

Lakeside Christian Fellowship Ripples



JANUARY, 2026

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 1

Happy New Year! This is the beginning of a new year. It seems that the last one went far too fast. As I look forward to 2026, I wish the very best to everyone and that your year be prosperous and that happiness finds you all year long. It is our hope in God and his word that sustains us through everything that may befall us.

I am reminded of what I read sometime ago. I cannot remember who said this, but it went like this: "If you want to know what God is like here and now, then you look to what he did then and there." I'm pretty close to the quote I think, but the message is clear. God is unchanging – if you want to know what God is going to do now, then see what he did a while ago. We humans on the other hand change a lot – often several times during the day. The only thing consistent about us is our inconsistency, but God is different. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His justice is true and unchanging. His love is true and unchanging. His grace is true and unchanging.

The point I am trying to make is that in the coming year, if things aren't working out exactly how you "planned" them, then look to God for guidance. Read his word. Pray to Him because He is there – always has been and always will be.

Jennie Wilson penned these words: Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can stand, Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand. Refrain: Hold to God's unchanging hand, Hold to God's unchanging hand; Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand. Covet not this world's vain riches That so rapidly decay, Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures, They will never pass away. When your journey is completed, If to God you have been true, Fair and bright the home in glory Your enraptured soul will view. Trust in Him who will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring, If by earthly friends forsaken Still more closely to Him cling. Hold to God's unchanging hand, Hold to God's unchanging hand; Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand.

God Bless You and keep you firmly in his hand,
Pastor Chuck

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LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Leadership Council Report for December 8, 2025

The Leadership Council Meeting was called to order at 9:26AM by Moderator Bill Bush. Members present were Bill Bush, Genie Carroll, Nancy Meierhoff, Ginger Halsted, Russell Reese, Wilma Sanders, Laurie Glass, Gene Glass, Warwick Andrews and Fred Pontesso. A quorum was present. Also attending was Pastor Chuck Smith.

Invocation: Pastor Chuck opened with a prayer.

Opening Remarks: Moderator Bill Bush shared "Thoughts to Ponder". He talked about adopting a central cause that might help focus our church community engagement. There was a discussion regarding this issue. The Council agreed to consider this option over the next month, as well as Nancy's suggested the existing focus on attracting the 55 age groups to the church. Warwick emphasized the importance of increasing the church membership to 150 before directing efforts outward, and suggested implementing ambassador programs and a structured process for new members. Bill proposed dementia/Alzheimer's support as a potential cause, noting Pastor Chuck's previous experience leading a support group. The Council will continue considering potential causes like Alzheimer's/Dementia support group or Cancer support group. Russell suggested maybe having church volunteers do "respite" care for a few hours for Alzheimer's/Cancer caretaker in the community in our Fellowship Hall. There was a discussion about looking into this suggestion further.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 9, 2025 Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent. The minutes of the November 9, 2025 Executive Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Summary of Meeting: The meeting began with discussions about an upcoming event and preparations for the main agenda, which included discussions about the church's focus areas. The Council meeting covered various administrative matters including building access codes, Bylaw changes, and discussions about ministry updates and future

events.

Outreach: Pastor Chuck had nothing new to report at this time.

Promotions & Marketing: Warwick stated he was disappointed that we didn't get more church signs out, as we need to get our name out to the community. He said our Christmas lights look terrific, but we need more signs out inviting the public to come "See Our Lights". The lights will be up until January 6. The Cantata was a success which attracted over 100 people. Laurie relayed that the refreshments after the Cantata were excellent and the leftovers were taken to the First Responders in Lago Vista. There was also a discussion about the need for more promotional signs and consideration of adding a big screen TV or projector to enhance presentations and sermons.

Faith in Action: Russell stated he is talking with HCCM about bringing a "Fresh Food For All" program to Lago Vista, including identifying a suitable location. He will coordinate with Hope House on food distribution initiatives.

Pastor Search Committee: Nancy relayed they had a meeting last week discussing their options. She has talked with Larry Thyssen about using detailed application criteria and scoring standards. The committee is planning to post more information about the pastoral opening, and noted that the next search committee meeting is scheduled for December 18. The group also discussed the need for a budget and council approval for expenses related to the pastoral search, including potential travel costs for candidates. She has posted a jobs listing on the churchjobs.net website and has an action to post our opening on the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC.org) website. The cost to post is \$179, rather than joining this organization. She explained the charges if you are a member or non-member. Nancy has an action to develop a Pastor Search Budget for the actual expenses for the coming year. We will talk about this

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LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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at our next Council meeting.

