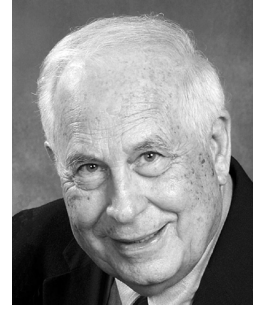


A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

Growing up I always heard that April showers bring May flowers but that all depends on where you live and out west it depends on how high up the mountain you live. For those north of the equator it means spring or early summer and for those south of the equator it means fall. Life is like that for all of us but the problems come when we start thinking everyone should experience the same things in the same way. I know I have handed out more copies of "God's Gifted People" than any other book as it teaches us to celebrate the fact that God made people different for a good reason. Our diversity gives us the ability to reach more people and when we learn to celebrate that reality it unites us. Our enemy knows that it is in our nature to notice the things that are different and to seldom focus our attention on all the things that are the same. He also knows that those differences that God created to empower us are his best tools to separate us and tear us down. Perhaps that is why God so often reminded us that we are one body though our members are all different. These differences are critical to the health of the body and when any part is missing the whole suffers. The church is the very body God spoke about and it needs a great deal of diversity to be healthy. A church that fails to minister to any and every age group soon finds it is weak in the knees as Paul would say. Today we see the church growth experts saying that to grow we need to specialize our worship style and presentation to seek out distinct people groups from within our communities. And though that may bring together people who are unwilling to worship with anyone who doesn't sing or sit or raise their hands just like they do it will never advance the kingdom. God's Kingdom and His church was meant to celebrate humanity and all their diversity. You can see this reality throughout the letters to the churches as they attempted to find a way to unite the Jewish believers with the Gentiles believers. They were so different and their cultural backgrounds were so different that even a pot luck dinner was a challenge. But never once did God direct them to form separate churches with only like-minded members who enjoyed the same music and the same traditions. No, God commanded them to not allow any unwholesome talk to come out of their mouths but only those words that would uplift and encourage. He challenged them to not be critical and judgmental of others as they were his servants and he was overjoyed by them because they were being exactly what he made them to be. In reality when we criticize people for enjoying different music than us and expressing their love of God differently than we would we show contempt towards God who created them as they are. If God has accepted them and if he is pleased with their worship does it really matter what we think? I say this because I am troubled by the reality that it only matters to those who think they are worshipping in their church and the church is all about making them happy. When in reality we are worshipping in God's church and everything we say and do in it is supposed to make him happy. Can you image people in South America being angry with us because we celebrate April as Spring and not Fall like they do? No, they realize that we experience creation differently and we celebrate it differently but we both celebrate April and that is all that really matters. If at the end of my ministry here at Lakewood should the congregation not reflect the diversity of our community, I will have failed God. If our worship does not reflect and share in that diversity celebrated among all who attend in a rich mix of expression without fear, I will have failed both you and God. God made us with differences and that diversity expressed freely and driven by a love of Christ Jesus and one another is a sign of spiritual health that our community so desperately needs. Throughout our culture Satan is dividing and isolating us while he fans the flames of hate and anger when expressed through words that tear at the very fabric of our society. But not here! Not here at Lakewood Baptist Church as we strive to take every thought captive so when we speak our words build up those who hear them. We are the light of the World and we need to shine bright in the darkness as we show our love of God by the way we love one another. Especially when the other was created to be different than us.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

When you receive this month's Connections, I will be in Singapore, the first stop in an extended mission that will take me throughout Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and other countries.

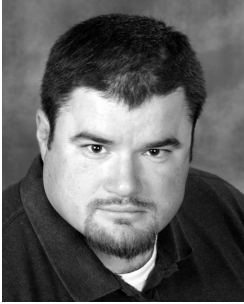
The members of LBC make it possible for me to engage in this ministry, so you have a vital part in what I do here. This is certainly not a pleasure trip, with lots of leisure time for sightseeing. When I'm not traveling, I'm preaching and teaching several hours almost every day, with only a rare day off for rest, and yet there are still many more pleas for the ministry that I do.

