

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2022

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Vacation Bible School 2022

June 5th—9th

5:30-8:30pm

Toddlers—6th Grade



Scan Code to register





A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

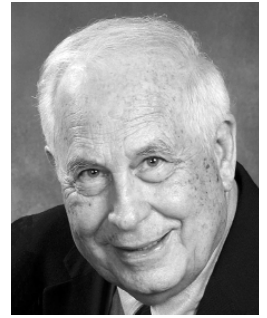
I can remember as a child talking about the world and where we would be in the year 2000. I remember it mostly because I commented I didn't really care because by then I would be 40 and too old to enjoy it. I blinked and there I was and the world didn't end after all. Then I blinked again and I was moving to Alabama to pastor this great church known as Lakewood. Then I blinked again and my children were grown and gone and they were having children. My days have passed like I were dreaming and yet when I look back I see behind me so many milestones, so many people and dreams come true. My weeks feel like days, and my months pass like a week's vacation, gone before I know it. I stand as it seems at the beginning and the end. September and my appointment with a few bears and salmon in Alaska may at this moment seem far ahead but I know the days between will be gone before I know it. These days will always be remembered as the good old days for me even though they had plenty of trouble. This is true because of all of you. Pastoring here at Lakewood has been an honor and a privilege and something I will never forget. But reality has a place in all of our lives and the reality that nothing is constant but God and change remains true to this day. So being able to embrace change empowers us to enjoy and celebrate the days for what they are and strive to make the most of the time that passes so quickly.

Every pastor dreams of leading a great revival and actually leaving their communities and world a better place and I was no different. And like Elijah

we must each learn to live with the reality that we were no better than our ancestors. We must all learn from John the Baptist that a man can only receive what he is given and to celebrate and be content with that. I have been blessed beyond measure throughout my 36 years of ministry and often ask myself why, but this too is meaningless. God's ways are not our ways and the men who think they know better will soon face the reality that the man who thinks he knows something he does not yet know what he should know. I pray that you will remember my days here and thank God for the time we had together. I pray that the mention of my name will bring laughter and not tears in the years that come. In the end what can we actually say? If a man has done his best what else can he do? The next pastor behind me will share my same dreams and I pray he lives to see it all come true! I pray you get to experience God reshaping and changing the world all around you. I will be cheering you in your days of harvest with everything God accomplishes through the seeds we have planted together. Now let's get ready for the summer of 2022!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



It's June, and almost half the year has flown by. The Bible describes the brevity of life as a heavy fog that quickly vanishes with the warmth of the sunlight (James 4:14), and as grass flourishing in the morning, but dry and withered by evening (Psalm 90:6). In addition to its brevity, sometimes life is hard. It doesn't always go our way. Things don't always work out in our timing. And often, it seems we get hit from all sides. Problems can leave us spinning, wondering why we didn't see it coming. We're constantly face-to-face with so many battles—hardship, struggles, broken relationships, illness, and our own weaknesses as human beings. In the midst of all that, we may sometimes feel like we've lost time or missed opportunities along the way. We may struggle with feeling as if we've walked through too many broken years of pain. But I assure you that God knows our way, and He's working far beyond what we can see or imagine. The very fact that you woke up this morning shows that God is not finished with you yet, and He still has things for you to do. According to Joel 2:25-27, God is able to restore all that has been stolen from you. There is a new season ahead, so don't give up. God will do a new thing. He will make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:19). He has a great future and hope for you (Jeremiah 29:11). You are God's masterpiece (the Greek word is the root of our word poem) and He created you for a purpose (Ephesians 2:10). God is able and faithful, and He

is greater than anything we face in this life, and much bigger than our own brokenness and weakness.

