

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2021 VOL XI: ISSUE 11 LBCPC.ORG

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

November 7th

10:30AM

Family Activities Center

Lunch will be provided

Call church office or sign up in your bible fellowship class

TIME CHANGES

Sunday, November 7th

FALL BACK



Welcome Home.



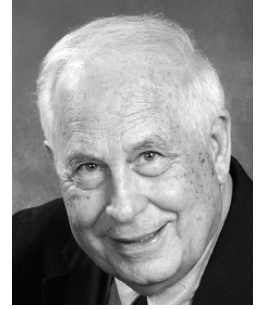
A Message from *M.R. Hamilton*

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SENIOR PASTOR

It cannot be November 2021! Where did 2021 go and where was I that I missed it? I have a sneaky suspicion I'm not the only one feeling this way as we had such high expectations for the year 2021 after 2020 painfully passed like a slow moving kidney stone. But praise God we are still here and clawing back tiny pieces of what we once called normal. Our orchestra is coming back and sounding better each week. Both our Amen and Alleluia choirs are back to practicing and we are planning to have three Christmas events again this year with a choir program as well as an instrumental Christmas concert and the Christmas eve candle light service. But this is a celebration of making it to November and November 7th is homecoming with lots of guests from our past as well as a meal. We will have one combined service held in the Family Activity Center starting at 10:30 so plan to be there.

This is the month we as Nation celebrate the spirit of appreciation we call Thanksgiving and we need it more this year than any I can ever remember. 2020 and now 2021 have seen a dark spirit of discontent fall on our nation and I want to challenge everyone who reads these words to strive to be intentionally kind, patient, and appreciative this holiday season. We look around and complain about the world being like it is and this holiday season we have the opportunity to make the world around us a better place. Why don't we do this very thing all the time and not wait until these days remind us of our place and purpose to be a light in the darkness. The really good news about the darkness of this day is the very fact that it will not take a great light to stand out and be seen. I dare to dream of a day when acts of kindness are common place and where it would take a great sacrifice to get noticed as everyone was willing and happy to perform random acts of kindness. This November may not be the day that dream comes true but it can happen in my world right around me if I choose to be intentionally kinder and humbler and more gracious. **Just imagine how much better the world would be if we all just decided to stop listening to the leaders of discontent.** If we each one decided to stop allowing the critics to speak into our lives and we began to use our gifts of speech to build others up and to encourage not discourage others. Now before you get your feelings hurt and think I am crazy to dream such dreams just remember this dream is not my own. God set forth this vision for the church in Ephesians 4:29-32. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth but what is good for edification that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you." As always God said in two sentences what I couldn't get said in a whole paragraph. This Holiday Season let us who are called by His name give thanks for this is the day the Lord has made and we can rejoice and be glad in it.

A Message from *Dr. Jerry Horner*



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Faith is the identifying mark of a Christian. In the New Testament, followers of Jesus were called believers long before they were called Christians. According to Jesus, faith is also the chief duty of a Christian. He said in John 6:29, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." If faith is the chief duty, then unbelief is the greatest evil. There is no greater sin than the sin of unbelief. That's the sin that will consign a person to hell for eternity. The Bible says, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). Condemnation is pronounced not because a person steals or lies or murders, but because that person doesn't believe. Unbelief is the root sin out of which all other sins grow.

Nothing hinders the work of God in your life like unbelief. Jesus could not do many miracles in His hometown of Nazareth, not because of His inability, but because of the unbelief of the people (Matt. 13:58; Mark 6:5). How many times have we bound by unbelief the hands that want to bless us?

Four times the Bible states that "the just shall live by faith" (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). When God says something four times, I get the idea that He's trying to tell us something, and in this case, it's that the way to live the Christian life is by faith. The measure of your accomplishment is by faith. "According to your faith, let it be done to you" (Matt. 9:29). Do you want to please God? People will try all kinds of things to please God. They will go on pilgrimages, give money, make sacrifices, mutilate themselves, and do outlandish things in trying to please God. The way to please God is simple: "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). Faith pleases God because it honors Him. Are the oppressions of the world weighing you down and you're struggling? The Bible declares, "This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4). Are you facing insurmountable problems, and you don't know what to do? Jesus said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matt. 17:20).

There is not space enough to emphasize to you the importance of faith, to explain what it is, how it operates, and how you can grow in faith. Therefore, over the next few weeks on Wednesday evenings, I am teaching life-changing "Lessons from the School of Faith."



A Message from *Andrew Spires*

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Are you thankful enough?

