

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2020

VOL X: ISSUE 8 LBCPC.ORG

The Women's Ministry is



Interest Survey for LBC Women's Ministry

The Women of LBC love the Lord and love others.
It is our desire to organize a vibrant Women's Ministry that will encourage, mentor and grow us in our walk of faith.

Please complete the following and turn in to office or mail:

Rank in order of importance to you.

- Annual Women's Retreat
- Bible Studies
- Community Outreach
- Fellowship Opportunities
- Mentoring
- Mission Projects
- Prayer
- Special Event Conference

What time of the week works best for your schedule when planning activities?

- Daytime during the week
- Evening during the week
- Weekends

Do you have a skill or talent that you would be willing to share with other Women?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list _____

Would you be interested in serving on a steering committee?

- Yes No

Have you been active in the Women's Ministry at our church?

- Yes No

If not, then what barriers exist for your involvement?

- Family/Work demands Financial issues
- Health Issues Nothing offered of interest
- Transportation Issues Other

Please list anything not mentioned that you would like to see in Lakewood's Women's Ministry:

Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____



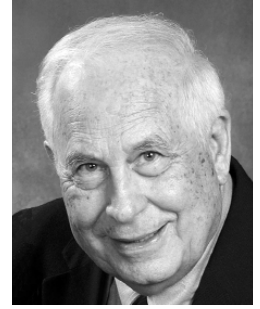
A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

As I begin to write this note it is the dead of summer and nearly 100 degrees outside and I want to talk to you about winter. We live fairly deep in the south but yet we still experience the four seasons and this part of God's creation is really important to understand. In the book of Romans we are challenged by the reality that man is without excuse because everything in creation tells us about their creator. "What may be known about God is plain, because God has made it plain. Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1:19-20) God's eternal power and divine nature can be understood when you understand creation. So what can we know about God and His divine nature by understanding the seasons? God is a God of seasons and according to God there is a time or a season for every activity under the sun. We might well be in the middle of Summer and yet I believe we are as a church and as a nation in the dead of winter. Winter is a harsh and difficult season that brings with it many challenges. For those who have never lived through a real sub-zero winter this illustration may well miss its mark with you. But everyone who knows real winter understands it all too well. Your car will not start and your water lines freeze solid while the roads all close. Nothing is easy and everyone hunkers down to make plans and preparation for spring. To the untrained eye winter is a time when all the plants go dormant and just wait for spring when they can grow and bud and bloom. But winter is a time for the trees to get really busy making preparation so they will be ready to bud and bloom in the spring. When we take the time to understand what we can't see that knowledge leads us to a better understanding. That knowledge allows us to better understand our own lives and what we were created to do in the different seasons of our own lives. You see a tree pulls back into its roots for the winter because winter is the season to develop more roots and broader and stronger roots capable of feeding and supporting all the growth that will come in the spring. Trees grow out of sight underground in the winter expecting the need for stronger healthier roots to sustain the growth that will arrive when that season comes.

Perhaps many of us are only seeing the ministries and activities presently going through a season of dormancy. This is normal in God's creation is it not? But during this time while the classes and hallways are vacant of their normal activity things have not stopped moving forward in preparation for a stronger and healthier growing season. Our Children's ministry teams are working overtime making preparations for the return of the children. Our building and grounds teams and volunteers are hard at it making improvements to every area of our education buildings. Total overhaul of the two women's restroom facilities are underway in the senior adult building. And you might not recognize the children's wing when you visit again as the children's department is buzzing with excitement and renovation. New floors and entry ways as well as dramatic classroom upgrades are happening top to bottom as we make preparations for the day God moves us from this season to one of potential growth. Please notice I said potential growth as many will miss out on this opportunity because they failed to realize what season this really is. Because they have failed to use this time to get ready and to make the needed preparations to be able to take advantage of the season ahead. I believe it is winter in August around here but winter is no time to be dormant. No winter is a time to put all our energy behind developing the facilities and programs and ministries so we are ready for the opportunity of growth that always follows the snow. This is a time to strengthen our foundations so we can face the storms that come with the seasons of growth. We can not become complacent but must find ways to keep our eyes on the season that is surely coming soon. We are busy getting ready and we are dreaming of the day we only speak of the winter called 2020 and how great it is to have that behind us. And wouldn't it be great to be able to thank God for it because we needed that time to get ready to handle the growing season that came from it all.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

With the combination of a pandemic and racial upheaval, we find ourselves in the midst of a crisis unparalleled in our lifetime, and there is no area of society untouched by it. The fingers of blame have pointed in all directions, and we have received all kinds of cautionary instructions and legal mandates concerning what we can and cannot do, and proclamations of how the race issue can be solved. While we use every human resource in combating this warfare, both visible and invisible, the most effective weapon is for the most part ignored, neglected, and even disdained, particularly by a secular society. When a crisis shuts every door, there is one door that no human can shut, and that is the door of prayer. Let's see in Acts 12 how the first church used this weapon in responding to a crisis that threatened its very existence.