I have just completed 86 years on the earth, and I marvel at how quickly I arrived at this point. Actually, I don't regard myself as an old man, but as a young man who has been alive for a long time. Seriously, old age for me does not mean lost youth, but a new season of opportunity and fulfillment. I am well aware of the fact that limitations and challenges accompany old age, but I also believe that in spite of such threatening hindrances, our latter years can still be very productive, creative, and rewarding. If we live as long as Methuselah, we will discover in our 969th year that there is more to observe, learn, and experience. Ponce de Leon searched in vain for a fabled Fountain of Youth, never realizing that the source of the fountain of youth is in one's mind. So, while from the outside everybody may be able to see my old age, I don't feel it on the inside. I want to call upon all you young people who may read this article to respect old age, because it's your future. And I assure you that getting old doesn't require a great deal of effort. All you have to do is live long enough.

"Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made. Our times are in his hand who saith, 'A whole I planned, youth shows but half.' Trust God: See all, nor be afraid!" (Robert Browning)

Lakewood Happenings

JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union		10:00am Breakfast Club	
			1	2	3	4
5:30pm Vacation Bible School	5:30pm Vacation Bible School	5:30pm Vacation Bible School	5:30pm Vacation Bible School	5:30pm Vacation Bible School	10:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5:00pm Deacon's Meeting			7:00pm Finance Team meets		10:00am Breakfast Club	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Father's Day Baby Bottles are due			5:45pm AWANA Wet Wednesday	6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women	10:00am Breakfast Club	10:00am Feed the Homeless
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Rob Morgan Speaking in both services						
26	27	28	29	30		

April Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
4/3	\$20,003.00	\$275.00	\$1,794.00	\$654.70	\$22,726.70
4/10	\$24,080.64	\$140.00	\$2,188.42	\$1,986.98	\$28,396.04
4/17	\$13,841.54	-	\$1,787.50	\$1,316.25	\$16,945.29
4/24	\$10,557.61	\$100.00	\$1,654.37	\$360.12	\$12,672.10

ONGOING ACTIVITIES: SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm AWANA Wet Wednesday
6:00pm Prayer Meeting
6:30pm Youth Worship

A Message from David Stephens



CHILDREN'S MINISTER

It's summer time. FREEDOM!! Isn't this one of the most sought after and cherished things in the world? We fight for it, right? I remember as a child waiting with anticipation for that last day of school, so that I could be free. As a child I really had no idea what I was going to do with my freedom. I just knew I didn't have to go to school for a least 2 months. And I liked school. It was that feeling of not having the structure and demands placed on me and being able to do what I wanted whenever I wanted. This really was never the case. Reality is, I was busier during the summer then during the school year, it just looked different. We all deserve freedom. It's what releases us from our chains. As we approach the summer patriotic holidays of Memorial Day and the 4th of July freedom is something that we think about a lot. We should think about our freedoms afforded to us by the sacrifices of those who have died and gone before us. This is important and worthy of celebration.

But, this freedom is nothing compared to the spiritual freedom we have in Christ. Think about it. You've witnessed people who live under extreme political and cultural oppression but they are free because their freedom is from a supernatural force that supersedes the oppression. You see it written all over their face and it comes out in how they approach life. You've also witnessed people who live in what many would consider to be the freest society ever created by man, but they are not free at all. True freedom is a matter of the heart.

Those who have a relationship with Jesus thru salvation have been set free from the bondage of sin, death and the law. Prior to salvation we were all slaves to sin and condemned to death. Salvation makes us free. Salvation makes us not condemned to a life of guilt and shame. "Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered and set me free" (Psalm 118:5). The Lord desires to set us free. This freedom is available to all who call upon him. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (Corinthians 3:17). As we gather our barbeque supplies for the grill season, and prepare our smokers for tasty meats, let's remember the foundation to all freedom comes from the Cross of Christ. Having political freedom to move about, make choices, pursue dreams, and build empires is incredible. But, it must have its foundation in the Cross. "For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God" (1Peter 2:15-16). This is what I like to tell people who have uncertainty about how to move forward in a situation. "Just do the next right thing". When you do what is right thru the lens of the Cross as your True North there is a freedom about you that cannot be shaken regardless of the environment.

