

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOL XII: ISSUE 9 LBCPC.ORG

**AWAWANA**

**9/7 | 6PM**

**1 YEAR TO 6TH GRADE**





Thanks for the memories

# *A Message from* **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



All of us should be intensively and prayerfully supportive of our Pastoral Search Committee as they seek to fulfill the responsibility that our confidence has placed upon them. While there may be a host of dedicated and experienced candidates qualified to be the pastor of Lakewood, we are interested in only one, and that is the one whom the Lord has commissioned. How will we recognize him? Well, it goes without saying that he must be spiritually mature, filled with the Holy Spirit, truly committed to the truth and authority of the Bible, and that he meets the requirements specified in such Scriptures as 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. **The Word of God is the means by which we must select our pastor. There should be absolutely no human reasoning or opinions that are the basis of selecting a pastor.**

Not only must the pastor affirm the authority of Scripture, but he should be constantly studying the Bible, and not just when preparing sermons. Concerning his pulpit ministry, he should be committed to expositional preaching, in which he views the pulpit not as a platform for expressing his own opinions, but for telling people what God has to say. His preaching and teaching should demonstrate a compelling combination of analysis, exhortation, and adoration. Analysis: explaining what the text said to its original readers and what it says to us today, not just in general terms, but to each individual personally. Exhortation: applying the text to practical daily living. Adoration: leading people to worship and praise the Author of Scripture. This combination will leave no doubt that this man feels

the truth of which he speaks.

The pastor should not view the church membership roll as a way to measure success in ministry, that is, the higher the numbers, the greater the sign of God's blessing. But this attitude is misguided and grossly unbiblical. A true pastor will care that every individual church member understands the gospel and is spiritually thriving more than focusing on the number of members. **He will care less about a growing number of people than about a number of people growing.**

The pastor should clearly understand that he is an under-shepherd to the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and he should recognize that he is responsible to "shepherd the flock of God" (1 Peter 5:2), knowing that he will be held accountable for how he cares for the sheep (Hebrews 13:17). In Acts 20:28-31, Paul made it abundantly clear that pastors are to be on guard for themselves and for the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made them shepherds, particularly to protect the people from false doctrine. He gave the same instructions to the young pastor Timothy (1 Timothy 4). As a shepherd, the pastor's responsibility is to feed and to guard the flock.

Ephesians 4:11-13 enlarges that responsibility. The pastor is responsible "for the equipping of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

We should measure the effectiveness of a pastor's ministry not by how many people he stuffs into the building, but by how Christlike his people are. (Cont.)

# A Message from Andrew Spires

MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

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Over the past few weeks, our students have been studying the Old Testament book of Jonah. This familiar story still has much to teach us despite most of us having heard it since we were children. We aren't completely finished with this study, but I thought I might share a few of the truths we have discerned.

In chapter 1, we learned the lesson of **God's patience** with Jonah as he ran from the Lord in disobedience. Our God is a patient God, despite man's pride and arrogance thinking we know what is best. We also saw **God's power** over nature, as God orchestrated a storm to bring revival to a bunch of pagan sailors on a boat, and to get His servant into the depths of the sea. Once Jonah was in the water, he reached the end of his abilities, and became totally reliant upon God for his life.

In chapter 2, we read the **repentant prayer** of the prophet Jonah from the belly of the great fish. **Our God is sovereign** over the affairs of mankind and He alone can save, even when all hope is lost. We wondered what crossed the mind of Jonah as that great fish swallowed him whole, only later to realize that the fish was God's vessel of salvation. We learned that **God always hears a repentant prayer**, no matter how far we run, God sees and hears us. We also understood that we should never reject the discipline and chastening of the Lord. Instead, we should yield to His will and accept His discipline as God's children whom He loves.

In chapter 3, we saw **the penitent prophet recommissioned and blessed** to serve the Lord. To serve the Lord is **a privilege, not a right**. Hopefully, all of us know by now that our God is **a God of second**

**chances** (& 3rd, 4th, 10th, 500th...). Jonah finally submits to God's will and gets to take part in the largest numerical revival in recorded human history, as 120,000+ people repent of their sinfulness. The people of Nineveh heard the warning of God, believed Jonah's words, and repented of their sins. We understood the **repentance of Nineveh was genuine and God relented** of the judgment He had forewarned. How many of us know that our God is a forgiving God? A God who does not give us what we deserve. A God who is slow to anger, compassionate, and mighty to save. The formula for salvation is still the same today; hear God's warning, believe His Word, repent of our sins, and receive His grace!

