

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2019

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Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

We have all heard it said that, “April showers bring the May flowers” but have you ever considered where that saying came from? How about, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth” or “it’s always darkest before the dawn”? These sayings came to be as a polite way in which we can remind people that our attitude could be greatly improved by a simple adjustment in our perspective. When we look at the good that can come from anything that in the moment seems difficult or troubling, that fresh perspective can make the journey through it a great deal easier. Let’s face the facts, it rains a lot in April and because of that many people don’t enjoy April as much as some other months. April after all is a great month to get out on the water and do some fishing but only if it isn’t raining. How many fisherman who complain about the rain ever stop to realize that without the rains they wouldn’t have any fishing. Fish need water, and to have water we need rain, so April showers really are a very good thing for those of us who like to fish.

Now where am I going with all this talk about stormy weather? Well you see, the Bible teaches us in Romans chapter 1 that creation speaks volumes about their Creator and His nature. The Bible teaches us that we can get to know God better by making an effort to better understand creation. You see God created the seasons for a reason. April showers have a purpose in God’s plan to help us better understand Him. Those April showers are all part of His plan to bring about a blessing. You see April showers are messy and can be very destructive, but God has the ability to bring forth fresh growth and abundant life from those very showers and He does just that. Without the rain the potential for all that abundance is lost. God works that way in creation so we can see it and understand it is in His nature to do the very same things in our lives. All things are working together for the good even if we can’t see or understand it at the time. As I look back on my own life I have had several stormy seasons come and go and God really did make them turn out for my good. The new spiritual growth that came from those storms would have never come to be without the storm. I guess we would all benefit from a better understanding of the place in God’s plan for stormy weather. If you find yourself stuck in stormy weather I hope you will plan to attend the studies here on Monday nights lead by Dean Knipe as he helps us all through the storms of life. After all who doesn’t enjoy the May flowers that come from all that rain.

April 10th, 2019

5:00 - 8:00pm

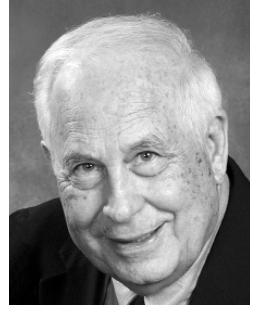
MERGE

KID'S CAMP

Chick-fil-A

SPIRIT NIGHT
FUNDRAISER

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

When you read this issue of Connections, I will be in the first few days of a preaching and teaching mission in Southeast Asia that will take me to Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday, I will preach the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in Thailand, a country held in the grips of superstitious idolatry. A major sight at the departure terminal of Bangkok's airport is one of the largest and most grotesque idols imaginable. However, the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ is penetrating this darkness, and multitudes of people, particularly the youth, are turning from idols to serve the living and true God.

I greatly look forward to preaching the truth concerning Jesus at this particular time and place, because He is "declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4). Why didn't God use creation as a demonstration of His power? Wouldn't the creative power that formed the universe be an even greater power than resurrection power? No, because there was no opposing force in creation. When God decided to create, He just spoke the planets and the stars into existence, without any opposition from the enemy. But at the cross the devil did his worst. In the resurrection God did His best. And the Bible tells us that the same power that that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us (Eph. 1:19-20). Whatever the devil can do when he has done his worst in your life, remember that God has resurrection power. Just as He raised Jesus out of the grips of Satan and freed Him from the bonds of death, He is able to liberate you from the worst the devil can do in your life.

Most of us have known grief at the death of a loved one. Grief is a reality, and the Bible doesn't tell us not to grieve. But it does tell us not to grieve as people who don't know Christ, because they have no hope. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that death does not have dominion, and it is God's pledge to us of our own resurrection. Christ has taken the sting out of sin. He has taken the gloom out of the grave. He has taken the dread out of death, and He has given us a hope that is steadfast and sure.