You know the story. Leaders of the church had been imprisoned. The apostle James had already been executed, and Peter was next on the list. In reaction, the church did not go on a violent rampage of destruction and pillage; they went to their knees in prayer. There are several features of their praying that will guide us and cause our praying to be more effectual.

First, notice in Acts 12:5 the frequency of their praying. They were praying around the clock for what seemed a hopeless situation. Jesus gave only two parables about prayer, and both of them emphasize persistence in prayer (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8). The petitioners in those parables didn't give up, reflecting the urgency and persistence in prayer that Jesus taught in Luke 11:9-10, when He said to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. We are to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

Acts 12:5 also speaks of the fervency of their praying. Most translations say they prayed "earnestly" or "intensely." The world ridicules the idea of the efficacy of prayer. The mayor of New York even boasted that we don't need God. It's right to have programs, plans, methods, and organizations, but as long as we think we can do it all, we will not rely on God. As long as we leave out fervent prayer filled with the power of God that will not take no for an answer, the devil mocks at our schemes, laughs at our organizations, ridicules our talents. But he fears our prayers. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:13 that we will find Him when we search for Him with all our heart, and Paul beseeches us in Romans 15:30 to join him in wrestling in prayer.

Acts 12:5 tells us of the fellowship of their praying. The entire church was praying. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:19-20 of the power of two people agreeing in prayer. Can you imagine the power generated when multitudes of God's people are praying together?

Acts 12:5 speaks of the faith of their praying. They prayed "unto God." They were not praying a memorized, repetitive prayer, nor were they praying to impress one another. They didn't petition the government; they didn't demonstrate against those in authority; they didn't vent their anger in violent destruction and theft of property; they didn't offer a bribe for Peter's release; they didn't have any political influence. But they had the faith of prayer.

Acts 12:5 shows the focus of their praying. The church prayed earnestly unto God "for him." Their prayer was not only intense; it was specific. Many of our prayers are so general and vague, we wouldn't even know it if God did answer them. A favorite Southern saying is, "Y'all come see us sometime." Do we really mean that? Wouldn't we take it more seriously if someone said, "I've got some of the finest steaks in the country in my freezer. Why don't y'all come over next Saturday evening about five and we'll have a cookout?" Now that's specificity. We can pray, "God bless our country," or "God grant us health," or "God supply our needs," or "God give us peace," but our prayers will be far more effective if we zeroed in on individual concerns, one by one. What is your primary concern? The burden of your heart? Focus on that need specifically and pray persistently and intensely with the faith of Mark 11:22-24.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Who would've believed back in March that we'd still be in the throes of the pandemic in August? The news is filled with story after story of violence, vitriol, and dysfunction throughout our country. As I talk with our mission partners around the world I hear the same story of fear, job loss, food shortages, starvation, and uncertainty. As I've talked with local ministry friends and other pastors around our country they all relate an unease about the Church (universal) and our ability to thrive and even survive during this time of crisis. Some churches have gone back to livestream only, others returned with reduced seating, and most with far fewer congregants than before. One ministry friend, in a neighboring state, said his church has been forced to slash their budget 60%, and that their church has gone from an average Sunday attendance of 900 to around 120 per week. Still, in the midst of anger, uncertainty, worry, and fear, I thought I would share a story of hope. I want to share a story of what real ministry looks like. I want to share a story that happened here at Lakewood. In late April or early May, through a series of events that could only be described as orchestrated by God, we found out that one of our college students (who will remain nameless) was basically homeless. He had been living in dorms at his college until the dorms were closed due to the virus, and he was forced to leave. When he tried to come home he found his parents had been evicted from their apartment, while handling the funeral arrangements for his brother in another state, and were living out of their car. This student did not reach out to us, but his parents sought assistance from a sister church in Columbus. Through God's sovereignty, we became aware and partnered with that sister church to house the family for a few weeks in a hotel. During that time Lakewood also provided food and necessities for the family. Knowing we needed to find a longer term solution to this problem I sought a place for this young man to live amongst our body of believers. I prayed, made a list of potential families, and started to call. The first family I reached out to (who will remain nameless) accepted the call to house this stellar young man in their home, who was from a different ethnic background. Without any hesitation they adjusted their schedule and home to make this work for this young man. They cared for him as a son, met every one of his needs, refused repayment, and if they're reading this right now, probably aren't too happy that I shared all of this in such detail. However, brothers and sisters, this is how the Church is supposed to work, this is at the heart of the New Testament Church. Read the word of Acts 4:32; "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had. 34-35; "There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostle's feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need." The simple truth is; real ministry is tough, it's hard, it may be uncomfortable at times, and is often costly. I write this to you today as a praise to the Lord, that He enabled His people to rise up and meet a true need in a time when so many are ruled by fear and worry. To the family, thank you for loving your neighbor as yourselves and I am eternally grateful for your generosity to our student. My prayer is that God will richly reward you here on earth for your kindness to one of His children, and I know your reward in eternity is great! To Lakewood; during this unnerving time, rest in God's sovereignty and look for ways to be the Church, show the love and blessings that God has invested in you. When you put yourself out there to be used by God, I promise He will use you to advance His kingdom and also display His glory through you. To God be the glory alone,
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John 3:30

