

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2021

VOL XI: ISSUE 6 LBCPC.ORG

## DESTINATION



**UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS**  
**JEREMIAH 29:13**

**VBS 2021**

**Sunday - Thursday ~ June 6 - 10**

**5:30pm - 8:30pm**



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

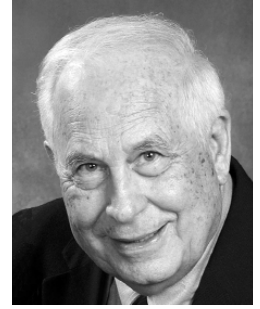
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SENIOR PASTOR

**This June has a lot in common with the Junes of my youth.** June was something special for me growing up because June represented everything good in my world. School was out and I was free for another glorious summer. June may not have been that special for you growing up but I made some really big plans for how to get the very most out of every minute of my freedom from the colossal waste of time better known as school. Can you imagine trying to teach me English literature and social studies? I honestly did spend my school year working on the really important things in life that I hoped to accomplish during my brief furlough from the educational system better known as summer vacation. I learned a lot more than most people thought during my time in school and by age 16 I had learned things like how to pack and organize the supplies I would need for a summer in the boundary waters wilderness in one canoe. The fact that I am here today is proof positive that I learned those lessons well. I may have been totally lost for the 1st six weeks but I had plenty of supplies. The next year in school I learned not only how to pack and manage supplies but also how to actually navigate and read a compass. That summer at age 17 I spent two months backpacking the Rockies and never once was I really lost more than a day or two at a time proving once again my year in school had proven productive. June was the month I looked forward to all year long because June was the beginning of another great adventure I had been planning and dreaming of all year long.

Perhaps you wonder why this year

reminds me of the days of my youth? Because this year everything we have been dreaming and planning for the past year is finally starting to happen. All that work remodeling and upgrading for when we got to start doing church in church again has paid off. Finally we are back on our feet again and holding services and doing Vacation Bible School again. Summer vacation is here, graduations are here, ordination services are happening again, VBS is happening again and I have been dreaming of this day for more than a year. Visitors are starting to return and many who were unable to attend are finally able to be in their favorite seats again. I'm not absolutely sure what lessons God had for us to learn this past year as it felt a whole lot like going to school but all the dreams and plans we were making for this day are finally coming true. Right after VBS start watching for a bunch of heavy equipment to show up around here as all of our parking lots and roads are being resurfaced and painted. We are also researching the best possible assistive listening system available for everyone who has a hard time hearing in the worship services. They will transmit straight audio of the services to individual receiver units if you need one or can blue tooth directly to your hearing aids if they have that capability. Missions are also back on line for this summer as we are heading to the White Mountain area to serve. We didn't just sit around this past year during all the shutdowns and quarantines and we used this time to dream, plan and prepare to make this summer the best summer ever at Lakewood.

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

**In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 the apostle Paul wrote about the discernment of “the times and the seasons,” which he described as days of “darkness.”** That term applies to our own day. This is a time of moral darkness, with debauchery and filth spewing from the entertainment industry. We have become almost chloroformed by the ungodly spirit of this age, not even realizing the depth of depravity as people watch movies and television programs, listen and sway to the lyrics of rock music and laugh at jokes that are nothing but absolute, pure, unadulterated obscenities.

It’s a time of spiritual darkness. Eastern religions and cults have invaded our land, and in the name of tolerance many churches have compromised to the point of having “inter-faith” services, and are teaching that there are many ways to heaven.

It’s a time of social darkness, with movements such as “woke,” “cancel culture,” and “critical race theory” causing confusion and division among the populace. Gender identification has become a matter of choice, to the extent that there is even a demand that birth certificates no longer identify babies as “boy” or “girl.” Already most documents that call for gender identification have the options of “male,” “female,” and “other,” and some even given further options. Children from kindergarten age are indoctrinated to view same-gender marriages with adopted children as normal and happy families.

It’s a time of educational darkness, with history revised and the “three Rs” dropped in favor of diversification, whatever that is. The result is students who know nothing of the foundations of our nation, who can’t write their own names in cursive, who can’t write a complete sentence, and who can’t make change at a McDonald’s counter if the cash register fails.