There is an ancient fable about a spider and a lion. The spider was envious of the lion and hated him as he paraded around the jungle as the king of the beasts. One day the spider saw the lion go into a cave to take a nap. Here was his opportunity to imprison the lion. So while the lion was asleep, the spider began to work furiously, spinning across the mouth of the cave the thickest and strongest web he had ever spun. When he finished, he was certain that the lion was now his prisoner and his slave. Soon, however, the lion awoke from his nap, stretched and yawned contentedly, shook the dust from his mane, and then let out a mighty roar that echoed throughout the jungle. Then he walked out of the cave without even noticing that the spider's web was there.

Satan wove a web of hate and unbelief across the tomb of Jesus, but the Lion of Judah rose victoriously from the dead, completely unrestrained by the devil's flimsy web. Jesus is alive, and He lives in my heart!



A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Do you have a hero? A person in your past who stepped in at just the right time and meant the world to you? Maybe it was a family member, or friend, a teacher, a coach, or spiritual leader? Someone that stood in the gap and helped you become the person you are today? I bet many of us do! Our culture is obsessed with the idea of super

heroes, people with powers beyond earthly limits. A reflection on the last 80+ years of American culture saw the creation of an entire comic book genre that told the stories of these super humans. This not only took root in America but around the world. People like to imagine what it would be like to have the ability to help others. Look at the immense success of the Marvel and DC movies, how people flock to theatres each time a new film is released. I bet many of your kids and grandkids have the action figures or have dressed up and pretended to be one of those superheroes? But let me ask you a more personal question; who are you mentoring right now? Who are you investing in? Who looks at you as their hero, their spiritual mentor? Biblically

speaking we should all have these people in our lives. We should be mentored, and also be a mentor. There is such value, worth, and wisdom in walking through life with someone who cares for the enrichment of your soul. Someone who has already walked that path, faced the struggle, and can testify to the greatness of our God. None of us are strong enough to stand alone, and this is one of the purposes of the Church, and should be its strength, as we help each other through the walk of life, and with Christ. I want to challenge each of you to seek accountability in a

mentorship relationship with someone you respect as a spiritual leader. I also want to challenge you to be that for someone else! If you don't know someone who needs to be mentored, come see me, I have dozens of students who desperately need it! As I said earlier, we all need it, don't isolate, don't build up walls. Isolation is one of the primary tools of the enemy. Take off the mask of everything's okay, and get real with someone you trust. Grow together, iron sharpens iron. Jesus modeled this discipleship out for us as He invested in twelve men, that we call the Disciples. Almost all of those men, took what He said, modeled it out, invested in others, and changed the world. They paid a heavy price for their commitment to Christ, but they counted it all joy even in death. After all, if Jesus did it, we should do it?

God bless,

drew

John 3:30

A Message from Gina Fusillo



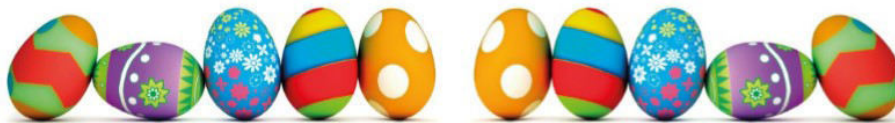
CHILDREN, LBC

Notes of interest from the Children's Ministries . . .

The Awana Night Out was a success, thanks to all volunteers who came out to engage with the Sparks, T&T's and Flyte groups. The agenda changed a bit this year, from a "lock in" or "sleep over", to a shorter version packed with fun. In the gym lots of voices praised Jesus in song while a second group enjoyed a Bible story. Crafts and games added to the evening to make the event a well rounded and most enjoyable evening for all. This event is something the kidz look forward to all year as a reward for their hard work in the program.

Annual Easter Eggstravaganza

Sunday, April 14th @ 10:30 am



Kidz will attend Bible Fellowship Classes from 10:00—10:30. Teachers will escort their groups to the front lawn at 10:30 for the Egg Hunt.

