

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2021

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**It hurts to lose someone.
Find help at GriefShare
Grief Support Group**

***Sessions start August 9th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm
(14 week program) Cost of book is \$15***

Free Childcare Available

Enter through back lobby of church

Register online @ [GriefShare.org](https://www.GriefShare.org)

Click on Find a group

Enter Zip code

Choose Lakewood Baptist Church



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

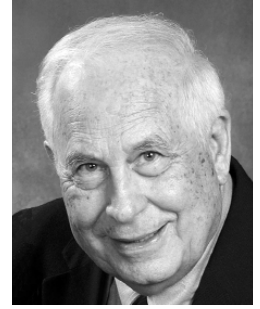
These are the dog days of August which means we are at the beginning of the end of summer. Students return to school in August and though it marks the end of summer vacations it also represents the beginning of another school year. All of creation is set up to operate in this fashion as the end of one season leads us to the beginning of yet another. For everything in all of creation there is a season that sets the stage for the other. Change is a very real part of creation so why is it that we though we are part of this creation fight so hard to go along with the flow? We are not alone in God's creation as summer will try to hold on as long as it can. If you have ever spent time around the ocean you will understand the battle the waves wage against the shore that holds it in. I love where God says to Job "where were you when I set the limits of the sea and said this far you may come but no farther, and here your proud waves must stop". (Job 38:11) They stopped alright but not without a fight and to this day they test their boundaries only to be forced to return to their place. The beginning of August simply marks the end of July and so creation marches forward at God's command as the Earth makes its way around the Sun.

2020 was such a challenge to us all because it ushered in more change than normal and it did so in such a way that everyone knew God was up to something really big. Most people responded in fear and the anger it produces while some fought it others try to run from it and some simply froze unable to move for nearly a year. Fear has that effect on us as it leads us to take flight, freeze or fight. But why were we so afraid? Don't we believe in a great and mighty God full of mercy and love? Didn't he say He had a plan

for us and that His plan was to bless us and not curse us to give us a hope and a future? The answer to both of these questions is yes without any buts! But brother M.R. we have never seen anything like this before and that is certainly true but it doesn't change the fact that God is up to something and that something is good. Should not our response to such dramatic change have been I can't wait to see how God works this all together for our good? God did say He was working all things together for our good didn't He? How is God going to work this out for our good is well beyond my wildest dreams or imagination but that doesn't change the fact that He is going to do it. How can I know? He said so and God is not a man that He should lie to you and me. God said and once God speaks His Word does not return to Him void but accomplishes what He pleases and shall prosper in the thing for which He sent it. (Isa.55:11)

The beginning of August means the end of July and God's plan for change continues to play out before us. Everything in all of creation continues to change but the creator of all things remains the same. His Word and His promises they remain the same and God really did say "I will never leave you nor forsake you" so we boldly say: The Lord is my helper I will not fear, what can man do to me. After all with each passing day we draw nearer to seeing Jesus face to face!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Alexis de Tocqueville was a French politician and historian of the early nineteenth century. After traveling extensively in America, he wrote a book called *Democracy in America*, published in 1835. Here are some of his observations about what made the USA a great nation: "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there; in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great." He saw clearly the vital role that faith in God played in the founding of this nation and separated it from other nations. In commenting on the freedom that this country enjoys, he said, "Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith." However, we are living in a day in which our government promotes a secularism that regards evil as good and good as evil, something that Isaiah warned against (Is. 5:20). The politically correct agenda advanced by certain leaders has produced a generation of young people whose basic knowledge of American history and civics borders on ignorance. A recent study by the National Assessment of Educational Progress shows that fewer than one-fourth of eighth-grade students were able to score at the level of proficiency in geography, history, and civics.

Instead of building unity, the administration's endorsement of the critical race theory, which in reality is a destructive racist doctrine, fosters division and drives the country back toward resegregation. Laws regarding gender identity and "human equality" flout God's laws and threaten to destroy the moral fiber of society, while shaping young minds to accept perverted views of sex and the family. Insane economic policies are making citizens wards of the government, resulting in Washington dictating how we live our lives. The NFL plans to play two national anthems at its games, the traditional version and a "Black National Anthem." Can anyone explain to me how such a thing promotes unity?

We have listened too long to those who tell us that this nation was not established upon biblical values, and we have allowed an increasing eradication of those values. As a result, America is losing her national morality, which will inevitably lead to the loss of our liberties. It's past time for God's people to speak up when the laws of men violate the laws of God. We must say it clearly and forcefully that nothing is politically right that is morally wrong. America needs to learn that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

