

May Connections



Lakewood Baptist Church

Message from Brother M.R.

As I begin to write this month's newsletter I am trying to recover from the wonderful blessing of Easter. The only negative reality in all that came our way is in fact a very good problem to have. We didn't have enough seating in the second service and several people felt uncomfortable and didn't stay. I want everyone to know that we are already making plans to better handle the great blessings that God has prepared for us. God always has bigger and better dreams for me than I have for myself, and I need to learn to dream bigger dreams. This past month was also the completion of our first year here at Lakewood, and my ability with the pen leaves me longing for the words that could possibly convey our appreciation. The church family here has been so kind and loving that we can not help but thank God for all of you.

As this month begins our children will be finishing their first year of school and the church will be getting ready for another big service on Mother's Day. I will be traveling as I am doing a revival in the great state of Wyoming, and would covet your prayers that both the people and the trout are hungry for what I am bringing. It is always a blessing to be asked to speak at any church, but to be asked back is always very special. God blessed us there as He has here with a wonderful church family and the chance to see them again is always special. I plan to spend one morning driving to the outlaw canyon. It sits just above the community of Kaycee where we used to live on the middle fork of the Powder River. It is called the outlaw canyon because it was the home of the cave used by Butch Cassidy and the Sun Dance Kid of the Hole in the Wall Gang. The Powder River is also well known for the mountain man Jeremiah Johnson who lived there. Now I have often shared my love for the movie Jeremiah Johnson, and how God used that film to set the course of my life at an early age. And though I did live in the mountains for many years, I did not live in the Big Horn mountains of Wyoming until after I surrendered my treasure to the Lord. The Bible is clear that where your heart is, there your treasure is also. My heart had belonged to the mountains from the day I saw Jeremiah Johnson, and it wasn't until 1993 that I would really surrender my first true love. I remember driving away from Crestone, Colorado with a heavy heart on my way to Kansas City. I had fought the reality of God's call with all I had in me. I guess the longer you have held a dream the harder it is to let it go. But I was about to make a wonderful discovery. I was about to learn that it was the creator of the mountains that I had longed to discover.

God is better than any created thing. God is also a loving father who loves to give to His children even more than they ask for. I had surrendered my dream only to find it returned even better than I had once known it to be. The North American Mission Board would appoint me as a career missionary to the great state of Wyoming. My home would be very close to the cabin where Jeremiah Johnson lived. I would fish the very streams that he did. I would sit on the bluffs that he no doubt did. And one day I would sit under a twisted cedar, high on the red wall cliffs above the Powder River and imagine how many Indians must have enjoyed this same place. Even a small cedar at this elevation would have taken hundreds of years to gain this height. Then suddenly I noticed the end of a long spring trap encased in the fork of the old cedar. They had been there so long the tree had nearly engulfed them through the years. It was quit the struggle to break three of them free. They were old pioneer traps built by a blacksmith in Arrow Rock, Mo. in the 1800s. Metal lasts forever up off the ground in the desert, and the traps are still so strong that I can't set them by hand. Were they Jeremiah Johnson's, I will never know, but they were his or maybe Hatchet Jacks, or some other mountain man who didn't make it back to the cedar with a view.

This much I know, God planted that tree, and had that mountain man put his traps there, knowing he would never need them again. God did this so I would find them one day and realize that His plans for my life are full of wonderful surprises. You can't out give God. You can't even dare to imagine all He has in store for those who love Him. Making God my first love was the greatest gift I ever gave myself. If you haven't surrendered all to God you have no idea what all you are missing. I have a revival to take care of this month in Wyoming, and the friends I will see there will certainly be a blessing. But most of all I am looking forward to a little time under a certain cedar tree with a view.

“You can't out give God.”

Children are a gift from God

Our children's choir has been working really hard on their new musical, *I Can Only Imagine*. It will be presented on **Sunday night, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.** In this musical about Heaven, the kids find out that Heaven is real, and that we can all know the joy and feel the anticipation of spending forever with Jesus in Heaven.

On **Sunday night, May 18**, the **Awana kids** will have their end-of-year program and awards night. Please join us that night as the kids show what they have been learning in Awana this year!