It’s a time of political darkness, with politicians so dumb-founded that they think the way to cure a problem is to pour enough money on it and it will go away, and who are naïve enough to think that they can bring unity and stop violence by assuring the rights of the person who breaks the law while denying the rights of the person who keeps the law. The result is chaos and anarchy.

Thank God, He has a plan for His people in this day of darkness, and we need to appeal to His word to learn the principles of understanding the times and what to do in times of crisis.

1 Chronicles 12 describes a time of crisis that was threatening to tear the Kingdom of Israel apart. King Saul was dead, and the leaders of the tribe of Benjamin wanted to establish a Saul dynasty that would keep the kingship in their tribe. However, the other tribes thought otherwise, and they met in Hebron to crown David as king of Israel. The narrative

lists the various groups of representatives, but the ones named in verse 32 are of particular interest. Two hundred men of Issachar “who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do” were assigned the duty of prophetic discernment. Their mission was to observe, listen, and ultimately declare what the will of God was for God’s people. They were bold, courageous, uncompromising, unwavering men who, having discerned what was happening, would know exactly what to do.

The word “understanding” translates the Hebrew word *binah*, which means to separate something mentally and to distinguish its component parts. The word describes a situation in which one has insight into the circumstances and events and acts with prudence. The word also carries the idea of the possession of intelligence, wisdom, and cunning skill. In other words, it’s a discernment that understands the situation, skillfully analyzes the matter, and knows the action to take.

The men of Issachar saw the larger picture in light of the prophetic word of God. God had said that the scepter would come out of the tribe of Judah, not Benjamin, and He had specifically commanded that David would be the king. With that discernment, they told Israel what must be done. The Bible always has the answer to every culture and to every generation, and in the global pandemic that our generation has been experiencing, as indeed in all critical times, we need that same spirit of discernment and that same courage to act.

Discernment of the times is more than an understanding of biblical doctrines and teaching basic principles of the Bible. That ability is important, but there must also be the ability to know how to apply the truths of God’s word to the issues that we are facing. Understanding means nothing unless we apply the truth in a way that the world around us can understand. In contrast, many pastors and denominational leaders have cowardly chosen to allow modern culture and public opinion to dictate belief and behavior. The church is not to be like a hot air balloon, driven by the winds of opinion and unable to follow the course that God has ordained. The church is to be like a sailboat, with its sails unfurled to the wind of the Holy Spirit and a rudder that takes the power of that wind and uses it to go in the direction that God chooses.

Let’s pray that God will raise up leaders like the men of Issachar, with the understanding of the times, and able to offer the needed solutions and lead the way out of the crisis. They may be ordinary people, as most were who were chosen by God, unrecognized by the world, but ready to stand up without hesitation and compromise to declare the discernment that God gives.



# A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

This month, I thought I'd share two very different stories, of two very different couples, who have responded to the call to full-time missions in different ways. First, let me tell you the story of Michael and Lydia Barnett. Michael was the student pastor at Bethesda Baptist Church in Harris County for years, and we worked together often on events and missions. Over time, Michael became one of my best ministry friends, we traveled together often, and Bethesda went to Belize with us on several occasions. During his time at Bethesda, God was impressing upon Michael the call to become a lead pastor, though he didn't know what that would look like. Over time God led he and his family to apply to become stateside church planters for the North American Mission Board in the Boston area. He would become a lead pastor, but not in the traditional way, as he would need to plant and grow a church from scratch, in an area of the country that has forgotten God. This was a huge step of faith; pulling their kids out of their schools and friendships, Lydia resigning her position at a Christian school in Columbus, and Michael stepping away from student ministry, which he loved. Much less, Michael is originally from Mississippi, and he's always lived in the South. The furthest North he had ever lived was Tennessee. So, how could a Southern boy go to New England and become a lead pastor, much less build a church from scratch? Answer; by the grace of God! Michael and his family sold their home in Columbus and moved in the Fall of 2019 to Somerville, a suburb of Boston. They rented a small apartment and began their church-planting journey. He soon began to meet people, make connections and got plugged in with other local pastors. His office became a local coffee shop where he soon began to volunteer so that he could have Gospel conversations with its patrons. Then COVID hit, and Massachusetts shut down, much more tightly than here in the South. Churches were closed, businesses were shuttered, and it seemed, for the moment, that Michael's church-planting mission was on indefinite pause. Yet, Michael and his family didn't give up, they held the course, and they trusted God. Things have been rocky and slow to restart, but God has continually opened door after door for their family. God gave them further guidance to plant a church in a different suburb of Boston called Revere, and they were recently blessed to be able to purchase a home in that town. Michael swung by a few weeks ago, on a trip back to Mississippi to visit family, and testified of the grace of God in his life and ministry. Their home is functioning as their first church, as he's begun inviting neighbors into his home for bible studies. I'm excited to see how God grows the work from these humble beginnings. We look forward to the day where we can send mission groups to help further the work Michael and his family are doing in the greater Boston area. Please pray for Michael and Lydia Barnett and their

