

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 2021

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*A fun time was
had by all
celebrating
Onezima*



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

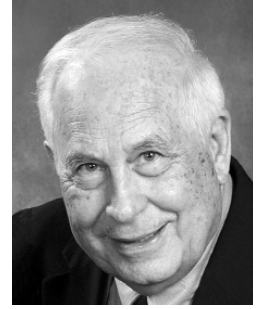
.....
SENIOR PASTOR

May flowers are the best flowers of the year because for most of North America they are the first flowers of the year. They represent so much more than the sum of their parts because they represent the return of life to a dormant landscape. They signal the end of a season of winter and they bring the promise that summer will be here soon. They are photographed more than any flowers of the year as families gather for graduations and celebrate the end of yet another school year. This year they represent life returning to a new kind of normal as we start to see life returning to our churches. Faces we have not seen in months are greeting us in the halls and meeting areas of the church. Our church calendar actually has events planned and scheduled for this year that we fully expect to get done. Mission trips are returning to our schedule this year as our builders are off to Vermont and our team is traveling to the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation as well. Foreign mission trips are still on hold as their lives are not yet stabilizing as our have so please continue to pray for our sister churches like Belize and Kenya. The signs of life returning to a new kind of normal in their world seem distant at best. Now as never before we must remember to pray for and support them with the physical resources they need to survive this crisis. We as Americans don't relate well with the majority of the world because we have so much here in our country. Their subsistence style of living means they live from hand to mouth as we would like to say. They work for the food they eat each day and their wages go

straight from their hand to their food they put in their mouths. When they don't work a single day they don't eat that day. When they are forced by this crisis to not work for weeks and then months they perish. \$12.00 feeds a child for a full month in Belize and in Kenya \$10.00 keeps a child in school and supplied for a month as well. As we celebrate the returning beauty and life to our world let us never forget those who love us and pray for us daily that still remain in a season of suffering. In Belize and Kenya the situation remains very difficult and God has joined us with those ministries for a reason. I believe with all my heart that we have an opportunity to be their May flowers. To be their symbol of hope that assures them that they will make it through this season. I believe we will hear the reports of great things they have done for the Kingdom if we are faithful to keep them alive to get that opportunity. So this year I want to challenge you to invest in the Kingdom by investing in our sister ministries in Kenya and Belize. I promise you ever single penny given will get to those ministries 100% of the time.

So as you go about your daily routine please stop and enjoy all the signs of life around you. The flowers are blooming and there are signs of life everywhere you look and yes even in your church. God has been so good to us this past year and not one of His promises failed to come true. Now we can make His promises come true for our sister churches as well so please join me in praying for and yes paying for the same in those churches.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

On April 30 I began my 86th orbit around the sun. Let's see, that's 584 million miles each loop, multiplied by 85, at the speed of 67,000 mph. Those figures add up to a very short journey. From childhood to youth was just a short step. From youth to manhood was even shorter, and from manhood to my present status, to which some refer as venerability, has been the shortest of all. The trip has been exciting and the scenery has been spectacular. I have met thousands of fellow passengers along the way, many of whom became close friends. There have been obstacles and detours, but nothing has deterred me. There have been storms, but rainbows have followed. There has been poverty, but there has also been plenty. There have been reversals, but recovery has always hastened. There have been tears and sorrow, always overcome by laughter and joy. There have been defeats, all voided by the discovery of the way to victory. There have been mistakes, but they have been edifying in the process of learning the correct way. There have been failures, only to be heaped up to form a platform for success. There have been trials, but each one has called forth new strength. Through all these experiences, I have learned that God keeps His word. It's true that He works all things together for good to those who love Him and who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). And it's also true that He supplies every need (Philippians 4:19).

