

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2021

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Retirement Celebration for Cnezima Everritt



APRIL 18, 2021

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

LAKWOOD FELLOWSHIP HALL





A Message from M.R. Hamilton

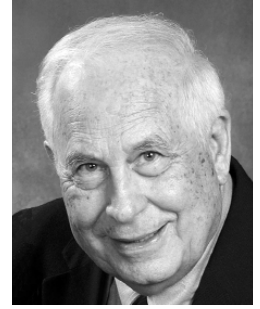
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SENIOR PASTOR

April showers bring May flowers is a saying I have known since childhood. It was obviously started by someone who lived a bit farther north than us as we are already seeing signs of spring flowers everywhere in the month of March. That said the purpose behind the saying is, what really matters in a stormy and rainy season is God's prelude to an abundance of life and beauty. And friends this April really is a time to remind ourselves of this very truth. We have certainly been passing through a stormy season and many have begun to grow weary along the way and forgotten the reason for the rain in the first place. Storms when they come back to back over a very long period of time become way too much of a good thing. Certainly after a long dry period we welcome a stormy day because with the storms come the rains that make the May flowers we celebrate. Rain is the required element of life on the Earth as we know it. Rain is essential to the growth and abundance of any and every living thing.

After the storms life springs from the Earth in an endless celebration of their creator. The May flowers are the hope that carry us through the season of showers. Friends we have certainly seen a year of storms and it appears they are not over just yet but for everything there is a season. So what does this really mean to us and our place in His (God's) Story? God sent this stormy season with all this rain for a reason! God is a great and wonderful God always working all things together for our good so even though we might not yet see the flowers we can know they are coming soon. God will use this season to bring about something beautiful. God will use this season to supply what is needed to see great growth in His Kingdom. So don't grow weary in doing good as God has promised us a season of thanksgiving with a great harvest if only we don't give up. Just like the first flowers of spring God is now allowing us to see life returning to His church all around the world. One by one our mainline ministry programs are becoming operational again and one by

one we are seeing our members return hungry for fellowship. Each day we draw closer to Easter when I believe we will see the churches around the world spring to life once again. 2020 was a stormy year for certain but rest assured of this, those April showers will bring forth an abundance of May flowers. So as you read this note I hope you are as full of expectation as I am. I hope you realize that God is up to something big and that big something is really good. That rain that came from all these storms will not return to God without first producing a harvest for the sower and we have been sowing in every department of our church. We have been preparing for this season to end and we are ready to accept and care for a great harvest. April showers bring May flowers is a saying who's truth has never been more self-evident than today. So stop looking back and start looking around at how best to seize the prize before us.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

I was preaching in Denver, Colorado. Seated near the front was a dainty elderly lady, exquisitely dressed, complete with hat and gloves. I learned later that she was 93 years old. During the altar call she came with a sincere prayer request. "Please pray," she requested of me, "that God will send me a godly husband." I couldn't help but think that here is living proof of the old adage, "Hope springs eternal," remembering also, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." We prayed, but I never learned the results. At least she had hope.

There are thousands of inspiring quotes about hope, and they all encourage a positive attitude, which is good. A morbid attitude is a time waster, and it breeds only darkness and defeat. As Dwight D. Eisenhower stated, "Pessimism never won any battle." Here are just a few representative quotes about hope: Albert Einstein, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'it will be happier.'" Charles Dickens, "It's always something, to know you've done the most you could. But, don't leave off hoping, or it's of no use doing anything. Hope, hope to the last."

The Bible also has a lot to say about hope, as you can see from consulting a concordance, but there is a difference between biblical hope and hope as an optimistic outlook. In earthly language, hope communicates a note of uncertainty, as in "I hope that something might happen." But biblical hope is the glad assurance that something will happen. In other words, it's the difference between hope as wishful thinking, without any concrete assurance that the thing hoped for will take place, and hope as a future fact waiting to happen. The Bible says that God is the God of hope (Romans 15:13), and God does not inspire uncertain wishes.

Biblical hope arises both from things that God has done and from God's promises yet to be fulfilled. When we see the mighty deeds that God has accomplished, the certainty of our hope is strengthened beyond doubt. This is especially true with the greatest event of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most

pitiable" (1 Corinthians 15:19). In other words, without the resurrection, the future is fearful and fruitless. There is no hope if this life is all there is. "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The resurrection of Christ has taken the sting out of sin, the gloom out of the grave, the dread out of death, and it has given to us a hope that is steadfast and sure. We have an eternal hope of knowing that this world is not our end, but that when all is said and done that we have a home in glory and a life that is beyond what mortal words can tell.

There is another event yet to come, which the Bible calls "the blessed hope," identified as "the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). What God promises, God will perform. Jesus said He would return (John 14:3), the angels said He would return (Acts 1:11), and the epistles repeatedly say that He will return. There is no doubt that the Lord will return, "and everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3). The certain hope of the Lord's return motivates the believer to live godly in an ungodly world. That hope becomes a transforming reality in this life, bringing us joy and cheering us through the trials of this world.