A Message from David Stephens



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CHILDREN'S MINISTER

This past month has been busy. We were able to launch a successful Virtual VBS. We provided packets for children to use in their homes alongside bible lesson and activity videos. Thank you all for supporting and participating in this unique VBS experience. We had 60 kids participate based on the number of packets picked up, and countless more participated online.

It is a time of many things new, and it is important that we keep looking for where God is moving and go there. Our VBS is a testimony of God at work through us. Children and families all over the country have been impacted by our virtual VBS. We raised over \$500 for Belize, with our girls' vs boys' coin collection competition. God is Good!

We are moving forward with our children's building preparing for when we are able to reopen. Our space will be like nothing our church has ever seen. Our heart is to create a space where children in our community can come and see that Jesus is Alive, his word is Alive, and his church is Alive and well.

Here are some pictures of the progress.

Classroom items inventory



Your future Children's large group worship room!



New floors coming soon!

Letter from Betty Burrows

I want to thank everyone who has served with the Homebound Ministry. It is with deep sorrow that I feel I must not be in charge of this wonderful ministry. I have my husband, my daughter and my health that need my full support.

I looked in the lakewood history book and found this ministry was started in 1977 by Mabel Grimes. My mother, Virginia Kennedy was on the calling committee that contacted our homebound to check on them and see if they needed anything. Through the years mother took over the homebound ministry and had wonderful volunteers to visit once a month. When mother's health got bad and she could not visit or send cards I would help her and finally took over the ministry.

The volunteers that have visited every month and delivered the books each month enjoy the visits. Some of the homebound are interested in what is happening at Lakewood and would like to still receive visits a while longer.

Please consider being in charge of this ministry. I will be glad to help until you are comfortable in the job.

Thanks to all the volunteers during the years that were willing to work with Mother and me.



“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free”

Galations 5:1

New Bible Study Opportunity

“Let Freedom Ring” A Study of Galations

Taught by Katie Hamilton

Starting August 16th thru September 20th

Live Feed on our Facebook Page @ 4:30pm

The Clothes Bank is going through a restoration so we are not accepting clothes at this time.

Lakewood Happenings

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship 2	7-9pm GriefShare 3	4	7:00pm Youth Worship 5	6	7	8
9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship 9	7-9pm GriefShare 10	11	7:00pm Youth Worship 12	13	14	15
9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship 23	7-9pm GriefShare 24	17 18	7:00pm Youth Worship 19	20	21	22
9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship 23	7-9pm GriefShare 24	25	7:00pm Youth Worship 26	27	28	11:00am Feed the Homeless 29
9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship 30	7-9pm GriefShare 31					

June Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
6/7	\$26,997.50	\$570.00	\$1,354.96	\$946.00	\$29,868.46
6/14	\$11,686.70	\$205.00	\$915.80	\$102.00	\$12,909.50
6/21	\$11,812.75	\$300.00	\$957.31	\$197.00	\$13,267.06
6/28	\$14,557.50	\$90.00	\$879.87	\$365.50	\$15,892.87

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship

11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Lindsay Lee from Glenda Medley for Budget

George Maxwell:
Fran Loftin for Budget
Joyful Servants for Food Closet
Janice and Ken Noble for Food Closet
Pattee Carroll for Budget

Keith Pruski:
Charlene Keeter for Student Missions
Janice and Ken Noble for Circles of Influence
Gail Brantley for Mercy Med
Pattee Carroll for Budget
Billy and Cathy Greene for Homeless Ministry

In Honor of:

Rick and Becky Aderhold for Food Bank from Terry and Clara Grimes

WELCOME
NEW MEMBER
BROOKLYN LEE

FOR CHURCH NEWS
OR ?S

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CONNECTIONS (USPS #463270) is a monthly publication by Lakewood Baptist Church. Periodicals paid at Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER: Send all address corrections to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867