Evaluating age involves more than chronology and biology. You don't grow old merely by living a number of years. Your attitude is a determining factor. Getting older simply means what you tell yourself it is, and nothing else. If you accept the stereotyped image of old age, then you resign yourself to the rocking chair to gather dust and mold and to sleep and let others dote on you until you fade away. But it doesn't have to be that way. You

can age gracefully, which doesn't mean that you deny that you're getting older. It means staying active, physically as much as you can, but most certainly in mental activity. When you cease learning, then you're not only old, you have given up on life. You may exist, but the spark of life is gone. Nobody is too old to learn something. There is always room for another goal to accomplish, and there is still much to discover. A whole new curriculum is open to you, and you find new adventures. Don't ever use age as an excuse for not pursuing something new, saying that you're too old to start it or to learn it. How old will you be if you don't try it? "Young at heart" may sound like a foolish cliché, but I'm speaking of reality that's not only healthy, but contagious. You can always be young at heart, even if you're older in other places.

The Bible says that we are God's "workmanship," and that He has created for each of us a pathway of good works in which we should walk (Ephesians 2:10). The word "workmanship" translates the Greek word from which our word "poem" comes. You are God's poetry, and each poem is unique. He composed you individually, and He has designed a plan just for your life. Furthermore, He provides both the guidance and the strength for you to follow that path.

I'm looking forward to the next few years, however many or few they may be, because I believe they will be the most productive years of my life. Besides, growing old is not so bad when you consider the alternative.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Graduation time always leaves me wishing for more time to invest in these young adults. It's hard to believe that I'm in my 25th year of student ministry, and both of my own children are now technical adults, with one engaged to be married. I've had the opportunity and blessing to watch each of our graduates grow up and become young adults. Most of these graduates are competitors, whether in athletics, academics, or the performing arts, they all know what it means to get ready for a performance. They practice, they get ready, and they have all performed well. However, now it's time for the big game to fully begin, the game called life. This is the time where what they've practiced here at church will be put to the test. They will be tempted to fall into sin more than ever before. They will encounter professors who actively teach an anti-God message. They will be challenged to follow the world and to see society through a humanistic world view. They will encounter a culture that is openly hostile to God, and will pressure them to conform their beliefs and actions to theirs. These grads will need to ask themselves a series of questions. *Who is Jesus Christ to me & what is His role in my life? Is He truly Lord and Savior, or is He just something I used to do when I was a kid? Was it my parent's faith, just a Southern tradition, or was it genuine redemption and true relationship? Is this a jumping off point into the next stage of life where I will grow and foster my own walk with Christ, or will I fall away? Will the temptations of this world be more attractive than Christ? Or will I endure and persevere till the end?*

As you've probably heard before, the statistics are not good for church-going high school seniors on the precipice of graduation. Some studies show as many as 80% of those church-going graduates will also graduate from their "faith", and will never return to the Church or find true personal relationship with Christ. This trend is scary and menacing and has led to much soul-searching among ministers. What I can tell you is what we, by the grace of God, have done here at Lakewood. We've discipled them, we've taught them and instilled Gospel truths, we've provided them with acts of service, we've explained and trained them on apologetics, and we've taken them around the city, around the country, and around the world on missions. Now, that structure will likely be removed or at least lessened, especially for those who go off to college. Now, more than ever, they will need to choose to sustain their walk with God with self-discipline. Our goal in student ministry is to be **REAL** with our students, this moniker means we seek to **Reach** young adults with the truth of the gospel, **Equip** them with truth, knowledge, and understanding for the defense of the faith, **Ask** them to ask others to come and hear about Christ, and finally to **Lead** with their lives so

others will follow and see Jesus through their faithfulness. When Jesus trained His disciples He then sent them out to do the work. Then, after His ascension, He gave them the Holy Spirit, and empowered them to become the Apostles, and the world was never the same. I believe the same outcome is available for any of our students, anyone of them, who are true disciples of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can make a difference and change the world for the sake of the Kingdom. Let me end with three verses; **one a promise, one an encouragement, and one a warning.**

Real Sheep- John 10:27-30

"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." These verses bring parents peace to know that the results are up to God. It's not us holding on to God, it's God holding on to us. Pray for your kids, invest in their spiritual lives, prioritize worship, show them an example worth following, and trust in God's providential hand.

