



Lakewood Baptist November Connections

Shoebox Deadline
Sunday November 16



These children pictured above were held outside of a shoebox distribution in the Philippines May 2014. It was taken by Rhonda Anderson pictured left. There are always more children than shoeboxes.

***Thank you
for bringing one more
child inside the gates!***

Rhonda May '14

Brother M.R.

As I begin to write this month's letter my mind runs through my past like it was only yesterday. November in Alabama reminds me of September in the mountains and October in the Midwest. It is a season of great harvest, a time of reaping the fruit of hard labor. A time to see the results of all you have planned and worked so hard and hoped for. It really is a time of thanksgiving because of the reality of how great God has been through it all. November is always the month I thank God for those who have walked the road I presently travel before me laying the foundation on which I can now stand. It is a time of year I like to read the church history where I presently serve to be reminded that I now reap fruit from a vineyard I did not plant. It is a time to struggle with the reality that I will never find the words to express the gratitude I feel for being so blessed. It is a time to be reminded to give voice to the praise deserved by so many who work so hard behind the scenes to make a ministry successful. And this year I find myself overwhelmed by the gift of a church united and in love with the Lord and one another. Few pastors ever know what I have here at Lakewood today. The opportunity and potential of a church united can never be measured in worldly ways. The Power of a people in Love with the Lord and one another is the same power that created the heavens and earth. The same power it takes to recreate it again today regardless of how impossible that might sound to so many. This is a great time of year to be alive and just walk outside in the beauty of God's creation. This is a time to count our blessings and thank God He invited us to join Him in His plan for eternity. This is a time to thank God for the people that He has placed in our lives and our physical and spiritual families. So I am thanking God for you this month and praying that the feeling is mutual.



“ I will sing to the Lord”

Christmas Choir- Bonus Rehearsal

Sunday, November 2nd from 1:30-3:00 in the sanctuary
“O Come all ye Faithful” ensemble to practice at 3:00.

Orchestra Bonus Rehearsal and Lunch

Right after church November 9th until 2:30
Youth Choir will rehearse at 2:30

Special Concert featuring the Bob Barr Band

Sunday, November 23rd @ 5:00 pm (in lieu of our 6:00 service)

This band was established in 1988 in honor of Robert M. Barr who was the band director at Jordan High School from 1946 to 1962. Made of 50 members this band includes two of our own, Joel and Carrie Kimbro. Under the direction of Fred Catchings, this will be the band's first concert in Phenix City. It is a privilege to host this group and all they are asking is that you **bring something for the food closet at Lakewood**. Let's support them with our attendance and be blessed by their musical presentation.

I understand this is to be a concert of sacred music.



Children are a gift from God

I want to thank everyone involved in this year's Fall Festival. This is truly a church-wide effort and there is no way that the children's ministry could accomplish this community outreach without the help and support of the volunteers throughout our Lakewood family. A huge thanks to all who donated baked goods, craft items, candy, time, and talent to make this year's Fall Festival a time of fun, fellowship and caring for others. **The bake/craft sale made almost \$500**; this money will be used to fill as many **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes as possible by our AWANA kids this month.

Please remember that we are continually making **hygiene kits** for the homeless as items are donated, which are given to those in need. We need donations of travel sized hygiene products such as deodorant, lotion, hand sanitizer, shampoo and conditioner, as well as combs and washcloths. There are baskets on the elevator lobby welcome desk in which to place items you wish to donate.

Our children's choir is working hard on the musical, **“The Christmas Cupcake.”** The preschoolers will perform with the elementary choir in sharing “the sweetest story ever told” about a child's quest in discovering the real meaning of Christmas. Mark your calendars for **December 14 at 6:00 pm!**

TURNING THANKSGIVING INTO THANKSLIVING

There is no other sin quite like the sin of ingratitude. Shakespeare said, “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child.” The blind poet Milton said that a person with an ungrateful spirit only has one vice, because all of the rest of his vices are virtues compared to ingratitude. We have much for which to be grateful to God, but many people are grumbly hateful rather than humbly grateful.

If we’re truly thankful, it should show in our lives, and the best way to translate our thanksgiving into thanksgiving is to offer to God “the sacrifices of thanksgiving” (Psalm 107:22). In 1 Peter 2:4 we are told “to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” The Bible mentions five spiritual sacrifices that we are to offer.

- 1. OUR PERSON.** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1). I am to offer myself “by the mercies of God. “I give my body to Him because He gave His body for me.” The word “present” is a word that describes a man volunteering for the army, so I offer the sacrifice of my body voluntarily.
- 2. OUR PRAISE.** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15). According to Psalm 69:30-31, our praise and thanksgiving “shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull.” That means that God had rather have your praise than your material gifts. In those days an ox and a bull were valuable possessions, and to offer them to God would be comparable to offering a Mercedes or a Rolls Royce today. Both Hebrews 13:15 and Psalm 34:1 tell us to praise God “continually.” You don’t come to church to praise the Lord. You are to bring your praise with you to church. You continue in church the praise that you have commenced beforehand. The reason some people do such a poor job of praising God corporately in church is that they have not been praising Him privately.
- 3. OUR PRAYER.** Psalm 141:2 says that your prayer is to be offered to God as incense, the lifting of your hands as the evening sacrifice. Incense is the aroma of perfume ascending in smoke as it is burned upon the altar.
According to Revelation 5:8, that incense is the prayers of the saints going up to God. In the ancient tabernacle the golden altar of incense was located right in front of a curtain, behind which was the Holy of Holies, where the shekinah glory of God dwelt. Morning and evening the priest would offer the incense upon the altar, and there would be communion with the Lord. We can lift our hands and pray, and it is like sweet perfume offered to God.
- 4. OUR POSSESSIONS.** “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Heb. 13:16). In Philippians 4:8 Paul spoke of the giving of material possessions as “a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.” Did you know that your giving shows what you really think of God? Malachi 1:8 describes the evil of some people who offer blind, sick, or lame animals as sacrifices to the Lord. Instead of honoring God with the first-fruits, they were giving God the rejects and the leftovers. Then the prophet sarcastically suggests that they offer those same animals to their governor and see if he would be pleased. We offer to God things we wouldn’t give to one another as Christmas or birthday presents.
- 5. OUR PURITY.** Psalm 51:17 declares, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.” David had sinned grievously against God, but it was not his badness that broke his heart. According to Psalm 51:1, it was God’s goodness. How can we sin against the one who loved us to the extent that He suffered, bled and died for us? Sometimes we sit in the church pew on Sunday mornings, haughty and unbroken, acting like we are doing God a favor because we are there. Our attitude should be one of brokenness and humility, bowing down before God and offering Him tears of repentance, purity of life and the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Talk is cheap, and our expression of gratitude to God ought to go beyond words to daily actions.