Our hope will cause us to share our faith in Christ with a lost and dying world. We have a hope and joy to share that others should see in our lives. 1 Peter 3:15 exhorts us, "Be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you." So I challenge you today to take this gift of hope that God gives and live your life to the fullness in him. Be joyous and courageous in all that you do.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

John 8:44b says; “He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” When we reflect on the Fall of Man (Genesis 3), we understand that Satan was indeed a liar and murderer from the beginning. He lied to Eve, calling her to question God’s Word and love for mankind. In effect, when man sinned, Satan attempted to murder us all spiritually, because he knew our sin separated us from a holy God. As death entered the world through sin, our mortality was assured, and so was the need for a Savior. However, here’s where we see God’s sovereign plan in effect from the very beginning. In Genesis 3:15, as part of the curse, God tells the serpent (Satan); “And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your heel and you will strike His heel.” Now, this isn’t just referring to our natural fear and dislike of snakes, there’s something much deeper going on. This is a prophetic declaration that a Messiah would come, a Redeemer, and One who wouldn’t make the wrong choice. Jesus came, fully man yet fully God, born of a woman’s offspring, yet His lineage was divine. Satan would try to lie and tempt Jesus just as he did with Eve, but when that failed, he would successfully lead men to murder the Savior of the world. Jesus told those who were planning to kill Him in John 8:44a; “You belong to your father, the devil, and you carry out your father’s desire.” That old murderer had won the battle, his enlisted servants crucified Christ on Calvary’s tree, but God’s sovereign plan was still at work. The mystery of Christ hidden for ages was about to be accomplished three days later! Jesus Christ rose from the dead, restored right relationship between God and man, defeated death and hell, and assured the destruction of Satan. When He said; “It is finished!” on the cross, it truly was. Satan may have bruised the heel of Jesus in death, but Jesus crushed the head of the serpent in resurrection. As we reflect with thankful hearts on the sacrifice of Jesus this Easter, may it encourage

you that God’s plan and purposes always prevail. You can’t quarantine the Gospel, you can’t put out its Light, and the End is already written. It is finished! Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus! God bless,
drew

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



This past month has been Awesome. Having children back in our building has been really good. We have seen a steady increase in kids attending Awana, 9AM and 11AM Kids worship time has kicked off well, alongside 10AM Sunday School. The kids are excited to be here and the kids team is excited to be back and serving the future generation of our church and community.

This month in Kids Worship our theme is Reconnect: Build the Bridge. Our virtue we will be exploring is PEACE. We are defining peace as; proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

Monthly Memory Verse: So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. (Romans 14:19 NirV)

Week 1: Easter / God's Big Story (Colossians 1:20; John 20: 1-18)

Bottom Line: God made peace with us

Week 2: Live in Peace with Others (Colossians 3:15)

Bottom Line: We can make Peace with others

Week 3: Isaac's Wells (Genesis 26: 1-6, 12-22, 26-31)

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight

Week 4: Abigail Intervenes (1 Samuel 25: 1-35)

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

***We are in need of helpers to join our 9AM Kids Worship team. Please reach out to me. Our space is coming alive with activity, and this team will be a lot of influence over the future of kids.

We have completed our drop ceiling project. The sound problem has been resolved. PRAISE GOD! The rooms look great.

We are looking forward to Easter on campus this year. Our Palm Sunday Spring fest Easter egg hunt was a lot of fun for all. We are looking forward to our first ever Movie Night in our new assembly room. Parents can go on a date, and drop their kids off for a movie, and fun April 16 from 6-8. With everything that has happened over this past year and the 'new' that we are stepping into let's not forget why we celebrate 'Passion Week. What Jesus experienced leading into 'Good Friday' and to the Empty Tomb must give us pause and our heart is overwhelmed by gratitude that overflows to all that we are. This gratitude we are called to showcase to the world around us, and this is that convergant space where people that need healing in all different ways see a bit of the creator God thru us. Let's show people what it truly means to Love one another with passion.



So I thought that I should encourage our coworkers to visit you before I do and make arrangements for this gift that you had already promised to give. Then it will be the blessing it was intended to be, and it won't be something you're forced to do.
II Cor. 9:5



Circles of Influence is an opportunity for we as a Church to give to several ministries on a monthly basis rather than waiting until they are in need. With your gifts, we are giving to our Food Bank & Mission Trips, The Baptist Center, Valley Rescue Mission, MercyMed, Teen Challenge, Sound Choices, AL Children's Home, AL State Missions, Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, World Hunger, Laughing Child, and Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief. Prayerfully consider what God might have you do for these on front line of ministry.



LBC EASTER EGG HUNT



Lakewood Happenings

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Good Friday Office Closed	3
Easter 4	5	6	7	8	9	11
Lord's Supper 11	6:00pm Wom. Ministry Meet 12	13	7:00pm Deacons meet 14	15	6:00pm Date/Movie Night 16	2:00pm Memorial Service for Rodney Gray LBC Sanct. 17
6:00pm Ch.Conf. 6:30pm Retirement Celebration for Onezima 18	19	20	7:00pm Finance meets 21	6:30pm JEG/BW 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Increase 4th-6th Grades 30	

February Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
2/7	\$23,161.88	\$125.00	\$1,855.46	\$909.00	\$26,051.34
2/14	\$18,273.06	\$125.00	\$1,204.06	\$419.00	\$20,021.12
2/21	\$16,563.00	\$100.00	\$971.00	\$442.00	\$18,076.00
2/28	\$15,835.36	\$255.00	\$1,041.11	\$157.50	\$17,289.30

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:

Frances Sinquefield for Amen Choir
from Fran Loftin
Eddie Ezell for Amen Choir from Fran Loftin
Buddy Helton for Amen Choir from Geno Kelley
Kenneth Jones from Terry and Clara Grimes
for Belize

In Honor of:

Glenn & Daphne Hughes for Food Pantry
from Patricia Thomas
Tommy & Onezima Everitt for Budget from
Terry & Clara Grimes

PARENTS:

Date Night/Movie Night

April 16th from 6pm-8pm

Kids will watch "Rango"

\$5 per child

Check in at front of children's building

Sign Up sheet in Children's building
and in front lobby foyer

BABY DEDICATION

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 9TH

LET DAVID KNOW
IF YOU HAVE A CHILD
TO BE DEDICATED

FOR MORE INFO
VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

@LBCPC.ORG

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