Pastoral Relations: Nancy said there wasn't much to report from our meeting. She conducted a review of Debbie's yearly Evaluation. She stated that Debbie has been going above and beyond her duties as Secretary. There was a discussion regarding the stress that last minute requests puts Debbie under. Everyone was urged to plan ahead to avoid these last minute requests and projects. Bill talked about the "Love Offering" for Debbie and Linda. He will print the envelopes for this and they will be available for the next few Sundays. Also, we need to plan a Farewell for Pastor Paul and Patsy for January 11, 2026.

Worship Committee: Genie stated that all the decorations are done now. She thanked Laurie and her team for all their work. She discussed placing two Bibles in each pew with a decision to follow-up on the number needed.

Ministries: Laurie relayed that Communion and the Potluck Dinner went really well. Lisa Jackson and her students will be here Friday night for a piano concert. The Lago Vista Leos will be here every Wednesday night during the month. Russell relayed compliments to those involved in Dave Freeman's Celebration of Life event. Gene stated that in the future someone needs to arrange for ushers at these memorials. Pastor Chuck relayed that sometimes the family provides the ushers. There was a discussion regarding all that is involved in these memorial events. Pastor Chuck has a list of what to do and will get a copy to Laurie. Pastor Chuck will talk with the Coffee Klatch, as they used to meet here and he will see if they want to come back to our facility. We will have to probably give them their own Code to get in the building.

Building and Grounds: Gene relayed that the deck repairs will be finished in the first quarter of 2026. He has found the donation box and will return to service. He reported completion of the walkway project, which cost \$208. Gene has a contract for

cleaning services that he found on-line. He will have Rosalina review it and give input. Gene thanked Warwick, Fred, Ron Zink, Bill Bush, Barry Savage and Laurie for putting up the Christmas lights and the Nativity Scene. He stated the gutters in the front of the Chapel are sagging and he will take care of this. There was a discussion about using the golf cart yesterday at the Memorial event. He urged anyone using the golf cart to practice getting used to it before actually driving it. Also, to be sure to help people in and out of the cart to prevent falls. There was a discussion regarding changing the code yearly for the front doors. Gene will get this new code and advise the Council at our next meeting. There was a discussion about the need for a fireproof filing cabinet in Debbie's office. Bill will check with Debbie on this. Gene relayed that we have 12-channel audio mixer from upstairs that need to be disposed and replace it with a lower-cost alternative as discussed. The Council approved this action. **Motion (1):** Laurie made a motion to dispose of the 12-channel audio mixer in the upstairs room and replace it with a lower-cost (\$100 limit) alternative unit. Gene seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was approved. Gene talked about having a 4 drawer safe at \$3,150 versus a 2 drawer safe at \$1,770. He will research this and get back to the Council. Warwick thanked Gene for all his help and the work he does.

Stewardship Commission: Ginger stated she had nothing new to report at this time.

Financial Update (November 2025): Warwick reviewed the balance sheet. He relayed that our financial status is positive with tithing exceeding forecasts by about \$30,000. He stated that Genie will continue handling bank deposits despite leaving the Council. He has been trying to get quotes from various insurance companies with no luck. He talked about our current insurance payments, which is around \$14,000. Warwick relayed that this will be his last meeting as Treasurer for the Council. Judy

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Guthrie will be replacing him in 2026.

Old Business: Gene passed out copies of the changes to the Bylaws to the Council for approval and input. He presented changes to make the Parliamentarian an appointed position rather than an elected position. He proposed moving the budget responsibility from the Stewardship Commission to the Treasurer. **Motion (2):** Gene made a motion that changes be made to our Bylaws making the Parliamentarian an appointed position rather than an elected position and moving the budget responsibility from the Stewardship Commission to the Treasurer. Nancy seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was approved. We will have the final vote by the congregation after the service on January 25, 2026.

New Business:

1. Peace Lilly Plant: Bill relayed that June Freeman would like to donate a large Peace Lilly plant to the church. There was a discussion of where to locate it. It was decided to put it in the Fellowship Hall. Bill will let June know that we will gladly accept this plant.

2. Columbarium: Bill asked the Council if they wanted to reactivate the Columbarium to the church members. Russell suggest an alternative might be having a "Scattering Garden" for the ashes of loved ones. There was a discussion regarding the Columbarium. It was concluded that the Council does not want to use it. There was concerns about long-term maintenance and record-keeping issues. There was interest in the "Scattering Garden" however.

3. NACCC: Nancy talked about our joining the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and its benefits. She explained that if we join, they charge \$13 per church member annually for membership. However, you can post job openings for \$179 (for 6 month posting) versus free for members. The question was if we wanted to be part of this program. There was a long discussion about this association. Fred suggested that for \$179 we

can post a job opening for six months and then join later if we choose.

4. Bible Study by Pastor Paul: Bill stated that Pastor Paul is still conducting Bible Study at LCF on Tuesdays at 0930. We should announce this on Sundays to promote participation in this group. There was a discussion about giving him his own code to the church for these meetings.