But the point I want to make is that you are just as much a missionary as I am, even though you may not cross the barriers of ocean, culture, and language. Our lives ought not to be monotonous; they ought to be momentous, and they can be when we walk in obedience to the Lord's commission to make disciples everywhere we go. Ours is the greatest mission; ours is the greatest message; ours is the greatest Master the world knows anything about. Our mission is the Great Commission, our message is the saving gospel of Christ, and our Master is Jesus Christ Himself, who told us to take the gospel to every creature upon the face of the earth. And yet many Christians are guilty of sinning against this command by their failure to witness for Christ where they are. It matters not what else you may do. It matters not how faithful you are in church attendance, or how eloquently you teach, or how liberally you give, or how proper your behavior may be, or how beautifully you may sing. If you are not giving a positive and clear witness for Christ, then you are living in disobedience.

Those first-century believers did so much with so little, while we do so little with so much. Think of the obstacles they faced. They went out against the might of imperial Rome, the haughty intellectual wisdom of Greece, and the stiff-necked resistance of Judaism. And yet they turned the world upside down and inside out for the sake of Jesus. They did it with no beautiful buildings, no radio, no television, no internet, no newspapers, no colleges, no seminaries, no prestige, and no financial backing. What has happened to us? If we really believed what they believed, we would achieve what they achieved. Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus gave us our marching orders, and He provided the power of the Holy Spirit for us to carry out those orders.

One of the most favorite hymns is "Onward Christian Soldiers," but someone changed the lyrics to reflect more accurately the position of the church today:

Backward Christian soldiers, Fleeing from the fight,
With the cross of Jesus, Nearly out of sight.
Christ our rightful master, Stands against the foe;
Onward into battle, we seem afraid to go.
Like a mighty tortoise, Moves the church of God.
Brothers we are treading, Where we've often trod.
We are much divided, Many bodies we,
Having different doctrines, but not much charity.
Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the cross of Jesus, Hidden does remain.
Gates of hell should never 'gainst the Church prevail,
We have Christ's own promise, but we think it might fail.
Sit here then ye people, Join our sleeping throng.
Blend with ours, your voices in a feeble song.
Blessings, ease and comfort, Ask from Christ the King,
But with our modern thinking, We won't do a thing.
Chorus:
Backward Christian soldiers, Fleeing from the fight,
With the cross of Jesus, Nearly out of sight.