In chapter 4, we saw that **Jonah still had hatred and unforgiveness in his heart** towards the Ninevites. Jonah shows more joy and compassion for a vine than he does for the people of that great city. God asks Jonah a series of questions and unfortunately, we aren't given the end of Jonah's story. Did he repent of his hatred? Did he forgive those who sinned differently than him? Something I pray over myself constantly is; **"Lord, I want to hate my sins more than I hate the sin of others who sin differently than I do."**

Finally, though the book of Jonah has only four chapters and ends with a question, **that isn't the end of the story**. Nineveh's repentance was genuine, **but their descendants forgot the lessons of their forefathers**. God later speaks through another prophet named **Nahum**. His prophecy is around 150 years after the time of Jonah. Nahum foretells the judgment and destruction of Nineveh which happens soon afterward, (Cont.)

(Andrew's article continued)

as the Medes invade and destroy Nineveh. The ancient city of Nineveh lay in ruins until it was rediscovered in the mid-1800s by archaeologists. Today, the ancient ruins of Nineveh lay under the modern-day city of Mosul, Iraq. **We too must learn** the lessons of our forefathers. Speaking of everything that happened in the history of Israel, **1 Corinthians 10:11** says; "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come." Jesus said in **Matthew 12:41** that the men of Nineveh would stand as witnesses

against the generation that rejected Christ, and Jesus even used Jonah's internment in the belly of the fish to point to His own death, burial, and resurrection. The story of Jonah and the Ninevites is **a salvation story!**

These simple truths still speak volumes to us today. Heed the warnings and discipline of the Lord as His children. Obey His instruction and go where He leads. Preach the truth in love and leave the results up to God. Show mercy sprinkled with grace and give no place in your heart for hatred or unforgiveness.

God bless,  
drew  
John 3:30

(Dr. Horner's article continued)

In His prayer of John 17, our Great Shepherd made it clear that He wants for His flock spiritual safety, holiness, and virtue. In a word, He wants for them Christlikeness. He sanctified Himself and He prayed for our sanctification. The responsibility of the pastor is not to be entertaining enough and clever enough to attract people into the church building and make them feel comfortable. His responsibility is to follow the Great Shepherd in the pursuit of the sanctification of the flock, through the Word. Therefore, his number one priority is to himself, that is, to make certain that he is walking in the Spirit, living under the Lordship of Christ, and offering to people the life of Jesus that dwells in him.

Having written all of this, I encourage the search committee not to be hesitant in questioning a potential pastor about certain issues. What is his view of Scripture? How does he live out his faith in Christ? What about his own relationship with the Lord and his personal devotional time? Is he committed to prayer? Does he diligently study the Bible outside of sermon preparation? Can he describe his calling into pastoral ministry? Why does he feel called to serve Lakewood? What does he consider to be his primary responsibility as a pastor? Does he share the gospel with people outside of the pulpit ministry? This list is only suggestive, not exhaustive, and many more questions are in order. **Let's all commit ourselves to praying spiritual discernment for the committee and a keen sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, that they will be of one accord.**





# Lakewood Happenings

## SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
Andrew Spires 4	Labor Day Office Closed 5	10:30am Amen Choir 6	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions 6:00pm AWANA 7	8	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night Tailgate Food 9	10
Dr. Horner 5:00pm Deacons Meet 11	12	13	6:00pm AWANA 14	15	SWO Men's Retreat 16	SWO Men's Retreat 17
Israel Jane SWO Men's Retreat 18	19	20	6:00pm AWANA 7:00pm Finance Team meets 21	6:30pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 22	23	11:00am Feed the homeless 24
Andrew Spires 25	6:30pm Sister 2 Sister Home of Tammy Smith 26	27	6:00pm AWANA 28	29	30	