VBS 2014 is coming soon! In 1 Peter 3:15 we are instructed to always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks to give a reason for the hope that we have in Jesus. This is the key verse that **"Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend"** is built around. We will learn to look at the facts and test the evidence about who Jesus really is as we experience VBS this summer. The dates are Sunday, June 1 – Thursday, June 5 from 5:15 to 8:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and save these dates for your children to attend this fun time of learning, crafts, and games!

Firm Foundations for Future Generations



Lakewood Baptist Church
Child Development Center

Cabbi Black

Summer Camp Registration

There are still a few spots available for summer camp if you have a child who needs something fun to do this summer. Call the CDC Office soon at 334.298.6461. Camp begins on May 27th.

Mother's Day Shop

Stop by the back lobby May 6th - 8th from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and also from 9:00 - 11:00 am on Wednesday to buy Mom a special gift for Mother's Day and help benefit the Belize Mission Trip all at the same time.

CDC Graduation

Come out and see our precious Pre-k 4's graduate on May 8th at 6:30 in the sanctuary. In the past the church has been very gracious to help provide delicious finger foods for our reception after and we are asking for your help again this year. If you would be able to help let Cabbi or Tammy know ahead of time so she will know what to plan for. Please have your food here the morning of the 8th. Thanks for your continued support of the CDC.

“I will sing to the Lord”

Charles Keown

Music & Senior Adults

Senior Adult Revival @ Edgewood Baptist Church

Tuesday, May 6th @ 10:30 am. The Amen Choir will be providing the music and Dr. Horner will be bringing the message. Please wear your dress outfit and be on the bus by 9:00 am or meet us at Edgewood by 9:30 am. We should be back at the church by 12:15 pm.

Relay for Life Concert @ 7:00pm.

Friday, May 9th @ 7:00 pm. The Amen Choir will be participating along with others and would appreciate your support. Please wear the fuchsia and white with black pants.

Sweet Spirits on Tuesday, May 13th @ 10:00 am.

Come for inspiration, fellowship, laughs, entertainment and a good lunch.

Shaping the Future

Andrew Spires

Youth & Younger Single Adults

Moral person or motivated follower?

In my time working with students I've watched many young people develop a passion for Christ during their time at church and within the confines of student ministry. However, there's always a deadline coming, the time where they will graduate and we send them out into the world. Some head off to college, some stay home, but all are faced with challenges that they are rarely prepared for. We can teach, we can influence, and we can pray for our students but they must make the choice to live out their faith or not. Some aptly say that many students graduate from high school and graduate from their faith and unfortunately the numbers back that up. I can tell you that as a student pastor nothing breaks my heart more than to see our young adults fall away and be sifted by the reaper of this world.

I warn them that the time is coming, I encourage them to prepare, I give them all the scripture to commit to memory but I have to trust God with the outcome. The tragic realization is that many students equate morality as the primary purpose of Christianity. Many parents believe this as well, they see their seemingly well rounded and moral student not struggling with worldly addictions and assume that they have done all they need to do. Here's the truth, morality can be achieved without Christ and that is not the primary goal of Christianity. The primary goal of our student ministry, and the primary goal of parents, should be to develop and turn out motivated followers of Christ, the very definition of a disciple. To do that we need to be living out an example of what a motivated follower looks like.

I believe in the Jesus model, He called twelve men to follow Him; He invested His time, energy, and effort in training them for the challenges ahead, in other words He lived out THE example. Even one of His fell away forever and the rest were scattered but because they were motivated followers they went on to live the rest of their lives for Him and changed the world. Though my heart is broken for the students that fall away, my heart is overjoyed when one becomes a motivated follower of Christ and starts serving others following Jesus example. Let us examine ourselves and judge whether we are just moral people or are we motivated followers? My prayer is this; that God watch over our young people, that He protects them as they live in this world, and that we as adults and leaders find the strength and commitment to set the example for the next generation.