We have just returned from our stateside mission trip in New Mexico, and in 25+ years of ministry, and 20+ years of mission work, I have never had so many things go 'not-as-planned'. At the onset, we had the white CDC bus break down in Mississippi, and had to scramble to find a place to stay overnight. Charles, MR, and Katie graciously brought us the grey bus in the middle of the night, which was scheduled to take the children's ministry to Merge Camp. This meant David and others would need to carpool our little kids to camp. The next day the grey bus air conditioner failed, and we started getting check engine codes. We limped into New Mexico hot and tired before we ever began to work. In fact, I never planned to take the grey bus because I was unsure that it could make it to the camp where we were staying (it barely did thanks to Mike Murry's driving ability), so instead of attempting to get it to and from the camp daily, one of our mission partners allowed us to park the bus at their church and graciously loaned us (at no cost) another vehicle for the week. Then, we found out that the desert can be rainy too, as small or great amounts of rain make dirt roads muddy and impassible. The night we arrived, Lesley and I had an unforgettable trip to Walmart on a UTV because the roads were so bad. Then, because of the weather, we had to pivot our schedule and change our plans once again. Sports camp was planned and promoted for Monday-Thursday but had to move to Tuesday-Friday. All week there was issue after issue that forced us to be flexible. Even further, as we held our sports camp, we found the spiritual soil on the reservation quite rocky and hard. The kids we ministered to had hard hearts, deep hurts persisted from tough upbringings, and it was hard for our students and adults to soldier through. We dealt with kids already hardened to the Gospel message, kids with almost no parental oversight and provision, kids with behavior issues, many in single parent homes, some in gangs, and others struggling with homosexuality. This was not Belize, where the kids run up to you and are just happy someone came to be with them, this was akin to inner-city ministry, where life is hard, and violence and pain is real.

I've said much about what went wrong, but let me tell you about what went right, and God's amazing grace. The first day, when our bus broke down, God literally gave us the last hotel rooms in the small Mississippi town we were in. How do I know? While checking in person after person called, person after person came in, looking for a room for the night, only to be turned away. Every person said the same thing, there are no rooms left in this town. Second, though the grey bus a/c gave us fits, the engine never failed. The check engine codes ceased, and God provided us another vehicle for the week. While the a/c issue wasn't resolved on the return trip, we made it all the way home without major issue. Furthermore, I challenged our students to be intentional and have Gospel conversations with these kids, and our students responded. The day I issued the challenge

I watched them take student after student off to the side and tell them about the love of Christ. We planted many seeds that day, we left it all on the field, and the results, as always, are up to God. We encouraged a struggling church, and their key volunteers Borde & Lisa Williams, we built the church a Gaga pit, we cleared trees and brush, and repaired a chain-link fence. On Friday we had planned a block party at the mission church on the reservation, as we finished our final day of sports camp it began to pour for a couple of hours. We were all stuck under the porch of the tribal building where our sports camp was being held. Finally the rain stopped, but then our borrowed van got stuck in the mud. Eventually, we made it to the mission church, the skies cleared, and we held a block party. Lesley prepared a spaghetti meal for the entire church, and our kids played with their kids. God's grace was evident the entire week. There were times it wasn't apparent, but when through reflection we see it all the way through. He got us there and back, up and down muddy roads, and to and from the places we were supposed to be in His timing. Those hard hearted kids became loving in the end, many tears were shed, and many questions were asked about when we were coming back. In closing, I had the opportunity to preach the first half of James chapter 1 on the first Sunday we were at the mission church. This chapter deals with our response, endurance, and perseverance under trials and temptations. It was exceedingly clear to me that God was giving the entire group, and especially myself, the opportunity to practice what I preached. Many have heard of the troubles we had on this trip and have asked if I would ever go back? My answer; of course, the fields are ripe for the harvest and yet the laborers are few.

How can you get involved with missions? Easy, you can pray, you can give, and you can go. We are already focusing on 2022 and making a plan. We fully realize that God can and probably will change some of these plans along the way, but we will share the Gospel message here, there, and around the world. I encourage each of you to accept and respond to the command of the Lord found in the Great Commission. Pray for our mission partners around the country and around the world. Set aside funds to designate towards missions now, give sacrificially as the needs are great, and don't wait for a special emphasis. Prepare yourselves to go. Lay aside doubts and fears. Drop excuses. Get involved. From feeding the homeless and needy, to stateside missions, or international trips, clear your schedule now and decide to follow Christ's command to spread the Gospel message. Just go and see God's grace in action. I promise, you will be forever changed.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



What an amazing summer we have had this year at Lakewood in Children's Ministry. Our VBS was a huge success, and we took 34 kids to summer camp. We did have to work out some last minute arrangements for our travel, but our church family showed up and we got our kids and leaders to camp. This was my first experience with using Shocco Springs for summer camp, and I was greatly impressed with the facilities. We will be planning on attending MERGE camp again next year. The dates for next year's Children's Ministry Summer Camp is July 11-14, 2022. Put this date on your calendar and let's get as many kids to camp as possible for next year. I am super happy to announce that we had 7 campers say prayers to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life. We had an incredible conversation with our entire group about what it means and what it looks like to be saved and live a saved life 'for real'. Out of these 7 campers the Sunday following we had 6 come forward to follow God's command to be baptized.