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

The Dangers of Isolation: We all know that today's society is changing rapidly and technology is expanding at an exponential rate. Here's a simple example; a couple of years ago I walked into my son Colt's room, he was playing an Xbox game online with some "friends". I figured he was playing the game with some friends from school or church, but no, one of the kids he was playing with was from Azerbaijan. He was no "friend" at all, just a kid from the other side of the world who wanted to play the same game with others. We can all remember a time when phones had cords, and if you had a cell phone, it was hard wired in your car, cost .30 cents a minute, and you were considered rich just because you had one! However, just last week I had a 45 minute video conference call with a fellow minister in Romania through Facebook messenger while I was driving down the road (don't worry I pulled over into a parking lot). While technology benefits our lives in so many ways, it has created dangerous pitfalls that we need to be aware of. One of these problems is isolation, and I'm seeing it more and more among our students and young adults. Technology has created a virtual world for people where they don't have to interact with another human face to face. Most students communicate through text or Snapchat, while emailing or actually calling someone is old fashioned. I fear we are raising a generation of young people who lack basic interpersonal skills, leaving them awkward, shy, and lacking in basic societal functionality. I notice they can barely make eye contact, shake a hand, or carry on a conversation face to face, and they absolutely hate being placed in a situation different than their norm. While this is unhealthy for their physical and societal maturity it can become even more damaging for the cause of Christ. We seem to be turning out Christians who would rather watch a preacher on YouTube than attend or serve with a local body of believers. While it is wonderful to have access to so many powerful messengers of the Gospel, anytime, at our fingertips, I can't help but think we are handicapping ourselves in the years to come as the church itself is seen as less important. I recently heard a study that predicted that in the next 10 years approximately 25% of people will be working from home instead of going to the office daily (many are already doing this now). How would that change the office dynamic if everyone can stay home and work in their pj's? Now apply that thought to the church, what if in ten years, 25% of current church attendees no longer see the need to attend and serve at a local church anymore because they live stream their favorite preacher on the internet? How would that impact local, stateside, and foreign missions, how would that impact giving and benevolence? Now I'm not suggesting that we don't need to change with the times, and we obviously need to use the technological tools available to us to reach more people, but it's imperative that we stay connected to each other personally and strive for unity in the body of Christ so that the Gospel is preached to all nations. Remember, one of the enemy's favorite tools is isolation, he wants you to think you don't need a local body of believers to unite with, and he wants you to think you can stand alone. However, Jesus founded the church, He called for missions, and He created unity. Those first-century believers, who followed after Him, strove to maintain that unity across racial and varying socioeconomic lines within the church, and together they took Jesus to the world. Remember, God never wants you isolated, you aren't better off alone, there's strength in numbers, there's accountability in numbers, and there's vision in numbers. Isolation can create (among many things) incorrect theology, stinkin'-thinkin', and poor actions that usually follow. So strive to find your place of ministry within the body here at Lakewood, because there's always room for one more! Put yourselves in uncomfortable places for Christ and watch Him use you more than you ever thought possible. This we do for His glory, not ours!

God bless,
Drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC

Events leading up to Easter kept the Children's ministry busy on Sunday

March 25th. The day began with the Palm Procession and the laying of palms by the kidz in celebration of Palm Sunday. Following the 11:00 Worship Hour, the annual "Eggstravaganza" Egg Hunt began. More than 2,000 eggs were hunted on the front church lawn while families and friends awed at the excitement of the kidz quickly gathering the colored eggs into their baskets. A Barbeque sandwich fundraiser lunch was sponsored by the Young Adult Bible Fellowship class. The fundraiser was a success raising \$700 to support the Operation Christmas Child boxes that will be prepared later this year by the AWANA and FLYTE kidz. Many thanks to the Young Adult Bible Fellowship members who selflessly gave their service to make this event a success in its purpose. We are thankful for all who participated, made offerings of eggs and candy, and for the Virginia Kennedy WMU ladies who support the Children's Ministry annually by preparing the eggs for the Egg Hunt. As offerings dribbled in, Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Smith took home hundreds of eggs, returning them to the Church filled and ready for the big day. Last minute, I stumbled across a group of sweet women, Becky Aderhold, Carol Clegg and Betty McHargue, who prepared the remainder of the eggs with sweet spirits. We are blessed by loving spirits and very thankful for all who helped with these events.

Our AWANA/FLYTE Annual Lock-in will be Friday, April 6th. The cost is \$5.00 per attendee. We are very excited that the event will be held in the Family Activity Center this year. Use of the center allows us to remain on campus where we have plans for snacks, games, crafts, and a movie. Attendance is as follows:

- Reserved only for AWANA/FLYTE kidz ages Kindergarten - 6th grade.
- Kindergarten - 2nd grade will attend from 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
- 3rd - 6th grade will attend from 7:00 pm - 7:00 am

Remember to send sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, etc. Sneakers and socks should be worn. Anyone with a special diet should bring "safe" snack food and drink. Permission slips are required for attendance, so please make sure you have signed one before dropping off your children. Please pick up your children promptly at the end of their session.

Next month will wrap up another fine year of AWANA/FLYTE with the Night Program on Sunday, May 20th at 6:00. We had another year of record high attendance. Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall for an Ice Cream Social immediately following the Program. It will be a "SWEET" evening.

VBS is just around the corner. Preparations are already underway so please sign up to serve in this wonderful event.