children.

The second couple are James and Jenna Roberts, missionaries to the West African nation of Togo. James grew up just north of Savannah and Jenna is from Virginia. Our paths first crossed several years ago when James and Jenna, who were not married at the time, were both camp counselors and interns at Snowbird in North Carolina. James even served our group, several years back, as a breakout leader on one of our trips to SWO. Over time, God brought James and Jenna together in marriage and they mutually felt the call to serve God with their lives in the overseas mission field. They joined a mission group called Converge International Ministries and, along with several other couples, took up the challenge to build a children's camp in Togo. Togo, along with Nigeria, is where the Voodoo religion originated and there is still deep spiritual darkness and fear there today. The Togolese people haven't forgotten God, they've never known Him, and have instead been worshipping demonic forces through Voodoo. The Roberts soon began to fundraise and prepare to head to Togo full-time in early 2020. Then COVID hit and their plans were seemingly derailed. Their fundraising efforts were paused, those already on the ground in Togo were sent home, and they were basically in a holding pattern not knowing what the future held. In the meantime, Jenna got pregnant, with their first child (due this July) and they were thankful for the healthcare options available to them here in the States. They moved back to the Savannah area and waited for God's hand. Slowly God has opened new partnerships with churches and support is now starting to come in. They are now planning to depart by the end of 2021 or early 2022. James and Jenna came a few weeks ago, on a Wednesday night, to speak to our students. They personally testified of the grace of God in the midst of trying times, and also spoke on how we should respond to our Great Commission command to take the Gospel to the nations. We look forward someday, to partnering with James and Jenna in Togo, to serve Christ alongside them at the camp they build. Please pray for James and Jenna Roberts, and their soon to be first child.

Mission efforts have certainly changed in light of COVID, but they haven't ceased, as nothing can stop the advance of the Gospel. These stories, and many more like it, point to the sovereign grace of God in the midst of uncertain times. We look forward to taking the Gospel to the nations again soon here at Lakewood, and we pray you'll prayerfully consider joining us. God bless,  
drew

# A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



**It is now summer time and the heat is here.** Although for myself coming from Arizona it's warm, but I really cannot commit to saying it's hot after experiencing 123 degree highs. We have a very busy summer in Children's Ministry. Vacation Bible School is starting June 6-10. It will be exciting to have children and their families back on campus from our community. We are in need of helpers across our campus for this week. Reach out to me, and I will find you a place to serve. Let's be a light to our community through the use of our space to showcase Jesus and what he's about to families. Dinner at 5:30 then into Rally then Bible School Rotations. It will be high energy and a lot of fun.

We have had an incredible response for kids that are desiring to go to summer camp. If you are interested in sponsoring a camper the tuition is \$199 and I want as many kids to go to camp as possible. If you are a parent of a camper keep watching emails and announcements as to important information leading up to our departure, camp week and return. Please be praying over camp week. This is a unique opportunity for our children to grow in worship, grow in relationship with God, understand who God can be in their life, and build lifelong friendships with peers. It also deeply impacts our adult leader teams who serve the kids God has given us to serve in this way.

