

Pastor's Report  
Congregational Business Meeting  
April 28, 2021

Our church meets four times every year to review various reports and affirm the work of our committees and ministry teams. These meetings do not last very long, but they give the church a chance to celebrate what God has done and is doing through His church called Parkview. Our next quarterly business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021, following our midweek worship service. Our bylaws require that the church vote on the acceptance of minutes, membership report, and financial statements. We also have one additional motion for consideration. Please review these materials prior to the meeting and contact the church office if you have any questions. You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the meeting.

The apostle Paul wrote "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3, NKJV). What Paul is pleading for in the church is no small task. Walking in unity in the midst of a culture that is divided can be very difficult. But Paul is quick to remind us that we have the same Holy Spirit that binds us together. I am grateful that He binds us together outside of our gatherings, and that He binds us together through a common mission. Thank you for being a part of a church family that takes that unity and mission seriously.

While our society continues to navigate the difficulties associated with Covid-19, our church will continue to respect those efforts to the extent that they don't hinder our worship experience or our mission. I feel that we have adapted well, we have encouraged safety and caution, and we have reopened in a way that allows us to respect the seriousness of the virus while at the same time refusing to fear it. For now, we will keep some of the changes that have been made in our worship services, such as prepackaged communion cups and offering boxes in the lobby area. We will observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning May 2. If you are worshipping with us online, please stop by the church office and pick up your prepackaged communion elements.

For those who are interested in taking the next steps in their connection to Parkview, we are offering a NEXT class on Sunday, May 2, at 12:15. If you have been talking with people in your spheres of influence about visiting Parkview, please feel free to invite them to church that day and then plan on attending NEXT with them. We will have a light lunch and hear about Parkview's vision and mission from the pastoral staff. You can call the church office or register online.

I am grateful to the army of volunteers who make programming and ministry at Parkview possible. Our primary onramp into the life of our church is our Life Groups. You can find information about the different classes and meeting times at our website. We hope that you will consider committing two hours each Sunday, one for small group and one for worship. We also hope that increased involvement in our church family will lead you to find an area of weekly or monthly service in areas such as preschool care, NextGen ministries, worship

leadership, and First Impressions. Please contact the church office if you are interested in getting involved in one of our ministry teams.

For those of you who are new to our church, we have a Curves style workout facility called Parkview Fitness. Parkview Fitness is operated by a small but dedicated core group of ladies who persist in their own workouts and volunteer their time to keep it open for others. They continue to welcome new members to the program. They also offer a diet and nutrition class called First Place 4 Health. A new class will be starting soon. For information about Parkview Fitness, visit our website or call the church office.

Our church family responded well to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. We received a record (at least in my tenure here) \$10,841. I am grateful for a church family that is generous in its support of missions and missionary work. We will run a campaign for the work of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes from Mother's Day, May 9, through Father's Day, June 20. I am certain that our church family will show the same level of generosity for that offering as well.

With the help of the forgiveness of the payroll protection loan and our church members' ongoing willingness to give generously to the building fund, we have reduced our debt by \$128,696 in just the first quarter of this year. Stewardship will continue to aggressively pay down this debt with surplus operating cash. Not reflected in the March financial statements is an additional \$50,000 paid from operating surplus cash in April. Our debt is currently \$1.18M. My goal is to be below the million-dollar mark by the end of this year.

Our construction mission team is beginning to form. Let's pray for Joe Crocker and the team as they prepare to do ministry in Kentucky this June. Please contact the church office if you are interested in participating. Pray for our Jamaica partnership as well as they begin making preparations for 2022. I am really looking forward to the rest of 2021. I am glad you all are with me.

The Southern Baptist Convention will convene in Nashville on June 13-16. We need to approve messengers to the convention. With church approval, members of our staff, Daniel and Emily Morris, David and Emily Harris, and JonSeth and Brittany Sammons will be attending as messengers. There is room for four more. If you would like to attend, please let me know so our church can vote on your credentials as messenger.

