

The background is a vibrant, celebratory design. It features a warm, golden-yellow color palette with radiating lines emanating from the center, creating a sense of light and joy. Scattered throughout are various colorful confetti elements, including stars, triangles, and circles in shades of pink, green, blue, and gold. Swirling streamers in gold and green add to the festive atmosphere. The overall effect is bright and cheerful, typical of a New Year's celebration.

January
Connections

Happy

NEW YEAR

START THIS YEAR WITH JESUS

Lakewood Baptist
Church

Message from Brother M.R.

As I begin to write this message I find myself challenged by the reality that another year has passed. It seems as if we were just moving in a few days ago, but 10 months have passed since we first came to preach the revival. I can't help but ask where the time has gone. With the passing of one year comes the promise and opportunity of a new year in which we can learn from our past and set goals for what can be in the future. The reality that a year passes quickly gives us the incentive to get serious as life really is short. As I think of setting goals and laying out the plans to see those things actually happen, I am reminded of Paul as he wrote to the Philippians sharing his dreams. "But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining forward for what is ahead, I press on" (Phil.3:13) Paul was a goal setter with a plan to make those dreams come true, and God honored that request. Not only did Paul have a dream, but he had a clear plan to make that dream come true. He knew where he wanted to be when he arrived at his goal. He also knew just what he had to do to get there. Next he knew that the first step was the hardest to take and there was no time like the present to get started. I once read a question that I have asked myself often. If not us then who? If not now then when? The lesson we can all learn from Paul was that you can never stroll to a goal. If you have your sights set on a goal your already well on your way. Now good aim is critical, but not if you never plan to actually shoot for it. In Paul's example we see that he not only had a dream but a clear and well thought out plan of how to get there. Now we read in Timothy 4:7&8 that he did arrive at his goal, he did finish the race so we know from that truth that he actually gave it a shot. To finish the race he had to get started.

The new year is filled with promise because God is going to go there with us! That reality alone is reason for great hope. Now God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He honored Paul's request and He has promised to help us as well. In light of this great truth I hope each of us has taken time to dream of where our lives will lead us this year. Perhaps the best way to find the answer to that question is to ask ourselves another honest question. If I ended up at my goal by the end of this new year where would I be exactly? For those who have tried their hand at shooting it goes without saying that focus is very important. It requires careful aim to hit what your shooting at in the distance. That's why we need to have clear objectives that guide our planning. That's why we need to set goals that have a way to be measured along the way. The slightest variance in direction from the beginning causes the shot to miss badly if it travels any distance. The year will pass quickly but the distance traveled in that time will be great. The enemy will be there trying to deflect us from our course in hopes of spoiling our dreams. Day by day we need to be reminded of our goals and how to stay or get back on track if we have stumbled. 365 days are a lot of opportunities, and not every day will see us closer to those goals. However, as those days turn into weeks, and those weeks become months, as we keep straining for what is ahead we will make progress if we don't give up.

So now is the time to dare to dream a God sized dream. Now is the time to get that dream started. Now is the time to take careful aim and lay out a plan to never give up that dream until we are standing in it's presence. If not today, then when?

Children are a gift from God

The Christmas season is my favorite time of the year! All of the special programs, the warm and generous attitude displayed in people, and the excited spirits of the children make the holidays a joyous and happy time to be alive. What a wonderful Christmas season we have experienced here at Lakewood. Thirty-eight kids participated in our Parents Night Out, and we had a great time making crafts with Mrs. Dot and playing games with Coach OJ! Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make that night so fun for the kids and their parents. The children's choir did a beautiful job singing in their Sunday night special-thank you Mrs. Carole and Mrs. Lindsey for all the time and effort you pour into our children's choir!

Now that the holidays are over it is time to get back into our regular schedule of activities. Awana/Flyte resumes Wednesday, January 8. Kids, start checking your books to see how far along you are towards completion. You should be approximately halfway through your book at this point if you want to finish by the end of the year. Don't get discouraged if you are a little behind-you still have time to catch up with a little extra work!

Parents, make sure to be watching the church calendar in the coming months. The Children's Ministry Leadership Team is meeting this month to plan the new year, and our next big event is the annual Awana Lock-In!