## July Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
7/3	\$18,623.24	\$375.00	\$1,529.00	\$805.00	\$21,332.24
7/10	\$21,851.54	\$50.00	\$740.00	\$2,050.00	\$24,691.54
7/17	\$11,953.10	\$25.00	\$715.00	\$1,461.48	\$14,154.58
7/24	\$16,688.54	-	\$751.00	\$150.00	\$17,589.54
7/31	\$15,475.10	\$205.00	\$824.66	\$940.00	\$17,444.76

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship

10:00am Bible Fellowship

11:00am Blended Worship

#### WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

6:00pm AWANA

6:30pm Youth Worship

# *A Message from* David Stephens

CHILDREN'S MINISTER



Have you ever been lost before? We all have some sort of 'Lost' story. This is a question we have recently asked in children's ministry to begin a discussion on how we as Christians need the Holy Spirit leading us in our life. I have been spending some time with one of my favorite passages of scripture Romans 12:1. I beseech you therefore, Brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service (ASV). Paul has spent 11 chapters taking us to school on what God has done for us. He took us through a massive array of the mercies of God, and now he pivots to what we need to do as a Christian. The 1st thing he has to say on this pivot is we must present ourselves, our bodies, everything that makes us human on the altar as a living sacrifice. He is using Levitical priestly language here. What does sacrificial living look like for the Christian? We are to be a living sacrifice. Things that are alive can move around and our flesh wants to squirm off the altar of God. The

sign of sacrificial living is obedience. If you remember not all sacrifices were accepted in the Old Testament. It was the heart of the sacrifice God was after. Obedience is the manifestation of the hearts continual pursuit of knowing and being known by Jesus. If we are seeking to be known by Jesus, we will want to obey him. The Christian who puts Jesus 1st in all things is not lost because his teachings are our guide. There may be times when you are walking through a time of the unknown, and that can be very unsettling. I've found that it's in these times that our faith grows tenfold. We can do nothing, but trust him and the truth of his word. One thing I like to tell people, "Just do the next right thing, and then do it again." We must give the entirety of our 'self' to God as a living sacrifice, and fight tooth and nail against our selfishness that wants to wiggle off the altar of God. The Holy Spirit gives us power in this fight. We are not lost; we have power to overcome as we have been found in Christ.

## *Calendar:*

AWANA starts back up 9/7 and we go from 6-7:30PM.

Please be praying over our kids as they enter onto our campus each week.

FALL FESTIVAL October 23 from 12PM -2PM  
Meal | Bake Sale | Hay Ride | Activity Stations

AWANA OCC Pack Night November 9 from 6-7:30PM

*We are collecting donations now for our shoe boxes. \$25 packs and ships a box. We create an assembly line walking our children thru the Kids Worship room and Kids Recreation room to pack as many boxes as possible this evening. Come and help, It's A LOT of fun! We need donations. Please review the list below and prayerfully consider helping.*

*Each box will have ALL the essential items, 1 large toy (WOW item), 3 small toys, 2 accessories.*

*Essential items: notepad, crayons (24box), toothbrush, comb, mechanical pencils.*

*Large toy (1 per box): Soccer ball (Deflated) with pump, Stuffed animal, toy car or doll.*

*Small toy (3 per box): die cast car, harmonica, Yo-yo, jump rope, necklace, bead kit. Accessories (2 per box): socks, sandals, calculator, sunglasses, hair accessories, small flashlight, t-shirt.*

*It is my pleasure to serve you as your Children and Family Minister,*

*David Stephens*

**In Memory of**  
Merium Strickland  
For Food Bank  
From Glenn & Shirley Todd  
Steve Strickland  
Nancy Holdbrooke  
Belinda Campbell  
Tammy Yancey  
Family of Betty Puksich  
Debbie DeAmico  
Connie Adamson

Mildred Milner Klementovich  
For General Fund  
From Glenda Medley

**In Honor Of**  
Homer Gray for Homeless  
From Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

**SENIOR ADULT  
GAME NIGHT**

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 9TH

5:30PM - FH

**TAILGATE FOOD**

**WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS**

TONY, MARY SUE  
& SAMANTHA SAXON

MINISTERIAL STAFF

PASTOR

**Charles Keown**  
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

**Andrew Spires**  
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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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