The Endurance of Faith- Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." These verses promise that God empowers our endurance and that we don't have to be ruled by our fleshly desires. Find your joy in Christ alone, for He found His joy in redeeming you!

God's faithfulness & our sinfulness- 1 Corinthians 10:12-14

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." These verses promise God's faithfulness even when we are weak, and even when we fail. Nothing we endure has not been before, and will be again. He always provides a way out. Don't be self-righteous, don't be over-confident, don't become legalistic, instead, stand in the grace of God. He who began a good work in you will see it to completion.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



Wow! We are only a month away from summertime. When I think of the month of May; the first thing that comes to mind are all the MOM's that we celebrate. The family unit is under attack, and we must never stop honoring our mother's for their sacrifice in bringing us into the world.

I have been studying in 1 Peter recently, and a concept that has been an encouragement to me, and I pray for you as well is how the Word of the Lord endures forever. What is the word of the Lord? It's the Gospel that was proclaimed to you. (1 Peter 1:25;26) We must rid ourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander, and like newborn babies crave the pure milk of the word, so that we will grow up. We must never stop craving the word of the Lord. We must be real and raw with our feelings, understand our choices matter, recognize strongholds in our life, and always be reevaluating our outlook. It's important that we have people around us that will be able to help us in each season of our life to do this well. This is when we need our brother's and sister's in Christ to be real and raw about what they see in us. When we have pain we need our faith family, our parents and siblings. We will have suffering and pain. A good way to look at pain is the distance between expectations and reality, and when we step into what is real we will suffer, but this is what we are called to do. Look at Jesus; normally the hero is protected from pain and suffering. Not our Hero! He suffered and died so that we can live. This is the heart of the Gospel, that we must never stop craving to know and be known by. We are living in the age of the now and the not yet. Let's raise our families to live for the Gospel well in the 'now' so we are ready for the 'not yet'.

Elementary Children's Church for May

Theme, 5K: Run the Race

Virtue: Commitment : making a plan and putting it into practice.

Week One: Training to Win the Prize (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) Bottom Line: Keep practicing what matters most.

Week Two: The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29) Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Week Three: Model Prayer (Luke 11:1-4) Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Week Four: Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah (Matthew 16:13-20) Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Week Five: Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44) Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Preschool Children's Church for May

Theme: JUMP, JUMP

Week One: Genesis 1:31; 2:8-3:24 God creates the world and puts Adam and Eve in a garden, but they do not go God's way.

Week Two: Jonah 1:1-3:10 Jonah learns the hard way that he should go God's way when he is swallowed by a huge fish.

Week Three: 2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman chooses to go God's way and dip in the river, even though it is hard to do.

Week Four: 2 Chronicles 34 King Josiah tells others to go God's way, even though he is young.

Week Five: Judges 7:1-8 Gideon trusts that God's way is perfect, even though it does not make sense at the time.

Calendar:

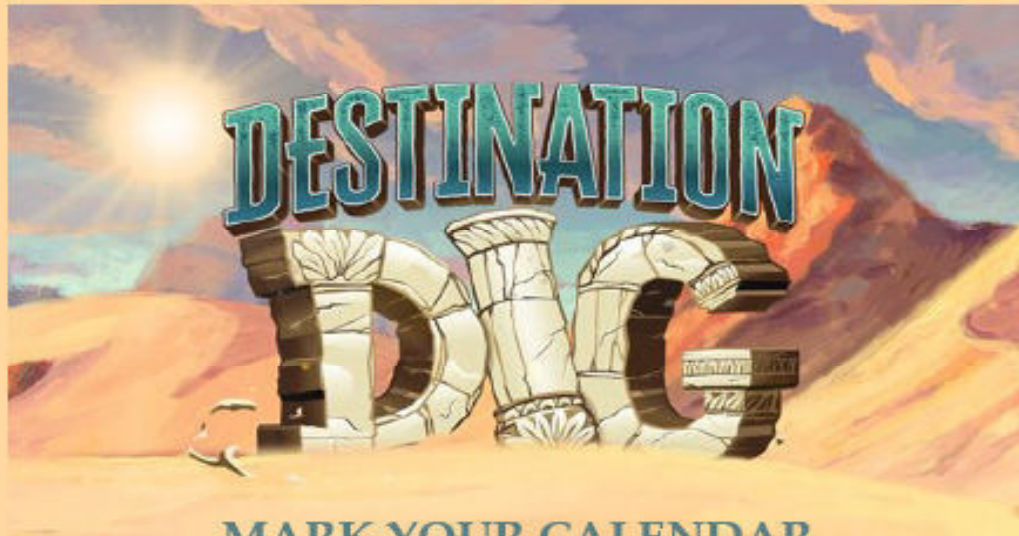
Sunday May 2 at 6PM we will be having my Ordination Service here at the church. This is something that my family and I have been looking forward to, and am blessed that it is now able to happen.