Future Topics: Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be on January 12, 2026. The Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:22AM.



LCF has a new
Minister of Music,
Dr. Jim Christie!
Jim and his wife Julie joined our
church family on
December 7, 2025!

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**Lakeside Christian Fellowship
Extended Leadership Council Contact List (January 2026)**

William Bush - Moderator	wbush@williambush.com	585-259-0004
Fred Pontesso—Parliamentarian	aapontesso@sbcglobal.com	281-435-5834
Judy Guthrie- Treasurer	judyguthrie818@gmail.com	281-881-3309
Wilma Sanders- Secretary	wsunkist@aol.com	228-806-5088
Ginger Halsted - Stewardship Commission Chairs	vhalsted32@gmail.com	512-267-1628
Gene Glass - Building and Grounds	gene@nerdybrew.com	512-470-8964
Russell Reese - Faith in Action Commission Chair	rreese7@att.net	512-921-6523
Fred Pontesso - Worship Commission Chair	aapontesso@sbcglobal.com	281-435-5834
Nancy Meierhoff - Pastoral Relations Commission Chair	nb9957@swbell.net	210-508-5522
Pastoral Relations Commission		
Nancy Meierhoff - Chairman	nb9957@swbell.net	210-508-5522
Larry Thyssen - Member	larry@thymgmt.com	832-473-3468
Genie Carroll- Member	geniecarroll@gmail.com	512-608-7374
Linda Brown - Member	lindakpbrown@me.com	512-751-2884
Marilyn Hamblin - Member	Marilyn.hamblin1@gmail.com	512-917-5001
Christine Chapman - Member	cchappie43@yahoo.com	254-721-4759
Barbara McClaid - Member	mcclaid@wt.net	512-697-9776
Ministries Commissions		
Laurie Glass- Ministries Coordinator	laurie@nerdybrew.com	512-569-9464
Dana Zink - New Member Chair	dzink@austin.rr.com	512-619-6207
Sara Bush and Tanya Reese- Congregational Care	sara@sobush.com treese7@att.net	585-329-9778 512-971-8109
Regina Holmes - Fellowship/Hospitality	gypsygranma@yahoo.com	512-720-1876
June Freeman - Volunteer Resources Chair	sfreeman12@austin.rr.com	512-434-9072
Ron Zink/- Historian	rmzink@austin.rr.com	512-789-5275
Nominating Committee		
Linda Brown -- Chair	lindakpbrown@me.com	512-751-2884
Kari Monahan - Member	karimar21@yahoo.com	832-788-8335
Christine Chapman - Member	cchappie43@yahoo.com	254-721-4759
Sara Bush - Member	sara@sobush.com	585-329-9778
Barbara McClaid - Member	mcclaid@wt.net	512-697-9776
Genie Carroll - Member	geniecarroll@gmail.com	512-608-7374
Staff		
Rev. Chuck Smith _ Interim Pastor	Chucksmith_lv@yahoo.com	512-922-6233
Deborah Reed - LCF Office Administrator	lakesidechristianfellowship@ yahoo.com	512-267-1700
Dr. Jim Christie - Minister of Music; Accompanist	jimchristie355@hotmail.com	210-701-7122
Nancy Meierhoff—Painist	nb9957@swbell.net	210-508-5522

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

ATTENTION!

A Special Congregational meeting will be held on January 25, 2026 Immediately following the Worship Service!

The meeting is being held for two purposes:

- 1) To vote on the appointment of Rev. Chuck Smith as Interim Pastor while the Pastor Search Committee continues it's work in finding our new permanent pastor**
- 2) To approve changes to the By-Laws recommended by the Council which:**
 - A) Would place responsibility for budgeting with the treasurer rather than the Stewardship Commission
 - B) Clarify the appointment of the Parliamentarian is the responsibility of the Moderator rather than the Nominating Committee

A copy of the proposed changes has been emailed to the LCF Church Members.
There are hard copies for your review located in the Worship Sanctuary foyer.



The Staff at Lakeside Christian Fellowship
would like to say a
BIG THANKS
For the generous Love Gift Offering!

It is an honor to work for such a wonderful,
kind, loving and generous congregation.

Your Love Gift was greatly appreciated
and thank you for making us feel appreciated!

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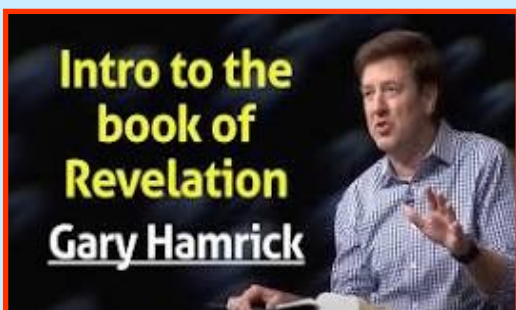
On December 10, 2024,
the Women of the Word Bible Study Group met
at the Blue Corn Harvest in Leander for
A Christmas Lunch Celebration!