Shaping the future

This month we will experience a new and unique service project as we will join with other local youth groups and FCA huddles to do a fundraiser in Athens, Ga. in association with the Georgia Bulldogs. Now, I know we don't have many Georgia fans here on this side of the river but I do want to shine the spotlight on UGA for a moment. It may surprise you to know that Georgia donates all of the proceeds from their game programs to FCA! Each game youth and singles groups donate their time by going and helping FCA raise money so they can reach more student athletes for Christ. Our plan is to leave Friday afternoon November 21st (5:00pm) and travel towards Athens and stay in a local church who will serve us by opening their doors for the night, then Saturday morning (22nd) we'll head over to the game. After selling the programs our servants will get into the game for free. The only cost will be for students to buy their own fast food. I believe this will be a great experience for our young people as it is a different kind of service project and most aren't Georgia fans anyway so it takes them to a place where they have never been before. I encourage all of our students and young adults to come along for the weekend.

We also plan our 6th annual Turkey Bowl for Sunday, November 30th (3:00-5:00pm) where we'll have a little fun throwing around the ole' pignskin and competing with each other for fun! Cost will be \$6.00 to cover your t-shirt. As always, in December (13th), we will join the Valley Rescue Mission to pass out new toys to needy families at Christmas time. This is one of the most rewarding service projects we do as we literally help match kids with the presents they will receive under the tree. Without this effort many wouldn't get anything at all and it is always a blessing to see the relief on a parents face as they receive a gift and food for the children for Christmas. After OCC is complete we will place donation bins around the church where you will be able to drop-off a new donated toy for a needy child. Rest assured, you will bring joy to a child somewhere in our community this Christmas. I so enjoy giving our students different opportunities to serve in and out of our community as I believe this is what we are called to do as the hands and feet of Christ.

Just a reminder, we will not be doing our monthly Feed the Homeless service projects during November or December since our assigned weekend falls on the holidays but we do plan to continue to make and deliver blankets and hygiene kits so the homeless' needs are met during this time. Please continue to drop your donated items off at the youth room or the church office at your convenience. Thank you for helping us to serve others!



November 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Time Change Lord's Supper 1st Pl @ 4 Youth Ch @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 6:00 MercyMed	3 Amen Choir @ 10:30	4 Election Day Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	5 VKBW @ 10:00	6 Kenny Robert's Class- OCC Shoebboxes	7	8 Homer Gray's Class- OCC Shoebboxes
9 Men's Choir 1st Pl @ 4 Yth Ch @ 2:30 Kidz Ch @ 6	10 Amen Choir @ 10:30	11 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	12 10:00 am - Trip to Luau Chick fil a Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	13 Don Craft's Class - OCC Shoebboxes	14	15
16 1st Pl @ 4 Youth Ch. @ 5 Feast Of Thanks @ 6:00	17 Amen Choir @ 10:30	18 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	19 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	20 JEGBW @ 7:00	21	22
-----Operation Christmas Child-----						
-----Youth to Athens-FCA-----						
23 1st Pl @ 4 Bob Barr Band @ 5:00 Kidz Ch @ 6 -----OCC-----	24	25	26 Prayer Meeting @ 6 No WNS, Awana or Youth	27 Office Closed Loaf Closed	28 Office Closed	29
30 Turkey Bowl @ 3 1st Pl @ 4 Youth Ch @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6						

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

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
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Bible Study
5:45 PM AWANA / FLYTE
Youth Get Real
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Thursday

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM LOAF

* All times are Eastern.

Join us on November 12th
 as we go to Truett's Luau Chick-Fil-A
 in Fayetteville, Ga.
 We will leave at 10:00 am
 and return around 3 or 3:30 pm.
 Contact Lorene Parker @
 706.570.1207



FEAST OF THANKS
 Sunday November 16th @ 6:00 pm
MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW
 at LBCPC.org or call the Church Office.
 The Church will provide the meats and drink.
 Bring dressing, vegetables, casseroles, salads or desserts
 enough for your family to share.
 Sam Beman will entertain after the dinner!

**Red Door Theatre
 Presents
 Always... Patsy Cline**



**Friday, December 5th
 Bus leaves at 5:15 pm
 Dinner, Play & Bus
 \$38 per person**

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 am - 4:30 pm
 F - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Child Development Center
 Website: LBCPC.org/cdc
 334.298.6461
 Hours: M - F 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

**November
 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