This month for **Mother's Day May 9** we will be having a brunch for Mom's with kids in Sunday School during the Sunday School hour.

Awana Celebration to close out this Awana year is May 19. Our kids have been working hard, and this will be a fun night for them and their families.

We are having **VBS** on campus this year: **June 6 – 10 from 5:30PM – 8:30PM**. We are in need of volunteers to dedicate their evening this week to minister to kids that will be coming onto our campus. We are using the Lifeway 'Destination Dig' program. Unearthing the Truth about Jesus (Jeremiah 29:13)

Please let me know if you can help, we will need it! Let's kick off this summer with an Awesome VBS that will show our community that we are strong and will be an active force in presenting the Gospel to families in our community to bring the lost into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VBS June 6-10 5:30-8:30pm



**American
Red Cross**

"We are working with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive sometime in the near future.

If the date and time are convenient for you, can we count on you to participate?

If so, please allow us to place your name and contact information on our interest survey.

Once we know the date, We will contact you to find a place for you on the appointment schedule."

There are sign up sheets around the church and several of our ladies have sign up sheets.

Katie Hamilton

Mary Kay Wilson

Tammy Smith

Lisa Woodburn

Lesley Stephens

Jordan Spires

Shannon Scruggs

Lakewood Happenings

May 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
6:00pm Ordination Service						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mother's Day 11:00am Baby Dedication	6:00pm Wom. Ministry Meet		7:00pm Deacons meet			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11:00am Graduate Recognition			7:00pm Finance meets Last AWANA meeting w/store			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
11:00am Celebrate Robert W.				NO JEG/BW		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/7	\$22,201.19	\$45.00	\$1,559.60	\$813.10	\$24,618.79
3/14	\$19,329.26	\$35.00	\$6,453.50	\$1,132.00	\$26,949.76
3/21	\$17,105.88	\$136.00	\$2,257.00	\$2,839.00	\$22,337.88
3/28	\$9,545.57	\$50.00	\$1,423.00	\$893.00	\$11,911.57

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:

Mr. & Mrs. JP Benton for Merge Camp
from Mr. & Mrs. Billy Greene

Stella & Stancel Hughes for Food Closet
from Patricia Thomas

Roland Griffith and Bill Wilson for Youth Missions
from Margaret Wilson

King & Rain Thomas for Food Closet
from Patricia Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. JP Benton for Builders for Christ
from Mr. & Mrs. Billy Greene

In Honor of:

Glenn & Daphne Hughes for Food Pantry
from Patricia Thomas

Pat Phillips for Builders for Christ
from Mr. & Mrs. Billy Greene

Ruth Drinkard for Builders for Christ
from Mr. & Mrs. Billy Greene

Drew Spires for Youth from Janet Turner

Onezima Everritt for Circles of Influence
from Fred Van Horn

BABY DEDICATION

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 9TH

LET DAVID KNOW
IF YOU HAVE A CHILD
TO BE DEDICATED

FOR MORE INFO

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