The “WOW” (Women of the Word)
Bible Study Group is continuing their
study of the book of Revelations,
a podcast by
Gary Hamrick with a discussion
to follow.

The study begins at 9:30 a.m.
each Wednesday downstairs in the
LCF Fellowship Hall.

All Women in the area are
welcome to attend.



In Attendance were: (bottom picture from
left to right): Judy Guthrie; Tanya Reese;
Ginny Parish; Edwina Woolsey;
Mary Ann Childs; Janet Cason;
Marilyn Hamblin; Beverly Beauchamp;
Pamela Thyssen; Regina Holmes;
Fran Pontesso; Genie Carroll; Dana Zink;
Sharon Waters and Donna Nash

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Our Hospitality Committee has been very busy this past month, from hosting a “Tex-Mex” Pot Luck held on November 23, 2025 to providing refreshments for a reception on December 5th and a cookie, cocoa and wassail gathering after the December 7th Christmas Cantata. They always do a wonderful job decorating and presenting a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Thank you for all of your hard work!



**So many choices of chili
and other delicious food
at the
Tex Mex Pot Luck!**

Did you have a favorite?



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A wonderful spread was provided for the reception given in memory and honor of David Freeman on December 5th.

Our hospitality committee does a fabulous job putting together gatherings for our congregation!!



**Join us for a
“Thank You and Farwell
Pot Luck”**

On January 11, 2026

**Held in honor of
Paul and Patsy Rodgers
For their service to
Lakeside Christian
Fellowship!**

Join us in honoring Paul and Patsy Rodgers for their service to our church.

**Bring your favorite “Pot Luck Dish” to share and wish them well on
the next chapter of their lives.**

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Christmas Cantata



A well attended Christmas Cantata was held on
December 7, 2025

It was a bittersweet affair, since this was the last cantata
directed by
Lakeside Christian Fellowship's outgoing Minister of Music;
William Parcher.

William moved to Colorado to be closer to family and we at
LCF wish him the best on his new endeavor!

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On Saturday, November 29, 2025, the members of LCF joined together to decorate the Church Sanctuary and grounds for the Christmas Season!

The lights will be up on the grounds through January 6th, so if you have not already done so, come out and see the beautiful site!



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Church Office Hours:
Wednesday
 and
Thursday
 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

JANUARY 2026

Please remember
 that all church
 activities should
 be scheduled on
 the master
 calendar in the
 church office.
 Thank you!

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
28 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming		29		30 Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		31 NO BIBLE STUDY		1  OFFICE CLOSED		2		3	
4 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming		5		6 Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		7 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		8 Pastor Search Committee 1-3 pm @ LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		9		10	
11 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming		12 9:30 AM Leadership Council Meeting @LCF Fellowship Hall		13 Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		15 Alzheimer Group 10:30 AM @LV Library		16		17	
18 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming		19		20 Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		21 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		22 		23		24	
25 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming		26		27 Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		28 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Fellowship Hall downstairs		29		30		31	

For more information visit the
 LCF website at
www.lakesidechristians.org

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Jay Meierhoff	3
Sid McClung	6
Rodger Elliott	8
Dr. Jim Christie	9
Victoria Elliott	13
Chip Hamilton	15

If you would like your dates
to be included please send
your information to the
church office at:

[lakesidechristianfellow-
ship@yahoo.com](mailto:lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com)

Welcome,
New Members



Peggy Gibson
Joined our church
family on
October 26, 2025!

Prayer Corner

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/prayers-for-new-year-pray-to-renew-heart-and-mind.html>

Guidance Prayer:

Lord,
we look toward you,
our hope, our peace, and our comfort
in this New Year.
As we enter into the unknown
of the coming year,
we ask for your guidance and wisdom.
Illuminate our path with your light
so that we may walk in your ways
and make choices that align with your will.
Help us to seek first your kingdom
and trust that all other things
will be added unto us.

Amen!

December 31, 2025

YTD Offerings \$185,054.25

YTD Expenses \$157,578.38

Lakeside Christian Fellowship

Worship and Office Location

3305 Pinnacle Cove, Lago Vista, TX

512-267-1700, lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

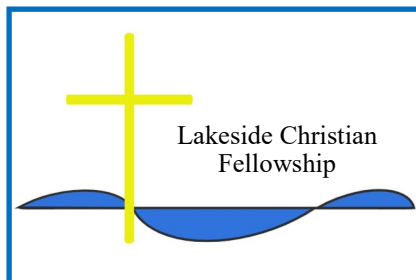
P. O. Box 4874, Lago Vista, TX 78645

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P.O. Box 4874
Lago Vista TX 78645

Phone: 512-267-1700
lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com



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