You probably know that the Bible continues to be the best-selling book in the world. The Koran has been translated into 47 languages in its entirety, and portions of it have been translated into 67 more languages, for a total of 114. The complete Bible has been translated into 518 languages, the New Testament into 1,185 more, and at least one book of the Bible into 1,095 more. This makes a total of 2,798 languages into which some major portion of the Bible has been translated. Paradoxically, however, this much-purchased book is a much-neglected book. Tens of thousands of people who buy a Bible never read it, and knowledge of the Bible is abysmal, even in our churches. Few parents read the Bible to their children, much less teach them from it. Very few church members make a practice of daily Bible meditation. Not many preachers seriously study the biblical text in order to understand both its original meaning and its contemporary application. Some church leaders even publicly express their disagreement with its plain doctrinal and ethical teachings.

Our problem is not that the Bible is unavailable to us, but that we do not take advantage of its availability. With no hesitation I declare that the Bible is indispensable to a person's health and growth as a Christian. Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy, stated that people don't live by bread alone, but by God's Word, clearly indicating that the Word of God is just as necessary for spiritual life as food is for physical life. There is no other way to grow into maturity in Christ.

In Understanding the Bible, the course we just finished in Lakewood Bible Institute, we saw that God reveals Himself in the Bible. It's His divine autobiography, in which we learn what kind of God we are to worship and serve. We also learned that the main purpose of the Bible is to tell the story of salvation, making us "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15). Then we saw that in the Bible God gives us instructions concerning the kind of life He wants us to live. Thus, in the Bible God gives us revelations of Himself, leading us to worship; promises of salvation, arousing our faith; and commandments that express His will, demanding our obedience. This is the meaning of Christian discipleship, and the three ingredients of worship, faith and obedience,

How can we worship God if we don't know who He is or what He is like? We are not like the people of Athens, who worshipped an unknown god. The Bible tells us what God is like. How can we trust in God if we don't know His promises? Faith rests on the promises of God and on the character of the God who made them. Those promises are found in the Bible. How can we obey God if we don't know His will and His commandments? His commandments are in the Bible, and they are not burdensome. So without God's revelations, true worship of Him is impossible; without God's promises faith is impossible; without God's commandments obedience is impossible. Therefore, without the Bible discipleship is impossible.

Do you realize how blessed you are to have a Bible in your possession? Please don't let excuses keep you from studying God's Word. Do you say, "I'm too busy"? If you're too busy for the Bible, you're too busy. Do you say, "It's too hard for me to understand the Bible"? Well, I have good news for you! The second course I will teach in Lakewood Bible Institute is How to Study the Bible, beginning June 1. The same class will be offered at three times during the week, at 9:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. on Sunday and at 6:30 on Thursday. In this course I will share the proper principles of Bible interpretation, explain different methods of Bible study, and point you to Bible study helps. If you finish the course, you should be able to do a thorough study of any passage of Scripture and grasp its meaning and apply it to contemporary times. I urge you to consider Paul's admonition found in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Senior Adult Social

May 16th 5:30-8:30

Fellowship Hall

Bring a spouse and/or a friend

Games- Cards (Skip Bo, Rummy), Dominoes, Scattergories

Food- Hot Dogs or Scramble Dogs & Fixins

Chili, Chips, Slaw

Cookies and/or Brownies

In memory of:

Alice Quintana for Annie Armstrong from Fran Loftin
 Edna Askew Hodge from Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pusey
 Edna Askew Hodge for Homebound
 from Bobby & Clara Jean Watson
 Charles Turner for Belize Mission Trip from Eva & Janet Turner
 Maggie Mae Taunton Belize Mission Trip from Eva & Janet
 Turner
 Max Wilkes for Youth Ministry from Malinda Wilkes
 Montie & Clide Miller for Annie Armstrong
 from Bobby & Clara Jean Watson

Jessie Little:
 For Food Closet from Jimmy & Susan Graham
 For Amen Choir from:
 Terry & Clara Grimes
 Carolyn Pruski
 Fred & Margaret Van Horn
 Ken & Janice Noble
 J. D. & Diane Whitehead
 Brenda Slappey
 Patricia Thombly
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Eshman
 Melvin & Sherry Scroggins
 Mr. & Mrs. John Little