We are still in need of loving volunteers to staff a much-needed toddler Sunday School class and a two year old class on Sunday mornings. Please contact Gina Fusillo if you can serve in this ministry!

**Associational Singspiration
Sunday, April 8 @ 6:00pm
First Baptist Church, PC - No PM Service here
Representing Lakewood will be
Our Praise Team & Sarah Beman & Children**



Operation Christmas Child 2017 Facts to Rejoice About!



- 10.7 Million Children received a shoebox
- **The Greatest Gift...the gospel given to each child with their shoebox will be read by 6 other people totaling 64 Million!**
- 3.9 Million of these children enrolled in **The Greatest Journey, the 12 week discipleship course offered to each child**
- 186,440 teachers were trained to teach The Greatest Journey
- Of the 3,917,874 children who enrolled, 2,766,254 graduated
- 1,915,780 reported decisions for Christ were made
- And finally...since 2010...718,183 teachers have been trained to teach The Greatest Journey...14,995,498 children have enrolled....10,616,279 children graduated...and there have been 6,974,428 reported decisions for Christ

YOU HAVE A PART OF THAT REWARD! THANK YOU FOR LITERALLY TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!



Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

**Harold Nevels for Amen Choir from Susan Binns
 Bill Wilson for Awana OCC from Fran Loftin
 Stephen Wilson for Budget from Glenda Medley**

In Honor of:

**Jimmy Graham for Challenge to Build from Synovus
 Margaret Weaver for her birthday from Susan Binns
 Mike and Pam Harris for their 50th Wedding Anniversary
 from Terry and Clara Grimes
 Fred Van Horn for the Bus Fund from Gail Brantley**

Lakewood Happenings

April 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Identical Easter Services 9&11 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 3	10:30am VK/WMU 7:00pm Church Coucil Meets 4	5	7:00pm AWANA Lock-in - FAC 6	7
11:00am Jeff Peppers 6:00pm First Baptist Church Singspiration 8	10:30am Amen Choir 9	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 10	7:00pm Deacon Team Meets 11	12	5:30pm Game Night 13	9:00am Lifeline Screening in FAC 11:00am Helping Hands Ministry 14
11:00am Hot Dog Lunch FR. Church Conf. 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16	5:00pm Chick fil a Spirit Night 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible S. 17	7:00pm Finance Team Meets 18	19	20	21
Gideon Sunday 3:30pm America Reh. @ S'Ville 22	10:30am Amen Choir 23	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 24	7:00pm CDC Team Meets 25	7:00pm JEG/BW 26	Golf Tourn. 27	Golf Tourn. 28
VIP 29	10:30am Amen Choir VIP 30					

February Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
2/4	\$29,975.02	\$850.00	\$1,739.40	\$721.50	\$33,285.92
2/11	\$15,284.17	\$120.00	\$381.10	\$1,538.63	\$17,323.90
2/18	\$10,402.53	\$65.00	\$3,685.00	\$1,834.40	\$15,986.93
2/25	\$19,572.68	\$225.00	\$2,678.85	\$5,540.00	\$28,016.53

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY	
9:00am	Contemporary Worship
10:00am	Bible Fellowship
11:00am	Blended Worship
11:15am	Kidz Worship
6:00pm	Evening Worship
WEDNESDAY	
5:00pm	Family Night Supper
5:45pm	FLYTE, AWANA
6:00pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
	Adult Prayer & Bible Study
6:30pm	Youth Worship
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

FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

4/4

BAKED PORK
LOIN
PARSLEY NEW
POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

4/11

BEEF STIR FRY
RICE
BROCCOLI
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

4/18

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED
POTATOES
TURNIP GREENS
CORNBREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

4/25

CHICKEN &
BROCCOLI
CASSEROLE
BUTTER PEAS
CORN
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

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

*Lifeline
Screening
Saturday, April 14th*

*April Greeters
Jill Henderson
Myra Currier*

*Check
Bulletin
Board*

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS
&
OTHER INFO

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