Thanks be to God for His Indescribable Gift! Let us honor Jesus with a renewed commitment to Him and His church during this new year!

Shaping the Future

Andrew Spires

Youth & Younger Single Adults

It's a new year and it will be full of new challenges. We have a very busy schedule and we will need your help. Sunday, January 5th (12:15-1:00) initial Belize Mission Team informational meeting after 2nd morning worship service in the Youth Room.

Wednesday, February 12th (6:30-8:30) Lakewood will host the community-wide True Love Waits night of worship.

Our Belize Mission Team will begin to take shape in January, which will be June 8th-14th, 2014. We will need adult and student workers in three distinct areas; 1) Children's ministry, 2) Medical ministry, and 3) Construction ministry. If God is leading you to help in any of these areas please come to the organizational meeting where you will receive trip details such as cost, accommodations, travel, fundraising, and ministry opportunities. A \$100 per person deposit will be due in January once you have decided to go on the trip.

True Love Waits will be a huge challenge for us to pull off and we will need plenty of volunteers. We expect 300+ students from Columbus and Phenix City to attend so we will need your help in the following areas; 1) parking lot attendants- help direct church vans/buses where to park, 2) Set up- we need people to help in the afternoon with band set up and general prep work, 3) Greeters/ushers- those who can help with seating and direction such as bathroom, etc, and 4) Clean up- we will need to clean the sanctuary and load out the band afterwards. If you're willing to help in any of these areas please let me know as soon as possible. I'm excited about these two opportunities to serve locally and globally, and I look forward to a powerful move of God. May God richly bless you and your family in this New Year.

Join Allyne Dault Sunday afternoon at 4:00 for the starting meeting of
First Place...a Bible-based weight loss class!

Classes will meet in Homer Gray's Bible Fellowship Class...top floor of the Senior Adult Building.
You may enter from the front. Classes meet every Sunday from 4 until 5:30 and will last for 13 weeks.
Books are available for \$20.00 at the meeting.



YOUR WEIGHT LOSS MIRACLE!
the power of prayer
and putting God first

KEEP IT OFF FOR GOOD!
discover the program
that actually works

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
how friendships can help
keep you on track

first place
4health
member's kit

a life-changing program with biblical integrity.
...
beth moore
bestselling author



first place
4health
member's guide

first place
4health
prayer journal

first place
4health
simple ideas for healthy living

YOUR WEIGHT LOSS MIRACLE!
the power of prayer
KEEP IT OFF FOR GOOD!
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first place
4health
discover a new way to healthy living
CAROLE LEWIS with Marcus Brotherton

first place
4health
food on the go pocket guide

why should a christian be physically fit?
4health DVD

emotions and eating
4health DVD



SOUND CHOICES
PREGNANCY CLINIC

Our Church's Goal:
\$1,000.00

2013
Baby Bottle Boomerang



**Sound Choices is part of our
Circles of Influence but this is our
opportunity to add to our
offerings to save a life!
Return them by January 19th which
is Sanctity of Life Sunday.**

Wednesday Night, February 12th 6:30-8:30 PM

Guest
Speaker :
Ricky Smith
Calvary
Ministries
Columbus,
Georgia



Worship
Band :
Eminent
Worship

**Location - Lakewood Baptist Church (Main Sanctuary)
4011 Lakewood Drive Phenix City, Al. 36867**

In Memory:
 Rosetta Scarbrough for Food Closet from Fran Loftin
 Bertha Howard for Food Closet from Fran Loftin
 Bertha Howard for Lottie Moon from JD and Diane Whitehead

Mary Ann Hall for Food Closet from Fran Loftin
 Alice Quintana for Food Closet from Fran Loftin

James Lett, Sr., for Food Closet from Billy and Cathy Greene

Ray Newman for Amen Choir from Billy and Cathy Greene
 Ray Newman for Circles of Influence from Tommy and Onezima Everritt
 Ray Newman for Lottie Moon from JD and Diane Whitehead

Montie and Clide Miller for Lottie Moon from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson

Bea Carmack for Amen Choir from Malinda Wilkes, Allison and Jimmy Chandler
 Bea Carmack for Amen Choir from Connie Houston

Bea Barrow for Budget from Charles and Shelby Pittman

In Honor:
 Ray Quintana for Youth Ministry from Fran Loftin
 J.P. and Esther Benton for Lottie Moon from Billy and Cathy Greene
 Jean Russell for Food Closet from David and Pansy Slocumb
 Shannon Scruggs for Food Closet from David and Pansy Slocumb
 Cathy Greene for Food Closet from Frances Sinquefield
 Janice Noble for Food Closet from Frances Sinquefield
 John and Elizabeth Giles for Food Closet

Congratulations to Heath and Amanda Owens
 on the birth of a baby boy, Corbin Heath
 7lbs. 21 inches

Sympathy to the families of:
 Ruth Williams
 David & Debbie Newsome
 William Bradley
 Charles Perry

Welcome New Members

Saige Valfre
 Elaine Koon

Ministerial Staff:
 M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
 brothermr@LBCPC.org
 Charles Keown, Minister - Music & Senior Adults
 charles@LBCPC.org
 Andrew Spires, Minister - Students and Singles
 andrew@LBCPC.org
 Patrick Thornton, Minister - Children
 patrick@LBCPC.org

Office Staff:
 Onezima Everritt, Finance Ministry Assistant
 onezima@LBCPC.org
 Carol Breault, Office Ministry Assistant
 carol@LBCPC.org
 Linda Keown, Music & Media Ministry Assistant
 linda@LBCPC.org

Child Development Center
 Cabbi Black, Director
 cabbi@LBCPC.org
 Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
 tammy@LBCPC.org

Wednesday Menus

January 8
 Smothered Pork Chops,
 Mashed Potatoes,
 Green Beans, Rolls,
 Salad & Dessert

January 15
 Hamburger Steak &
 Gravy, Rice, Glazed
 Carrots, Rolls,
 Salad & Dessert

January 22
 Fried & Baked Chicken,
 Mac & Cheese, Peas &
 Lima Beans, Cornbread,
 Salad & Dessert

January 29
 Taco Salad, Refried
 Beans, Spanish Rice,
 Salad & Dessert

| November Giving | Budget | CTB | Missions | Other | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 11/3/13 | \$23,644.85 | \$406.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$5,918.00 | \$30,968.85 |
| 11/10/13 | \$10,638.50 | \$210.00 | \$310.00 | \$400.00 | \$11,558.50 |
| 11/17/13 | \$8,267.06 | \$87.20 | \$1,385.25 | \$870.45 | \$10,609.96 |
| 11/24/13 | \$12,832.77 | \$31.00 | \$425.00 | \$4,666.00 | \$17,954.77 |
| | | | | | |

January 2014

Check out our website for up to the minute changes @ LBCPC.org

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--|-----|----------------------------|
| | | | 1 Office Closed | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Lord's Supper 4:00 1st Place 6:00 Kidz Choir | 6 Amen Choir @ 10:30 | 7 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 | 8 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth 7:00 Deacon Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 4:00 1st Place 4:00 Deacon Training 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Kidz Choir | 13 Amen Choir @ 10:30 | 14 10:00 Sweet Spirits Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 | 15 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth 7:00 Finance Meeting | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| -----VIP----- | | | | | | |
| 19 Sanctity of Life & CDC Sunday 4:00 Deacon Training & 1st Place 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Kidz Choir | 20 Amen Choir @ 10:30 | 21 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 Prism Workshop | 22 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth 7:00 CDC Meeting | 23 JEG Baptist Women 7:00 @ The Hamilton's | 24 | 25 Feed The Homeless |
| 26 Visitors From The Past 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 Kidz Choir | 27 | 28 | 30 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth | 31 | | |
| -----Amen Choir Tour----- | | | | | | |

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

* All times are Eastern.

Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
10:45 AM Blended Worship Service
10:45 AM Bible Fellowship
11:15 AM Kidz Worship
5:30PM PRAYER TIME
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Bible Study
5:45 PM Awana / Flyte / Youth
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Additional Information

The church office should receive all submissions to be considered for the monthly newsletter (*Connections*) by 2:00 PM on the 14th of the prior month.