Bill Bush:
 For Amen Choir from:
 Charles and Dottie Hudson
 Dorothy Atkins
 J. D. & Diane Whitehead
 Eddie & Judy Ezell
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hall
 Melvin & Sherry Scroggins
 For Annie Armstrong from Billy & Cathy Greene

Jody Kelly:
 For Amen Choir from Ken & Janice Noble
 For Amen Choir from Dorothy Atkins
 For Food Closet from Brenda Slappey
 For Food Closet from Dolly Stokes
 For Homebound from Bobby & Clara Jean Watson
 For Annie Armstrong from Sally Kennedy
 For Budget from Betty Dobbs
 For Budget from J. D. & Diane Whitehead

In Honor of H. T. & Dot Oliver for Amen Choir from
 Malinda Wilkes

**Welcome
 New Members**

Emma Galarza
 David Beckmen

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
 Jerry Horner, Minister - Discipleship & Outreach
 jhorner@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
 For May**

5/7

Country Fried Steak,
 Rice & Gravy,
 Green Beans, Salad
 & Dessert

5/14

Taco Salad
 & Dessert

5/21

Fried & Baked Chicken,
 Macaroni & Cheese,
 Steamed Broccoli, Salad
 & Dessert

5/28

Hamburger Steak,
 Loaded Baked Potato,
 Rolls, Salad &
 Dessert

March Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
3/2/14	\$24,781.36	\$575.00	\$2,418.75	\$330.00	\$28,105.11
3/9/14	\$13,322.06	\$197.00	\$1,095.00	\$120.00	\$14,734.06
3/16/14	\$9,990.79	\$206.00	\$1,627.10	\$5,327.97	\$17,151.86
3/23/14	\$8,745.51	\$66.00	\$6,251.54	\$2,149.14	\$17,212.19
3/30/14	\$9,930.88	\$81.00	\$3,174.60	\$1,420.25	\$14,606.73

May 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Youth Ch. @ 5 Kids Choir Program @ 6:00	5 Amen Choir @ 10:30	6 10:30 Amen Choir to Edgewood Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 Mother's Day Shop for Belize 3:00 pm-6:00 pm Lobby	7 Mother's Day Shop 9-11 Lobby VKWMU @ 10am	8 CDC Grad. @ 6:30	9 Amen Choir Concert @ 7 LBC Relay for Life	10
11 Mother's Day 1st Pl. @ 4:00	12	13 10:00 Sweet Spirits	14 Deacon Meeting	15 Jim Bob's Spirit Night 5-9	16 Camp out @ Thornton's 7:00 Senior Adult Game Night 5:30-8:30 F/H	17
18 Grad. Recog. 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Youth Ch @ 5 6:00 Awana Night	19 Amen Choir @ 10:30 CiCi's Spirit Night @ 4:30-8	20 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	21 Finance Meeting	22 JEG BW @ 7:00	23	24
25 1st Pl. @ 4 Church Conf.	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28 CDC Meeting	29 LOAF Closed	30	31 Feed the Homeless 11-2

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
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.

O.D. Hamrick of Phenix City celebrated Easter with five generations of his family.

Pictured with Mr. Hamrick are his daughter, Gwenda Hamrick Sherman, granddaughter Julie Sherman Morgan, great-granddaughter Ellen Morgan Acton, and great-great-grandson Benton Gathings Acton.



There is an Invitation for Jessica Martin's Bridal Tea on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

Circles of Influence



2 Corinthians 9 New International Version (NIV)

¹There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. ²For **I know your eagerness to help**, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, **telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.** ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may **be ready**, as I said you would be. ⁴For **if any** Macedonians come with me and **find you unprepared, we**—not to say anything about you—**would be ashamed** of having been so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and **finish the arrangements for the generous gift** you had promised. **Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.**

⁶Remember this: **Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.** ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, **having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** ⁹As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰Now **he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.** ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be **generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.**

¹²**This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.** ¹³**Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God** for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and **for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.** ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is our basis to collect offerings in the Circles of Influence, that a storehouse of gifts will be ready for our brothers in need BEFORE the need arises. Pray about your offerings above your tithes that will bless the ministries here and abroad.

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

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