I wish I could say that I'm good at being thankful, but I'm not. When things go well, I tend to think that I accomplished and deserved it. When things go badly, I tend to think someone else is to blame and somehow, I deserved better. **How foolish am I?** One of the most consistent **imperatives** in the bible, both Old & New Testaments, is to **overflow** with thankfulness towards God in all of life's circumstances. **Philippians 4:6** says; "Do not be anxious about anything, but in **every situation**, by **prayer and petition**, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to God." Under the Old Covenant, the nation of Israel was commanded to give regular offerings as **propitiation** for their sins, and one of these offerings was called the 'freewill offering (of thanksgiving)'. These offerings were a regular sign of the people's thankfulness for God's goodness, favor, and grace in spite of their sinfulness. They could also be offered alongside a fulfilled vow or for God's divine providence and deliverance in time of need. The idea for the sacrificial system was not for God to forcibly take offerings from them, but more that they willfully practiced these offerings, the more they would realize how good God was to them, not giving them what their sins deserved. Ultimately, the sacrificial system was there to point to the perfect sacrifice paid in the blood of Jesus.

Fast forward to modern times, despite what you may think America didn't invent Thanksgiving, we brought the tradition from England. Of course, we added the Pilgrim and Native American narrative, but we've largely lost the major intent of the holiday; **thankfulness to Almighty God**. In England, Thanksgiving was a day spent, often at church, in prayer and fasting, thanking God for His manifold blessings. Even the Pilgrims attributed their survival, not only to the help of the Native Americans, but again to God's divine providence. Leave it to us as Americans, to change a day of church, prayer, and fasting to a day of couch-sitting, football, and gorging ourselves with food! Throughout early American history there were regular national days of thanksgiving and days of prayer and fasting, before we coalesced around one holiday called Thanksgiving.

Yet, thankfulness should never be a one day year action, and it is not some kind of feigned spiritual fruit we are supposed to espouse. **Thankfulness is a real, learned spiritual trait**. Think of Job's first trial, when he lost his wealth, his ability to earn, his servants, his livestock, and his children, all in one day...what was his response? **Job 1:20-21** says; "At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground **in worship** and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away**; may the name of the LORD **be praised**." I don't know about you, but I'm not there yet?! I want to be, but I know I'm not. I want to look at all of life's circumstances, whether good or bad, and be able to worship God with a true heart of thankfulness.

Furthermore, the secret is found in **Philippians 4:12** where Paul writes; "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the **secret of being content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this **through Him** who gives me strength" Thankfulness in all of life's situations is a **practiced trait, empowered by God's strength**, not my own. If I am at peace inwardly with God's divine providence and will, then I will become more outwardly thankful. So, I am trying to practice thankfulness more by regularly filling my prayers with thanksgiving and by resting in His plan which is always better than mine. Will you join me in this?

God bless,
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A Message from *David Stephens*

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



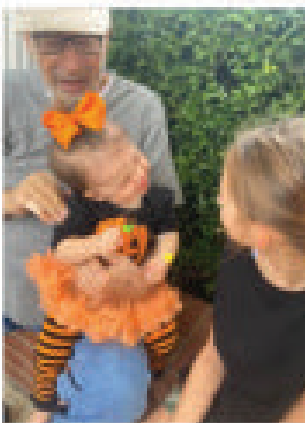
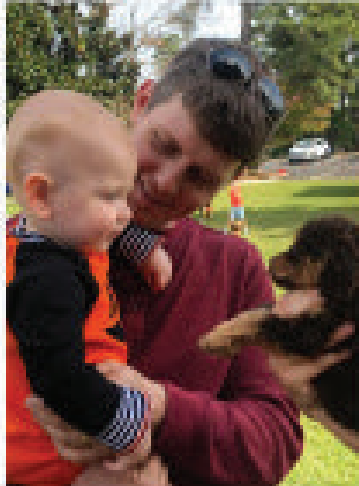
The Small is the new Big! Covid church return data is alarming. It seems to basically be broken down into 3rds. 1/3 coming back strong and deeply committed. 1/3 is back and hanging out or waiting to see what is going to happen. 1/3 is not coming back. Time will give us more data to confirm or deny these findings. But, there are many churches that are reporting 100% return for their smaller campuses as compared to about a 70% return for larger campuses. It seems that people actually really do want to be in fellowship where they are known by their brothers and sisters in Christ. Smaller groups of people that know each other and are actively pursuing life together across generations is the new Big thing. We are seeing that 'old school' ways of serving our community still work well; cards in the mail, care packages, one on one meetings, personal telephone calls, emails (now considered old school), breaking bread together corporately and in our homes. Many times when we look at our impact in ministry, we can easily fall into the trap of only asking big picture questions. Did everybody have fun? How many cakes did we sell? How many people came thru the line? What were the check-in numbers for the weekend? We do need to answer these questions. But we also and more importantly need to be asking better questions. What did you learn of God tonight? How did the Holy Spirit show up? Who can you relate to from your lesson today? We must ask smaller picture questions that help us speak to the hearts of the people.