Weekly submissions for consideration should be received by noon each Tuesday.

SWEET SPIRITS

The second Tuesday of each month is a special time at Lakewood when the Senior Adult Ministry hosts it's Sweet Spirits meeting. Beginning at 10:00 am, (come earlier to meet and greet) all Seniors are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall for food, fun and fellowship. There is a devotion brought by a different member or guest, a time of either story-telling or remembering oldies but goodies, trip planning and a special speaker or program. Afterward a lunch is served for all who desire to stay and eat. Lunch begins at 11:30, and donations are taken to defer the cost of the food.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 and the program will be Jasper Washington, Resident Manager of Frederick Douglas Homes who will be singing for us.

Charles Keown

OCC BOXES ARE ON THEIR WAY

We received an email from Samaritan's Purse this week that one of the boxes that our family made is in Peru. It is so exciting to "follow your box" by donating your shipping online and printing your label with a barcode. You may not know the village that it gets to but you will know the country at least. The following is an email that Fran Loftin got from her shoebox recipient. The child's Father happens to be a school teacher with access to a computer:

Respected grand mother,

First of all I Wish You Happy Christmas and prosperous 2014 New Year. My name is Seleena(12).Iam studying in Marianivaas EM School.My school is near to three kilometers from My house.I came to know your address by SAMAARITAN PURSE giftpack.Iam Happy to got your precious preyerful lovely gift.Iam very thankful to you.Iam very happily celebrated Christmas with your gift and preyed for you . My father name is Sudhakar working as a school teacher.My mother name is Karunasree . My younger sister name is Pallavi(10) She is studying forth class.I and My sister we are used to go to Bethel church it is near by our house.We are singing sunday school songs in the church ministry.This year we are celebrated Christmas happily by the grace of God.My father used to play rhythms in church quair group.My hole family preying for you and your family members.Once again we are Wishing you Happy christmas.Iam sending this letter by My father'gmail.Ihope you send My wishes to your all family members

Isn't it awesome to touch the life of a child! There are thousands more who will never have a chance to express their appreciation for their shoebox and do not know about God's love. Thank you for sending the Gospel to Christ to dark places where children wait for hope.

V.I.P. UPDATE FOR 2014

Our next opportunity to host the precious families in the V.I.P. program will be January 12th through the 19th. You may desire to prepare a meal for your family and the V.I.P. guests and serve it here at the church. Eating with them creates a home atmosphere that they are not privileged to at this point in their lives. Meal hosts come around 5:00 and stay until 8:00 during the week. On weekends the meal times are noon on Saturday and Sunday with a dinner at 6:00. You may rather spend the night in our host room that we set up for you so that our guests are not alone. Night hosts come at 8:00 pm. and leave at 7:00 am. One other opportunity is to drive our guests to the V.I.P. Day Center for showers on Saturday and Sunday afternoons or drive them to the next host Church on the final Sunday they are here. You can be a part of this ministry by looking at the schedule at LBCPC.org under the MINISTRIES tab to see available spots. You may sign up now by filling out the online form there or emailing linda@LBCPC.org. Our other 3 hosting dates for 2014 are April 13 - 29 and then again July 13 - 20. THANK YOU for your ministry to these families with children who need temporary shelter and our love.

Contact Information:

Lakewood Baptist Church

Website: LBCPC.org
4011 Lakewood Drive,
Phenix City, AL 36867
Main Office: 334.298.6433
Fax: 334.298.4873
Hours: M-Th 8:30 - 4:30 F- 8:30 - 4:00

Child Development Center:

334.298.6461
Website: LBCPC.org/cdc
Hours: M- F 6:30 - 6:00

January
2014

Volume VI

Issue 2

CONNECTIONS
(USPS #463270)
is a monthly
publication by
Lakewood Baptist
Church.
Periodicals paid at
Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER:
Send all address
corrections to:
Lakewood Baptist
Church,
4011 Lakewood
Drive, Phenix City,
Alabama 36867