

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2022

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JOIN US FOR  
**MR & Katie's "Sweet Retreat"**  
*Retirement Party*

Sunday, August 21st  
3:00pm – 5:00pm  
Family Activity Center

Bring your Favorite Ice Cream or Ice Cream Treat  
and/or Cookies to Share

?’s Call Carol Clegg @ 334-468-8292





# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I can't believe that this will be my last opportunity to write and encourage everyone through our Connections newsletter. The past 10 years have been incredible and Katie and I have been so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and loving church family as exists here at Lakewood. Through cancer and COVID and open heart surgery you were always there for us. I will always remember you when I speak or think of "The Good Old Days" because they truly were such a blessing. God accomplished so much among us during this time and even though it wasn't easy it was always good. No pastor has ever known a love from his church any greater than I have known from this congregation and I thank you for that very special gift. I pray that in some way you have come to realize that you were loved unconditionally by both myself and Katie during our time serving here. It really has been an humbling honor to park in the pastors parking spot at Lakewood Baptist Church.

Perhaps the hardest thing to learn as Christians is what it really means to be a fruitful branch. "I am the vine", said Jesus and "you are the branches if a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit" (John 15:5) seems to be on its surface simple enough. Then you begin to understand what it really takes to remain in Him, to stay in step with Jesus. It is no easy task to remain in step with Jesus while the devil does everything possible to distract us and cause us to lose sight of our ultimate goal. Like Peter's walk on the water all went well until he became distracted by the wind and the waves. Taking his eyes off of Jesus he began to doubt and then and there he sank. Jesus would ask him why he had doubted but no reply is given as no doubt Peter would like to have the answer to that question just as we do. Why do we doubt, and why do we worry and why do we fight against God's ways? It is because God's ways are not our ways and God has a plan for us that He decided without asking our opinion. Oh how we love stability and God loves change. We like to live and walk by sight but God calls on us to walk by faith. God likes to call us out of our comfort zone trying to teach us we need only to trust and rely on Him. Perhaps at this point you are wondering what if anything this has to do with being a fruitful branch and I am here to assure you it has everything to do with remaining in step with Jesus. A branch that is flexible can and will survive any storm but once the limb hardens and fights against

the winds of change it is soon broken. The only two constants in the world are God and His plan to keep change constant in every created thing. Remaining flexible and ready for any change God might send our way is the sign of a healthy and vibrant branch. It was this very reality that brought Lakewood through the trails of these past few years and it is this reality that will carry us through to see God's plan to bless us now. You see God is moving in our midst and He is bringing about this change not to harm us but to bless us and to assure we have a hope and a future.

All my life in the ministry I have been a healer of hurting churches and a church planter who plants the seeds of hope and the vision of a better tomorrow. However, I have never been the harvester. I dreamed big dreams of leading a great awakening and baptizing multitudes but I have proven to be no better at that than my ancestors. John the Baptist would remind us all that a man can only receive what he is given and that is not my gift nor calling. That reality leads me to write this letter as for nearly ten years now we have been planting and making preparations for a great harvest and now everything is ready. Our God is a God of seasons and the season before us right now is the season of harvest. I look and I see the fields white unto harvest and I realize that my season for healing and planting have come to an end. Now it is time for me to surrender to God's ways in my life and celebrate the coming of the harvesters. Many pastors have followed me to harvest where they had not planted and I take great joy in that reality. I know that I will hear of the great success in your future and know I had a part in planting those seeds. So this is a day of great anticipation as we pray and prepare for the harvest. Pray that the dream team will find a pastor with the gifts of a harvester and the heart of a servant. Pray also that God will lift up your head and make you a harvester as well. As for me and my household we plan to go where the wind blows and see where God takes us from here. No matter the beauty or blessing of that place we will never forget our days at Lakewood.

The only things constant in our world are God and change so it is my aim and prayer to fight against neither.

God Bless  
Brother M.R.





FOOD PANTRY

PAINTING

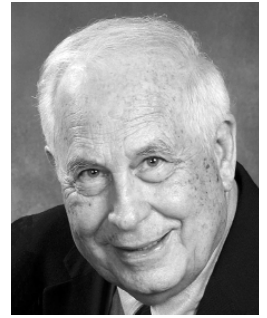
FENWAY PARK

## Circles of Influence Spotlight

In these changing times of our nation, the work of Crisis Pregnancy Centers throughout the United States are preparing to meet the needs of women in crisis in more tangible ways than ever before. Our Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign at Lakewood brought them \$1,689.31! Anytime the Lord lays this ministry on your heart, you can give to Sound Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center through our Circles of Influence mission giving. Their semi-annual Gala at the Columbus Trade Center will be September 21, 2023. Mark your calendar for this "so worth the ticket" event to help save lives right here where we live.



# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

A couple of Sundays ago, Chad and the choir sang a song about not being able to sing loud enough when singing for the Lord. I can identify with that sentiment, and I could add another verse about not being able to sing good enough. As a lot of people know, I sing tenor—ten or twelve notes off. I'm always breaking into song, even though a close friend once told me that I wouldn't have to break in if I found the right key. I used to sing around the house all the time, but I had to quit on account of my throat. . . . My wife threatened to cut it. Having said all that, I want to suggest that God is less concerned about the volume and quality of our singing than He is about our sincerity and adoration. Several years ago I was in a worship service where thousands of people were praising God. We were singing the chorus Hallelujah, and a man directly behind me was singing at the top of his voice. It was the worst singing I have ever heard, even my own. It was absolutely grating to the human ear, but he was giving it his all, with eyes closed and hands lifted, oblivious to everyone and everything else. Suddenly, I got tickled. I wasn't laughing at him, but at a scene I was imagining in heaven. However discordant was the sound behind me, the Lord thought it was beautiful, and he was rejoicing in it. I could visualize Him turning around to the angelic choir and saying, "Be quiet. I want to listen to this." When that man offered his voice to God, he was offering his heart to God, and God translated his cacophony into a symphonic melody that resonated in the courts of heaven.

A pitch-perfect song, melodic and

euphonic, and sung with exquisite clarity, is totally unacceptable to the Lord if it isn't a genuine act of worship from the heart. It's merely a performance that solicits and receives the applause of earth. I attended the Southern Baptist Convention one year when I was a young man. The famed pastor Dr. R. G. Lee was scheduled to preach at one of the crowded sessions. Before he spoke, a well-known concert singer sang a lofty anthem. His performance was artistic and flawless, but that's all it was—a performance. The singer bowed to the applause and left the stage. Dr. Lee strolled to the pulpit and looked out over the congregation. After a few moments he said, "I see Frank Boggs sitting out there. I want him to come up here and sing about Jesus before I preach." Frank was a gifted and noted gospel singer of that day, and people knew the presence of the Lord when he sang. As a singer, he was no better than the performer who preceded him on that occasion. What made the difference was that one sang for the congregation, while the other sang for the Lord.

It isn't our great talent that blesses God; it is our wholehearted and unfeigned love, however we may express it. Speak your love for God; sing your love for God; dance your love for God; testify your love for God; countenance your love for God; share your love for God; radiate your love for God; but above all, live your love for God.

# Lakewood Happenings

## AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Promotion Sunday		6:00pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting			5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5:00pm Deacons Meet		11:30am Amen Choir to St. Luke	7:00pm Finance Team meets			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
3:00pm MR & Katie's Sweet Retreat Retirement Party				6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women		11:00am Feed the homeless
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
12:00pm Family Fun Day	6:00pm Sister 2 Sister		5:45pm AWANA Wet Wednesday			
28	29	30	31			

## June Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
6/5	\$26,634.71	\$460.00	\$2,048.50	\$1,051.33	\$30,194.54
6/12	\$18,048.38	\$15.00	\$638.00	\$1,980.74	\$20,682.12
6/19	\$12,376.15	\$50.00	\$745.00	\$635.00	\$13,806.15
6/26	\$10,860.38	-	\$1,360.00	\$1,720.00	\$13,940.38

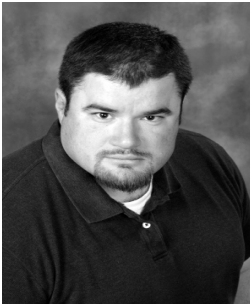
### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

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

#### WEDNESDAY

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



# A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Having just returned from our summer stateside mission trips, I wanted to report to you how the Lord used us, while it was still fresh on my mind. We began the summer with the Chattanooga mission trip where we served alongside a local church; First Baptist Church of Soddy-Daisy, TN. Their pastor is a close personal friend of many years and about two and a half years ago he took over a struggling body of believers and began a renewal process. This church was once THE church in that community and as such has a sprawling campus. However, the body of believers there had dwindled to 100 people or so, mainly senior adults and only a few younger families. The call came for help with their VBS, to help beautify their campus, and to help get the church name out into that community. We did not accomplish all these things alone. This trip was a partnership with two other local churches (Britt David Baptist and Gentian Baptist) and their student pastors, both former Lakewood men (Saige Valfre & Beau Reimink). We mowed grass and pulled weeds. We cut down trees, branches, and vines. We painted, we stained wood, we built shelves, and we repaired what was broken. We also walked neighborhoods around the church and placed door hangers with information about the church. We were also blessed to host 50-60 kids nightly for VBS and Lakewood excelled in every area such as leading worship, teaching VBS dance moves, crafts, teaching, and recreation. The only downside was that several of us came in contact with poison ivy in our outdoor brush clearing, including myself. One of the highest compliments paid to me by one of their members was that they could not tell which of our students was from which church because they seemed so comfortable together and worked so well together as a group. We ended the week with a free day in Chattanooga where they got to walk around and see the city.