What's next? Glad you asked. Back to school is upon us right now. August 1 will be Promotion Sunday for our Bible Fellowship department. This is always an exciting time, but it is also means kids adjusting to new teachers and new environments. Please be praying over these adjustments, and that our new classrooms will be filled with children thriving in their growth of understanding of the word of God and its applications for right living.

It is my privilege to honor our 5th and 6th grade Bible Fellowship teacher Shelrea. She has served our children for many years in this role. She has requested to step down from her role in serving. Shelrea will be missed by all of us, but I am confident that God has a very special 'what's next' for her to step into that will give her the ability to impact the kingdom. There is no retiring from kingdom work. There is continual calling out to God for where he desires for us to go and do. The servant who will be replacing her for our 5th and 6th grade students will be Meg Valfre alongside myself. Meg is excited to begin working with these kids. This age range is very important as we prepare our kids to transition into youth ministry with the ability to thrive on missions, understand deep biblical teaching, and mature in worship and prayer. If the questions being asked from our older campers at Merge is an indication of where these kids are the future is looking very good. Join me in praying for this group and for Meg as she steps into this role.

We are in need of helpers on Sunday for our Bible Fellowship and Kids Worship team. I am looking specifically for an individual who is able to be a 'floater'. This person will have a basic grasp of what is happening in each BF space, and be able to step in and help to cover for all primary leaders. We really do have A LOT of fun in every area of our Children's Ministry, and my heart is to support my team as best as possible.

Keep September 1st on your calendar as this is when our AWANA clubs will be getting started for our fall semester. I have big plans for our AWANA OCC event this year. I am looking for people who are willing and able to come alongside our vision for OCC. Last year we packed over 500 boxes in 30 minutes. We ran out of supplies, and we had to entertain the kids who wanted to keep packing. This is not a bad problem to have, so I don't see why we cannot pack for 1hr and double the amount of boxes we prepare for. This means that I need individuals who are willing to seriously come alongside our Awana Club financially. The goal is 1000 boxes. Please reach out to me if you are able to support a matching fund donations, or are able to support in any way. Our AWANA packing party will be November 10 and Sunday November 14 I'd love to have our OCC cross surrounded by 1000+ AWANA OCC boxes. Please start praying.

We can do this.

Opportunities for Women of LBC

August 1st-29th

Back to school supplies drive (Collection boxes will be around church)

August 4th

10:30am in Rex Carter's SS classroom

Baptist Women's Mission Union - Virginia Kennedy

August 20th

6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Crafts & Desserts

August 26th

6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Baptist Women's Mission Union - Jane Ellen Gaines

Circles of Influence

SPOT LIGHT



On average, a social worker can impact the lives of up to 35 children each year, children like Gabby* (name changed for publication). This precious eight-year-old came to us from a home life of domestic violence. There was also no running water in her home and very few warm meals, if any. Your gifts provided the nourishment, warm bed, and care she desperately needed. With her foster parents, Gabby started attending church and loved reading Bible stories and having nightly prayers with them. After a little over a year in their care, she prayed and asked Jesus into her heart! You helped make Gabby's new life possible! Thank you.



Lakewood Happenings

August 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Promotion Day 1	2	3	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions 4	5	10:00am Breakfast Club 6	4:00pm Clegg's 50th Anniv. Party in FAC 7
Baptism 8	10:00am Amen Choir Lunch in F/H 6:00pm GriefShare 9	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 10	7:00pm Deacons meeting 11	12	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night 13	14
15	10:00am Amen Choir 6:00pm Women's Ministry Meets 6:00pm GriefShare 16	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:00pm Finance Team meeting 18	19	6:30pm Crafts & Desserts 20	11:00am S&YA Feed the Homeless 21
22	10:00am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare 23	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 24	25	6:30pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 26	27	28
29	10:00am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare 30	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 31				

June Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
6/6	\$47,231.81	\$230.00	\$2,929.70	\$6,967.55	\$57,359.06
6/13	\$16,353.60	\$50.00	\$1,816.77	\$1,042.00	\$19,262.37
6/20	\$12,126.82	-	\$4,076.00	\$675.00	\$16,877.82
6/27	\$11,205.35	\$100.00	\$3,626.90	\$1,802.26	\$16,734.51

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting
- 6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Stancel Hughes – by Patricia Thomas – for Food Closet

Reba Goolsby - by Myra Currier – for Amen Choir

Judy Carter

by Glenda Medley – for Amen Choir

by Gail Brantley – for Samaritan’s Purse

by Gary & Kathy Hollon - for Orchestra

by Billy & Cathy Green – for Amen Choir

In Honor of:

Charles & Carol Clegg’s 50th Anniversary - by Myra Currier – for Amen Choir

**SENIOR ADULT
GAME NIGHT**

AUGUST 13 @ 5:30PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE
FINGER FOODS

ALL WOMEN

8/20/21 6:30PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

CRAFTING &
DESSERTS

\$10 FOR CRAFT

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton

PASTOR

BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS

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Andrew Spires

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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