Thank you all for your faithfulness to the work here at Parkview. We are looking forward to a great year of kingdom growth in 2021.

## Children's Ministry Report

Parkview Family,

As we prepare for a busy summer of Next Generation Ministry, I'm excited to see all that God will do in and through Parkview in the coming months. I'm thankful to be a part of a church family that faithfully seeks to reach the next generation with the truth of the gospel.

At the beginning of March, we finished up our fourth season of Upward. About 105 children participated in our basketball and cheerleading league this year, and about 25 volunteers served each week of January and February to share the gospel with these children and connect with the families of Lake City. I'm thankful for each coach, referee, and greeter that served this season and their willingness to give of their time and energy to serve on mission in our own city. The majority of the families involved in Upward Basketball each year do not have a church home, and we get to share the gospel and the love of Christ with these children at each practice and with their parents and grandparents at every Game Day. Thank you for your willingness to support and pray for this ministry.

Our Next Generation Ministries' weekly discipleship programs are all going strong. On Sunday mornings our Life Groups meet at 9:30 and our Preschool and Children's Worship starts at 11:00. Parents, let me encourage you to make gathering with our church family on Sunday mornings the most important thing your family does outside of the house every week. Not only are these weekly discipleship opportunities vitally important for the spiritual development of ourselves and our children, but the priority we as parents place on living out our faith through worship and service at church will make an eternal impact in the lives our children and grandchildren. On Wednesday nights, our Preschool and Children's Ministries are studying and memorizing God's Word through Awana Clubs. These groups for 2-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet from 5:45-6:00pm for small group Bible studies, large group missions education, and recreation. We have about 45 children enrolled in Awana Clubs and 30 volunteers that faithfully serve the next generation on Wednesday nights. It's a blessing each week to hear our children share the truths and recite the verses they are learning through these ministries.

Planning and preparation has already started for our Next Generation Ministry summer events. Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 28-July 2. Our theme this year is Destination Dig and our kids in Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade will explore real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Along the way, they'll discover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13, that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts. Let me know soon if you would like to join our VBS team this year. Super Summer Kids is also coming up on July 13-16 at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center. This is a four-day, three-night camp for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders where they will encounter the gospel through every Bible study time, worship service, track time, and game. Please join me in praying for the children and leaders that will be involved in these summer events, that God would prepare their hearts now to hear and respond to the gospel.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve alongside our amazing staff and church family!

Thank you,  
Daniel Morris

## Student Ministry Update

I am so grateful for this church! Thank you! I pray that you would continue to grow in your faith seeking to know and love God more!

- **Sunday Morning Life Groups**

Life Groups have been meeting and we have been learning about the early church! We are meeting at 930 in the warehouse then breaking off into our Life groups.

- Please pray that God would use this time to deepen the faith of our Students.
- Pray that the students would be transformed by the gospel.
- Pray that they would have the right view of God.

- **Student Services @ Parkview**

Our student services have been encouraging to me every week! Each week we worship through song, singing worship songs that focus on Jesus and God's glory. We then worship through the preaching and teaching from God's word. (Our current series is in the Minor Prophets) A couple of components we have added from our last series is praying for a specific people group each week, last night we prayed for the Jat in Pakistan. We worship through prayer each week taking time to spend in silence (it is about a minute or two) and praying for a people group! We have also added a portion of scripture that we are trying to memorize! Joel 2:12-13 is that portion this series!

We have returned from spring retreat and are pushing to dig deep into some minor prophets after that we are going to be sharpening our spiritual disciplines, by teaching our students what they are and how we can get the most out of them. Please pray for God to be glorified in these services; through worship, preaching, prayer and teaching.

- Please pray that these services would be fruitful.
- Pray that students would turn from their sin and trust in Christ whole heartedly!
- Pray that students would have a clear understanding of the gospel.
- Pray that God would move in our student ministry in a mighty way!
- Pray that God will call some of these students to be missionaries!
- Pray that we would fall deeply in love with Jesus.

