

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JULY 2021

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Welcome Home.





# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

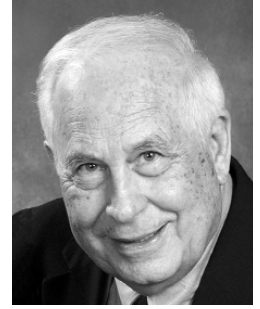
**They say time flies when you are having fun and there seems to be some truth to that bit of wisdom.** It also flies when you stay as busy as we have been this year as we bring one program after the other back on line. We had Palm Sunday, Easter and Mother's Day without any problems and saw great numbers returning to worship in person for the first time in nearly a year. The Lord's Super observances went well and will be conducted the same way this July on the 11th so you can look forward to that. Vacation Bible School was not only held it was one of our very best since I arrived here over eight years ago. The best number of this year's VBS was that nearly 1/3 of the children in attendance were from families not previously connected to Lakewood. So a big shout out to everyone who worked to make that possible.

Almost every matrix of measure is indicating that we as a church have come through the COVID-19 crisis as strong or stronger than we began. You our members have remained faithful through it all staying in contact with us through all of our virtual church resources. Giving has remained very strong and because of that we have been able to use the down time to refurbish and update nearly every area of our facilities. These improvements are not finished and as I write this note new roads and parking lots will be resurfaced and painted. Our assisted listening equipment is being installed at this time. It is a state of the art system that can supply assisted listening support to everyone who might have need. We have individual handsets for those who don't have a smart phone while all with phones can listen to the services through their phones. Those who wear hearing aids

will be able to listen directly through their own hearing aids by the loop technology. We are continuing to improve our sound systems both in house and broadcast with all new microphones as well.

Our first mission trip in a very long time is gearing up to leave as I write this note and I praise God for that. We are seeing a lot of people hungry to get back to church and to return to some kind of normal which is very exciting. The single area of concern here at Lakewood as we begin to launch our programs has been the limited numbers of people volunteering to serve in the many areas of ministry it takes to make the church work. Everyone seems ready to get back to church but not everyone seems ready to get back to serving in the church. So this summer please pray about your place of service as it takes an army of dedicated people to run a ministry like ours. We are seeing large numbers of visitors starting to search for their church homes in the post COVID-19 world and we need to be ready. We have worked like crazy getting our facilities ready and God has the people's hearts searching and we need everyone serving in some way to make those visitors feel welcome. The future here at Lakewood looks bright so pray about your place to make a difference for the Kingdom.

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Loch Ness is one of the most iconic landmarks of Scotland, and each year more than two million tourists flock there from afar, hoping to catch a glimpse of Nessie, the monster that supposedly inhabits the lake. Very few of the visitors to Loch Ness have heard of another attraction, located not far away. Although it has great historical and spiritual significance, it receives such scant publicity that even many local people don't know of its existence. The attraction is not spectacular, consisting of only two bare spots separated from each other about eight inches and imprinted about two inches or so in the ground. Both bare imprints are surrounded by lush grass. The spots are the size and shape of footprints, and they have been there for 194 years.

In the year 1827 an evangelist named Finlay Munro preached at that very place. He was a preacher well known for walking the highlands and islands of Scotland, preaching the gospel to anyone who would listen. He usually preached in the open air, and at many places he attracted huge crowds. On this occasion he was standing under a birch tree, preaching to a congregation in the rural area of Torgyle, Glenmoriston, Inverness. His text was Amos 4:12: "Prepare to meet your God." His preaching was interrupted several times by hecklers who scoffed at his view of God's judgment. He finished his sermon by pronouncing that the ground on which he stood would bear witness to the truth of his words until the Day of Judgment comes.

Since that day, not a blade of grass has grown in the two footprints. In 1907 a terrible storm hit the area and blew off the top of the tree under which Munro preached. The roots of the tree went under the footprints, and had the tree been uprooted, as would normally be the case, the footprints would have been destroyed. In 1976 vandals dug up the footprints and left a gaping hole in the spot they had occupied. However, when the hole was filled, the footprints reappeared, with new grass growing around them, but not on them. Today a cairn, a collection of

rocks, protects them.