Kids Ministry Calendar for JUNE

VBS June 5 – 9

Wet Wednesday June 22 (6PM – 7:30)

***Please let me know if you are available to help with VBS,
There is a spot for you!***



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Recently, on graduation Sunday, I spoke about the absolute surrender and submission of several people outlined in 1 Samuel 1-3. The first was Hannah, who was barren for a time before the Lord opened her womb and gave her a miraculous child. Hannah promised to dedicate her firstborn son to the Lord and when she became pregnant and gave birth, she indeed delivered the child she loved to Lord. She dedicated and delivered her most prized possession to the Lord. God not only answered Hannah's prayer, but God honored her obedience, as Hannah ended up with three sons and two daughters. We also saw the surrender and submission of Eli, a flawed priest, who would not reign in his wicked sons. God judged Eli, his sons, and his family, and Eli surrendered and submitted to the Lord's discipline in 1 Samuel 3:18b; "He is the LORD let Him do what is good in His eyes." Finally, we saw the surrender and submission of Samuel. His mother may have dedicated him to the Lord, but Samuel had to submit to it. Samuel was obedient to his parents, he faithfully served under Eli, and he was obedient to the Lord when he surrendered to his calling.

Samuel, from a young age, grew up in the house of the Lord and served alongside Eli the priest. Most of you know how the Lord began to speak to Samuel during a time when God was mostly silent (1 Sam. 3:1). Once, while Eli and Samuel were sleeping, Samuel awoke to a voice calling his name. Thinking it was Eli, Samuel came to him and said; "Here I am." Eli told Samuel that he did not call him and that he should go back and lay down. A second time, Samuel awoke to a voice calling his name. Again, Samuel thought it was Eli, but again, Eli said he did not call him and that he should go back to sleep. Finally, a third time the voice called Samuel's name, and Samuel returned to Eli's bedside, but this time, the man of God realized that it was God calling Samuel's name. He told Samuel to lay back down and if he heard the voice for the fourth time, he should say; "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." God broke His silence, as He began to raise Samuel to become the leader in the nation of Israel. During the lifetime of Samuel God used his leadership to subdue the Philistines and restore Israel's territory. I love 1 Samuel 3:19 which says; "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and He (God) let none of his words fall to the ground." God spoke to Samuel, and then God spoke through Samuel, and then used Samuel's life to bring glory to Himself.

My personal story begins similarly. Like Hannah, my mother Dora is a woman of prayer. She has prayed for me my entire life. She has always been my biggest fan. She ensured I grew up in the house of the Lord. She has prayed for many years that I would have the opportunity to serve as a lead pastor in a local church, and she has always encouraged me to pursue such a goal. Yet, I wanted to hear such a call from the Lord. As I look back over my life there were several times when God called my name. Sometimes I listened and sometimes I did not. Yet, in His grace, He continued to call and I hope that I've learned to listen to His voice. I first answered His call when I was seven years old when I surrendered my life to the Lord

and was baptized. I answered His call at age nineteen when He surprisingly called us into the ministry and placed us in a small local church. Several years later, we answered His call to serve at my home church (Edgewood Baptist), where Paige and I served for a decade. Thirteen-plus years ago, we answered His call to come across the river and serve here at Lakewood. While it's hard for me to believe, all those years add up to 26+ years of ministry.

About 2+ years ago I began to hear God call again. This call was more unsettling because it would take me out of my comfort zone, as all I ever wanted to be was a student pastor. At that time, I sat down with Bro. MR and shared my heart with him, that the Lord was leading me to something other than student ministry, though I didn't know what that would look like? I sought wise counsel from other brothers in Christ and continued to give my all to our students and young adults while waiting on the Lord. Then Covid came, and the world changed. A defining mark of our ministries over the years is an emphasis on overseas missions. However, with Covid, we could no longer travel freely around the world. So, we dug in, and served more locally, and served more around our country, something we continue to do to this day. Ministry has also changed, some for the good and much for the bad, but the Kingdom is still advancing. Fast forward to early April when Bro. MR told me of his plan to retire. At first, I tried my best to dissuade him from doing so. However, after it became clear that his heart was at peace with his decision I began to pray. One thing soon became clear; Bro. MR's change meant change for me and my family as well.