To illustrate this concept, let's compare Fred Rogers with Walt Disney. Take a moment and really think about the differences between these two men. Walt built a fantasy world while Fred lived in a neighborhood. I cannot deny the fact that I love big adventure theme parks. I've been to many throughout the Midwest. I have not been to Disney, but I've heard it's very magical, it's a place where dreams come true, there's no trash, very little bugs. Walt's world is perfect, it's an attempt to create a miniature of what our hearts long for, or maybe even provide a heaven on earth moment in time. This world is large and flashy. It's entertaining and the productions are excellent. Fred's world definitely did have fantasy elements in it, but he didn't lie about it. He told us he was going to take us to a land of make believe. His fiction was grounded in reality and founded by his faith in God. Fred tackled real life topics of divorce, disability, and race. Fred connected with real people in real life. I am not against fantasy in the least. I've read C.S. Lewis to my children. Lewis and Tolkien were greatly impacted by fantasy stories. I believe fantasy stories have the ability for us to smuggle truths past gate keepers. We can smuggle the truths of scripture past the dragons that are looking to devour our kids. These truths must not only challenge a child's mind but change their heart. This is great stuff, but, we cannot survive on entertainment and fantastic performance alone. We must be able to look into the eyes of our kids, our people with credibility to speak to their heart entering their mess. **This takes showing up and listening with understanding to the people God has placed in our space.** Developing smaller picture neighborhood style relationships is Big time!

November is now here!

Our major Kids Ministry Activity is November 10 from 6pm – 8pm where our Awana kids will be packing Operations Christmas Child boxes. Our goal is 1000 boxes placed under the cross for the church to see and celebrate Sunday morning of the 14th.

There will be no Awana Nov 24th.



FALL
FESTIVAL
FUN

2021

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN OF LBC IN NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD - 10:30AM IN REX CARTER'S CALSSROOM - VIRGINIA KENNEDY BAPTIST WOMEN

*SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH - 6:00PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL - GAME NIGHT
WINGS AND TAILGATING FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED*

*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 21ST, 28TH - 5:00PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL -
4 WEEK BIBLE STUDY - OUR HOPE HAS COME*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH - HOME OF BECKY ADERHOLD - JANE ELLEN GAINES BAPTIST WOMEN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH - 7:00PM ON THE FRONT LAWN - PRAYER TREE PROGRAM

Lakewood Happenings

November 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare		10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Time Change 10:30am Homecoming in Family Activities Center	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare			Veteran's Day		6:00pm Women's Game Night in Fellowship Hall
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5:00pm Deacons Meet 5:00pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare OCC Dropoff....	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 	7:00pm Finance 	6:00pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women The Aderholds
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5:00pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 	10:30am Amen Choir 	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 		Thanksgiving Office Closed	Office Closed	11:00am Singles/ Young Adults Feed the homeless
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5:00pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall	10:30am Amen Choir 7:00pm Prayer Tree Front Lawn	6:15pm Alleluia Choir				
28	29	30				

September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/5	\$22,337.71	\$260.00	\$1,791.00	\$580.00	\$24,968.71
9/12	\$14,244.25	-	\$1,945.50	\$175.00	\$16,364.75
9/19	\$15,165.17	\$30.00	\$2,366.00	\$615.00	\$18,176.17
9/26	\$10,861.75	-	\$1,020.00	\$634.00	\$12,515.75

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary

Worship

10:00am Bible Fellowship

11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE

6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Harry Horne

AMEN CHOIR

GA POWER AMBASSADORS
MR. & MRS. STEPHEN STAINSBY
JAMES PEARSON

MARK GILES

GENERAL FUND – GLENDA MEDLEY

KING & RAIN THOMAS

FOOD CLOSET – PATRICIA THOMAS

In Honor of:

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Windham

COI – Terry Grimes

Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead

General Fund – Terry Grimes

Mrs Jean Tedder for Awana OCC



**LADIES
BIBLE
STUDY**

*“OUR HOPE HAS
COME”*

4 WEEK STUDY

10/31, 11/14

11/21, 11/28

5:00 PM

**FELLOWSHIP
HALL**

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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