This past month I was ordained as a minister. Thank you to all who have supported me through this process. I truly was blessed by what this service meant to me and my family. It is a marker point for the calling into ministry that God placed on my life. One of the mentors who provided a video for our service, his wife passed away on Mother's Day. Lesley and I were able to attend her funeral as we remembered her storied life. I was reminded again of how big God is. All four of their children who spoke at the funeral directed every fun mom story to how much this incredible woman wanted anybody who she touched to know her Jesus and she touched many lives. This woman lived a life of extreme chronic pain, and she never stopped ministering to people. Doctors and nurses were remarkably saved because she never gave the enemy a window to steal her Joy. We all have or know of people like this, and we all must take serious the time we have and remain in the present so we see the people that we can impact for good. Let's be a people founded in prayer and diving deeply into scripture. Let's be a people that others covet being on our prayer list. This woman who Lesley and I served and worked with who is now with Jesus moved mountains in her prayer life. What a testimony that will stand the test of time. Ok, now for some announcements.

**VBS June 6-10. Please reach out. Help needed!**

Keep watching calendar for Wet Wednesday's on our campus, and or Pool parties.

Summer Camp is happening July 12-15. If you are interested in going to camp, I need to know ASAP. Spots are filling FAST! If you want to sponsor a child let me know.

**The Women's Ministry**  
**is having a picnic at Katie's & M.R.'s**  
**Saturday, June 12th from 11:00am-2:00pm**

**Bring your chair or blanket and  
your picnic lunch**

**You can fish, pick blueberries,  
play yard games & fellowship**

*A Note of THANKS from Onezima*

Dear Lakewood Family,

Thank you so much for the most wonderful retirement celebration I  
could ever have imagined.

The monetary gift and the card shower was absolutely overwhelming.

I am so grateful.

It has been my honor to serve Lakewood all these years.

I am so blessed to be a part of such a caring and generous church family.

I love you,

Onezima

Ron Wilson will be starting a new class during bible fellowship

Starting June 13th in the old conference room

"Read through the Bible"

# Lakewood Happenings

## June 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	Breakfast Club 4	5
5:30-8:30pm VBS 6	5:30-8:30pm VBS 7	5:30-8:30pm VBS 8	7:00pm Deacons meet 5:30-8:30pm VBS 9	5:30-8:30pm VBS 10	Breakfast Club 5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night 11	12
13	6:00pm Women's Ministry Meets 14	15	7:00pm Finance meets 16	17	Breakfast Club 18	11:00am Youth & Young Adults Feed the homeless 19
Father's Day 20	Youth Summer Camp 21	Youth Summer Camp 22	Youth Summer Camp 23	Youth Summer Camp 24	Youth Summer Camp 25	Youth Summer Camp 26
27	28	29	30			

## April Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
4/4	\$26,412.02	\$345.00	\$874.50	\$1,183.00	\$28,814.52
4/11	\$24,920.03	\$300.00	\$2,190.19	\$830.00	\$28,240.22
4/18	\$26,218.80	\$100.00	\$4,647.43	\$1,156.00	\$32,122.23
4/25	\$17,659.07	-	\$1,210.50	\$1,536.21	\$20,405.78

### 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:**

Gene Cameron - Circles  
from Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Smith

Gene Cameron – Music Ministry  
from Dorothy Robinson

Ray Bush – Music Ministry  
from Dorothy Robinson

Gene Cameron – Samaritan Purse  
from Ms. Gail Brantley

Frances Sinquefield – Amen Choir  
from Ms. Susan Binns

Ila & Snag Nevels – Amen Choir  
from Ms. Susan Binns

Stella Hughes – Food Bank  
from Ms. Patricia Thomas

Gene Cameron – Food Bank  
from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

Gene Cameron – Food Bank  
from Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree

Montie & Clyde Miller – Annie Armstrong  
from Ms. Clara Jean Watson

**In Honor of:**

Margaret Weaver 100th Birthday  
Amen Choir – from Ms. Susan Binns

Onezima Everritt – Student Missions  
from Ms. Janet Turner

Mike & Anna Helton – Orchestra  
from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

Fred & Margaret Van Horn – Belize  
from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

JD & Diane Whitehead – Circles  
from Mr. & Mrs. Terry Grimes

WELCOME  
NEW MEMBER

CINDY ROBINSON

IF YOU KNOW  
ANYONE WHO NEEDS A  
CHAIRLIFT

PLEASE  
CALL THE OFFICE

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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