I asked Bro. MR's permission to write this letter to you, and he has encouraged me to do so. I want you to hear it from me; I feel now is the time to answer God's call. By God's grace, I have humbly stepped forward for your consideration to follow Bro. MR as senior pastor. I will tell you upfront, I don't have all the answers, and I'm certainly not perfect, but we are ready to follow God's lead. There are many more qualified, and many more experienced than I, but I firmly believe; that to which God calls you, He will always equip you. I do know this church well, and you know me. My God-enabled character, commitment to the Word, missions, preaching, discipleship, organization, work ethic, and leadership has been on display for more than a decade. We love this church and its people and we have loyally served through the good, the bad, and the ugly. Paige and I ask for your prayers in this endeavor, as we are praying for God's sovereign will to be done. We are at peace, whatever happens, it will be an answer to prayer. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know the One who holds it. Finally, I would never compare myself to any biblical character, but I do echo their hearts; "Here I am Lord, speak, your servant is listening", and "He is the LORD let Him do what is good in His eyes." God bless,

drew
John 3:30



Suggested Donation Change

Due to growing project and ministry costs in providing evangelism and discipleship materials to shoebox recipients, the per shoebox suggested donation will increase from \$9 to \$10 in 2022. As economic and supply chain challenges continue, we are experiencing significant increases in many areas, specifically the printing of materials and overall transportation and shipping costs. A suggested donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to transporting and delivering shoeboxes into the hands of a child in need. It also provides ministry materials, such as cardboard shipping cartons, The Greatest Gift Gospel booklet for children, and the Ministry Partner Guide for local outreach event training. The decision to increase the suggested donation has been made prayerfully, with a great deal of input from Samaritan's Purse leadership. We trust God to continue providing for the ministry of Operation Christmas Child and look forward to seeing how He moves in 2022!

Lift Weights

MAN-UP

PLAY VIDEO GAMES

SHOOT HOOPS

THURSDAY, June 23rd

5:00pm - 8:30pm

OPEN TO ALL MEN

Coffee &

Light Refreshments

OPEN GYM

Lounge Around



In Memory of

Dot Oliver

For Amen Choir From
Carolyn Jones
Margie Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hollon
Kyle Opera

For Children's Ministry from
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
Clara Jean Watson
Myra Currier
Brenda Evans

For Merge Kids Camp from
Pat Holland

For Mercy Med from
Gail Brantley

For Ukraine from
Fran Loftin

For General Fund from
Mary Minkanic

Rita Nevels

For General Fund from
Susan Binns

Shirley Pope

for General Fund from
Fran Loftin
Sue Woods
Rob & Denise Ferrell

Barbara Stewart

for General Fund from
Fran Loftin
Stella Hughes for LOAF

In Honor of:

Margaret Weaver 101st Birthday
For General Fund from
Susan Binns

David & Pansy Slocumb
for Amen Choir from
Susan Binns

For Family Activity Center for
from Carolyn Jones

Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Nevels

For General Fund from
Susan Binns

Bum Clegg Birthday
from Glenda Medley

SENIOR ADULT GAME NIGHT

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FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

5:30PM - FH

SCRAMBLED DOG
CHIPS & DESSERT

BABY BOTTLES DUE BACK FATHER'S DAY

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton

PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

David Stephens

CHILDREN
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH
JHORNER@LBCPC.ORG

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello

FINANCE ASSISTANT
MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault

OFFICE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown

MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867
O: 334.298.6433
Fax: 334.298.4873
FAC: 334.298.6460
LBCPC.org
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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