Our generation is filled with scoffers who pooh-pooh the idea of divine judgment, and many preachers receive their inspiration from the spirit of the age, not from the Spirit of God. Whether it's timidity that leads them to compromise or fear of being branded as intolerant haters or judgmental, they refuse to stand boldly against the sins that the Bible clearly condemns. Nobody, whatever his title or office may be, who promotes abortion and the LGBTQ agenda, can rightly claim to accept the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. Demoninational leaders have appointed committees to study what the church's position should be concerning such issues as abortion, gender identification, same-sex marriage, and kindred matters. Why do we need committees to discuss matters that God has already decided? While trying to avoid offending public opinion and wanting to be popular with the culture, and mistakenly attempting to maintain harmony, they are censoring the Word of God rather than teaching it, and it's a mockery to God. This kind of situation is exactly what Jude warns against in the third verse of his epistle. Compromising the truth is a far cry from contending for the truth.

We really don't need Finlay Munro's footprints to assure us of the truth of the gospel, as convincing as they may be. We have the witness of God Himself. There is but one gospel, and it is absolute, not obsolete. We don't need a new and a modern gospel for a new and modern age. If it's new, it isn't true, and that statement is verified by Galatians 1:6-9. To say that there is only one gospel may sound bigoted and narrow minded, but the gospel came by revelation from God, and He does not change truth to appease public opinion. Never before in history have we seen such demonic indoctrination that is destroying our nation and infecting the church, and never before have we seen such timidity among God's people in responding to evil. It's time "to contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."



# A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

I'm writing this article as we've just returned from Snowbird summer camp in Andrews, North Carolina. The focus of SWO21 was centered on the attributes of God. Each day we learned a new attribute and saw how it affected our spiritual lives. Each day we were also engaged in relevant breakout sessions which gave us the practical application of God's attributes in our daily lives. I really enjoyed watching our students worship the Lord freely and be so engaged during the preaching, as most took notes and asked great questions. Early in the week, one of our newer students, who was invited by a friend a few months ago, surrendered and realized his need for Christ as Savior and Lord. We praise God for the revelation of the need for salvation in this young man's life. We plan to follow his confession with baptism and discipleship, and we were careful to help him understand that this is just the beginning of knowing Jesus, not the end. Many of our regular students dealt with hurts and pains, many confessed sins, and all were encouraged in their faith. Throughout the week we instilled the challenge to fan this flame by continuously adding fuel to the fire. Many of our students got up early and did their own personal bible studies and stayed up late discussing the messages they heard. I look forward to seeing the fruit that grows from the commitments made this past week. On another note, we are soon to leave for our first New Mexico mission trip (July 9th-19th), and we have much to accomplish while there. We plan to build a GaGa pit for the Baptist church on the reservation and complete an existing chain link

fence on their property. Each day we will also be hosting a Christ-centered sports camp where we'll have the opportunity to share the Gospel with Native American kids. We'll also host a block party promoting their church, we will lead worship, and preach while there. Please pray for safe travels as well as effectiveness in ministry. We have a list of needed items, in either church lobby or the FAC, and we are also accepting donations towards the supplies needed to complete the fence and build the GaGa pit. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a student for camp or missions this year. Your commitment to the advancement of the Gospel has already born fruit, and there's more to come.

God bless,  
drew

# A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



**What a crazy busy summer!** It's already July, and I feel like the summer just started. We truly had a blessed VBS to kick off this summer. This was my 1st ever onsite VBS, and we had a blast. Our communities' children and families were blessed. We raised over \$1000 towards OCC, and I know these kids will be singing the "Christmas Song" all year. Our next big activity will be SUMMER CAMP! July 12-15 we have filled our 40 spots with campers and leaders. If you want to sponsor a camper that opportunity is still available. The summer camp experience is a unique life changing opportunity for our kids to connect with God. Camp many times is where relationships are forged, and callings are birthed. Please begin praying over this week, it is my experience that when we step out of our normal to actively pursue settings designed to build our faith and grow our relationships does not make our adversary very happy. The next generation of the church is awakened and preparing to take the fight to the enemy. As we are learning about prayer, my heart is that will be a leader in our community in this fight for the future of the church.

With us going through teaching on prayer here are a few thoughts on prayer, from the backdrop of the prodigal son. When I really look at the son's 'leaving' to go off to a distant land, this is such an offensive act. This is a heartless rejection of the home, a break from traditions. The indication is not just the son's desire to see the unknown world, but it speaks to the drastic cutting loose from the way of life, thinking, acting, that had been handed down from generations. It's a betrayal of the family and community values, and everything that is considered Holy is disregarded. To me this description is significant. It provided me with an accurate understanding of the parable in its historical context, but it helps me see the prodigal in myself. When I look carefully at the subtle ways I have preferred the distant country to my home the prodigal emerges. This is a spiritual leaving of the home. I believe this story like no other showcases the boundless Love of God that we do not deserve yet we have. You know the story. The father runs to his son when he sees him. This is definitely an action packed scene, but my challenge is to look at the embrace of father and son in the stillness of the father embrace representing an everlasting blessing and the son resting on his father as an eternal peace. Is this not a beautiful picture of the divine love and mercy in it power to transform death into life?