Then came Boston. Not only did I have a severe case of poison ivy but I also had either food poisoning or a stomach bug after Chattanooga. Months before I had arranged for our Boston missionary to come and preach at LBC on a Wednesday night with three other local churches. As it turned out, God had another reason for Michael Barnett to come early as he would drive us on the bus up to Boston. Without him, there's no way I would've been well enough to drive it alone since I was still quite sick. Once in Boston God was gracious and I recovered by the time the team arrived at the airport. We worshipped with

a local church plant called Church at the Well and got to see their coffee-shop-style ministries around the city which help to fund the church and get the church name out into the city. We also worked in a local food bank that provides food for over 500 families per week. We sorted donations and packed food bags, and the local newspaper showed up and wrote an article about our trip. Later in the week, we worked at a local Baptist church in Marlboro, Massachusetts. We painted, cleaned, and installed some needed fixtures around the church. Each night, in Revere, we did a combination of an outdoor sports camp and VBS-style ministry at a local park that we had reserved. We played and taught various sports before closing each night with a bible study and a time of crafts. This was a small group of kids that we all got to know by name and truly invest in them. Because there aren't many churches in the area, several of the parents were overjoyed and commented how much they appreciated our investment in their kids. We also attended a Red Sox vs. Yankees baseball game at Fenway Park and ended the week with a free day of sightseeing in historic Boston.

These two trips epitomize why I love missions and why I believe anyone can and should go and serve the Lord. Mission trips stretch us out of our comfort zone, and they take us to a place where we expect to tell others about Jesus. They also cause us to do visible acts of love for our neighbors, loving them as ourselves. Whether the outreach is local, around the U.S., or around the world, missions simply allow us to practice our faith. We cannot become those who only learn about God, we must listen to the truth of His Word and then follow that listening with application and action. In the future, my prayer is that the entire body here at Lakewood will answer the call to step outside the four walls of the church and serve here, there, or around the world. I promise every life reached for Christ is worth it. As always, I wish to thank each of you for every donation, every gift of supplies, and every prayer offered over our teams. Without fail, you have always supported our mission work during my thirteen-plus years here at LBC. Thank you for answering the call to supply everything we need. God's Kingdom has expanded and continues to expand because of your faithfulness in praying, giving, and going.

[See Pics from Boston & Chattanooga on page 5](#)

# A Message from David Stephens



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CHILDREN'S MINISTER

"We are created for such a time at this." This is not a new phrase. For me, it seems to resurface during seasons of transition. It is during these times that we must lean into the fact that we serve a God of the impossible. We all know this is true intellectually, but how many times when something really seems improbable or we've told ourselves it's impossible, do we give up? NO! We must always be planting seeds in our hearts for possibility.

Ephesians 3:20-21 'Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.'

There is nothing that is impossible for God. Do you believe this as truth and own it in your heart over every situation?

The heart of possibility breeds new creativity, new relationships, new fire, new vision. This is not to say that the old has gone away, but the old has been made new with possibility.

I recently taught a lesson with our kids about faith. We fly in an airplane understanding that the flow of air under the wings of the plane create 'Lift' that allows you to move through the air at a very fast speed. You don't see the air, but it's there. It takes faith to fly in an airplane. We did not see Jesus die on a cross. We did not see him walking around after he arose from the grave. We have faith as we believe in something that we cannot see.

We must start with an 'I cannot see,

Possible' mindset. We are not limited by known solutions. We walk with the God of the impossible. But how often do we start with the 'No way' mindset. STOP IT!

## Calendar

- August 7: Promotion Sunday
- August 12: 4th, 5th & 6th Lock-in
- August 31: Wet Wednesday  
Awana Registration
- September 7: AWANA Starts

**In Memory of**

**Dot Oliver**  
for Children's Ministry  
from Carole Ray  
Sherry Scroggins  
For Mercy Med  
from Gail Brantley

**Clara Grimes**  
for Children's Ministry  
from Sherry Scroggins

**Judy Carter**  
for Music Ministry  
from Sherry Scroggins

**Rita Nevels**  
for Music Ministry  
from Sherry Scroggins

**Mary Ann Pickett**  
for Benevolence  
from Clara Jean Watson

**Charles Marsh**  
for Benevolence  
from Clara Jean Watson

**Merium Strickland**  
for Benevolence  
from Clara Jean Watson

**In Honor of**

**Roy & Betty McHargue**  
for General Fund  
from Terry Grimes

**Charles Keown**  
for Music Ministry  
from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn  
Sherry Scroggins  
For Amen Choir  
from Janice noble  
Glenda Medley

**Bum & Carol Clegg**  
for General Fund  
from Sherry Scroggins

**David & Pansy Slocumb**  
For FAC  
from Sherry Scroggins

**SENIOR ADULT  
GAME NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 3RD**

**5:30PM - FH**

**HAMBURGERS**

**CHIPS & DIP &**

**DESSERT**

**WE LOVE YOU  
BROTHER M.R.  
& KATIE**

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