At 10:45 the kidz will reassemble at the side entrances to the sanctuary for the 11:00 Worship Service Palm Parade.

You will want to experience the excitement, so please join us on the front lawn at 10:30.

Join us for a **BBQ Lunch fundraiser** in the Fellowship Hall following the Egg Hunt.

Lunches will be served at 11:00 and 12:00. Tickets are available in your Bible Fellowship Classes and in the Church office for \$5.00 per meal. All proceeds will help our **MERGE Campers** and Chaperones with camp registration, activities and travel expenses.



Meeting for all interested in serving in VBS this year.
Please attend one of the meetings to get
VBS
off to a great start.

Sunday, April 7th @ 11:00 and 12:00
In the Kidz Church Room

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Margaret Maurer

For Children's Summer Camp from Gail Brantley

For Annie Armstrong from Virginia Kennedy Baptist Women

Doris Hummel for Budget from Greenon High School, Class of 1971

Melvin Scroggins for Amen Choir from Fidelity Brokerage Service, LLC


Clara Jean Watson

In Honor of:

Judy McCarley for Window Replacement
from Terry and Clara Grimes

April 17-23 in Back Lobby

Daily Hours on Bulletin Board



BOOK FAIR

For Missions

Sponsored by JEG/BW



CRANE BOOK FAIRS

Lakewood Happenings

April 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class 1	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 2	10:30am VK/WMU 5:45pm AWANA resumes 3	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's 4		11:00am H H Ministry FTH 6
Fundraiser Lunch Fried Chicken 7	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class 6:00pm Women's Min. Team Meet 8	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 9	5:00-8:00pm Spirit Night At Chick fil a for Merge Kids Camp 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 10	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's 11	5:30 Game Night 7:00pm YA Bible Study 12	9:00am Youth Hiking trip 13
Lord's Supper Palm Sunday Egg Hunt 14	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class 15	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 10:15am Senior Adult Mystery Trip 16	7:00pm Finance Meeting JEG/BW Book Fair 12pm-8pm 17	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's JEG/BW Book Fair 7am-6pm 18	Good Friday Office Closed 19	
Easter Church Conf. JEG/BW Book Fair 8:30-12:30 21	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class JEG/BW Book Fair 7-9am 3-6pm 22	6:30pm Alleluia Choir JEG/BW Book Fair 7-9am 3-6pm 23	7:00pm CDC Meeting 24	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's 7:00pm Alabama Singing Men Concert 7:00pm JEG/BW 25		10:45am Y&SA FTH 27
VIP 28	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class VIP 29	6:30pm Alleluia Choir VIP 30				

February Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
2/3	\$15,382.93	\$905.00	\$837.75	\$915.42	\$17,413.35
2/10	\$15,581.09	\$445.00	\$2,676.68	\$3,936.70	\$22,639.47
2/17	\$16,205.80	\$426.67	\$4,197.03	\$1,175.83	\$22,005.33
2/24	\$30,847.92	\$245.00	\$1,875.20	\$4,288.71	\$37,256.83

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:15am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 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

APRIL WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

4/3

MEATLOAF
 MASHED
 POTATOES
 SWEET PEAS
 ROLLS, SALAD &
 DESSERT

4/10

FRIED CHICKEN,
 RICE & GRAVY
 PEAS &
 BUTTERBEANS
 ROLLS, SALAD &
 DESSERT

4/17

BAKED
 SPAGHETTI
 GARLIC BREAD
 SALAD & DESSERT

4/24

PORK LOIN
 BAKED POTATOES
 GREEN BEANS
 ROLLS, SALAD &
 DESSERT

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

GAME NIGHT

APRIL 12TH @ 5:30PM

HAM & TURKEY
 SANDWICHES
 CHIPS & DIP
 DESSERT

April Greeters

JILL HENDERSON
 MYRA CURRIER

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
 THANK YOU NOTES
 EVENTS, NEWS
 ALSO OUR WEBSITE:
lbcpc.org

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