What does this have to do with Praying? I'm so glad you asked. We must not be deaf to the voice of Love. Leaving home is more than an historical event that happens in lives of families. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God. It's like one is living as if they do not yet have a home and must look far and wide to find one. But, we do have a home. We serve a God who has adopted us into his family. He desires to speak to us with a voice saying; 'you are loved and on you my favor rests'. This same voice speaks to you and me and gives us power to live free in the middle of a dark world as light. As we pray we are communicating with God who gives us power to walk in the valley of darkness without fear. It is in this power that we are able to confront, console, encourage, without fear of dismissal or need for affirmation. This is where we can suffer and not loose Joy. But, what do we do over and over again, we leave home. We get caught in all kinds of things, many time good things, that make us DEAF to this voice. Let's be found on our knees in prayer, so we hear what God is saying and tap into the power that he desires for us. Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done!

Have a great July Ya'll!



Dear Lakewood Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of the kind words and well wishes following my 40 year Anniversary service. My family and I really enjoyed singing together again and worshipping with you.

Thank you also for the most delicious meal afterwards, and to everyone involved in the preparation of it and the beautifully decorated fellowship hall. The flower arrangement in the sanctuary was awesome, and I was overwhelmed by the very special gift that was presented to me.

I feel very honored to have had the privilege of serving Lakewood in it's great music ministry all of these years and reaching people for Christ. Thank you again so much! I love you all!

Robert

Saturday, July 17th @ 6:00pm

Fellowship Hall

- WOMEN'S -

Bring a Finger Food  
to share

G A M E  
N I G H T

All women are invited

## Circles of Influence



Every dollar given to Lakewood's Circles of Influence fund goes monthly to each of these ministries.

Do you know what these ministries are? They are food banks, a medical clinic for the poor, a camp for HIV children, youth addiction homes, a homeless shelter, alcoholic recovery programs, a crisis pregnancy clinic, children's group homes, a disaster relief organization, domestic and foreign evangelism offerings and LBC mission trips!

Check out [www.LBCPC.org/circles-of-influence](http://www.LBCPC.org/circles-of-influence).

# Lakewood Happenings

## July 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 10:00am Breakfast Club	3
Independence Day 4	Office Closed 5	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 6	7	8	9 10:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night N. M.YouthTrip	10 N. M. Youth Trip
Lord's Supper N. M.YouthTrip 11	6:00pm Women's Ministry Meets Merge Camp N. M.YouthTrip 12	6:30pm Alleluia Choir Merge Camp N. M.YouthTrip 13	7:00pm Deacons meeting Merge Camp N. M.YouthTrip 14	15 Merge Camp N. M.YouthTrip	16 N. M.YouthTrip	17 6:00pm Women's Min. Game Night F/H N. M.YouthTrip
N. M.YouthTrip 18	N. M.YouthTrip 19	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 20	7:00pm Finance Team meeting 21	22	23 10:00am Breakfast Club	24
25	26	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 27	28	29	30 10:00am Breakfast Club	31 11:00am Youth & Young Adults Feed the homeless

## May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
5/2	\$33,792.89	\$260.00	\$1,064.00	\$3,044.85	\$38,161.74
5/9	\$22,378.45	-	\$1,639.00	\$1,469.00	\$25,486.45
5/16	\$13,976.76	\$960.00	\$1,657.07	\$1,545.00	\$18,138.83
5/23	\$14,493.41	-	\$1,232.26	\$3,370.37	\$19,096.04
5/30	\$12,755.77	\$130.00	\$538.00	\$320.00	\$13,743.77

### 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:**

Rodney Gray for General Fund from Homer Gray

Gene Cameron for COI from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

Gene Cameron and Larry Hightower for  
General Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Hightower

Gene Cameron for General Fund from Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

**In Honor of:**

Robert Wilson for Student Missions from Sue Melton

JD Whitehead for COI from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

Cathy Greene for LOAF from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

**SENIOR ADULT  
GAME NIGHT**

**JULY 9TH @ 5:30PM**

**PIZZA, SALAD  
& DESSERT**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
BLOOD DRIVE  
SEPTEMBER 9TH  
1:30PM-6:30PM**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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