- **Upcoming Ministry Plans**

We are about to jump into preparation for our summer! Meaning plans get hectic during those days! So, stay tuned for more information!

His glory is our reward,  
JonSeth Sammons

## Worship Ministry Report

Parkview Family,

Recently I shared with our choir one of the most concise gospel passages found in God's Word. In 1 Timothy 1, Paul writes to Timothy – "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." This one line conveys the gospel in such a powerful way. Praise God that He chose to save me. What I love about Paul here is that he then overflows with praise because the gospel has impacted his life so greatly. Just two verses later, Paul writes, "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." Paul cannot help but praise the Lord because of the impact the gospel has had on his life. May it be so in our lives. I pray that our lives overflow with praise, joy, and thanksgiving because of the work that has been done by Jesus.

As I look back at our season of Lent this past year, I am overwhelmed with the grace of God. It was such a joy to host our network of churches for our Holy Week series. Our Good Friday service was really a special time of worship as we reflected on the sacrifice of our Savior on the cross. I was so thankful to take some time to stay at the cross for a few days before we celebrated our Risen Savior. Easter Sunday was really something special. The gospel changes everything. I would encourage you to live in light of the resurrection every day of your life. Jesus took our place. What marvelous news!

It's been a joy to see so many faces that I haven't seen in a while. Many who stayed away for a while have begun to make their way back to our worship services. Let me encourage you to stay connected and if you realize there is someone that you haven't seen in a while, take the initiative – make a phone call. The Church was made for community. Reach out to those who may have disconnected. If there is ever a time that the world needs to see a united Church, it is certainly now.

As with everything over the last year, our worship ministry has looked a little different. We will continue to have 13 choir members on the platform each service for the rest of this season. We are making preparations now to start strong in August with our choir retreat and Night of Praise. I am very excited for these events and would encourage any who have interest in the choir to join us in this new choir season!

Although it has looked different, our choir has done a phenomenal job of leading us weekly. They truly are a joy to work with and I am glad to have them leading us in worship every Sunday. Let a choir member know how much you appreciate them!

If there is any way that we can serve you or pray for you, please don't hesitate to reach out. Stay connected. Love you church!

Soli Deo gloria!

Pastor Skylar

Parkview Family,

It has been an incredible year for our church so far! We've been able to do more than we were able to in the previous year, and things like NEXT Classes, Spring Retreat, Good Friday, Holy Week and Easter have all been incredible! In addition to "big events" in our church, the series that we've been going through on Sundays and Wednesdays, including our Student Ministry series, have been so convicting and challenging. As a result of the faithfulness to the weekly rhythm of our church, I can sense a new urgency in myself, our staff and all of Parkview in going deeper with God.

I love what Mike said a few weeks ago about this concept of "going deeper." He said something to the effect of: going deeper with God doesn't mean trying to answer unanswerable theological questions. Instead, going deeper with God means being obedient to what we already know! That's been in my mind for weeks now, and it has challenged me to stop overthinking my obedience to God. His word has made things plain to us, and we need to step up and do what we're called to do!

*My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does. -James 1:19-25*

But even as we continue to be faithful in our ministry here in Lake City (and in our involvement with missions around the globe), there is something that has burdened me. As we move past a lot of the chaos from the past year, there are still so many things in our world that the enemy wants to use for division. In order for us to "go deeper", to be obedient together in what God has called us to do, we need to unite around the gospel of Jesus Christ that is infinitely more important than any secondary issue that might divide us.

So let's commit to being obedient to God's Word, and being obedient TOGETHER by uniting around, nothing in this world, but around the gospel of Christ. As we look ahead, let's look in light of things that matter, not the things of this world. Let's seek to make much of Jesus, and let's fight to eliminate any division that will get in the way of that.

In Christ,  
David Harris