

MAY CONNECTIONS

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



MESSAGE FROM BROTHER M.R.

Dear Friends and Families!

Reality is often more difficult to believe than even the best story of fiction. As I sit here today trying to write my first newsletter as the senior pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama I still can't believe that it is true. How in the world does a hermit from Crestone Colorado find himself here but for God? God is still in the miracle business! He still answers prayers and changes lives just as He did in Biblical times. The certainty of His call on our lives is the source of greatest hope, that can and will keep us going to finish the race. As I look back on the past few months in my own life I can't help but pause and praise God for all He did to make this ministry possible. From the sale of our home, to the new home He supplied for us here have all been miraculous. The realization that God had been setting the stage for this ministry years ago in a small town in Missouri called Maysville. Little did I know then that God would use that visit to begin the wheels turning in His plan for my future. I have come to believe that God has given us the ability to remember the past, but not see the future for just such a day as this. For in our memories we carry the truth of His hand at work in our everyday, to bring about a tomorrow greater than anything we would dare to believe or imagine. The past is there to remind us that we have a God that cares and can be trusted in the present, and counted on in the future. Remember, has been the hearts cry for spiritual leaders throughout history and remains just as vital today. We as a nation need to remember that God, not man made this nation great. It was the faith of our founding fathers that set the stage for the nation we enjoy this very day. When a nation forgets it's past it loses sight of it's future, and the reason it began in the first place. We as Christians must be careful to never stop telling the story of God throughout history that has delivered us to this very day. For the God of Abraham is the one true God of today. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The God who loved the world in the days of Jesus still loves the world today. The God of miracles that answered the prayers of the hero's of the faith in the Bible is answering prayers to this very day.

A new beginning is never easy but it has always been fun. So many names to remember, and so much to learn as God test us, and stretches us to rely on him alone more and more with each passing day. It seems funny to me now, but six months ago I was dealing with the truth of my convictions, in the face of the reality of my circumstances, and it wasn't nearly as easy as it should have been. By nature I am a planner. That is the polite way to say I am a worrier who never has been comfortable with situations of uncertainty. I like to see where I am going, or at least be able to believe I have an idea, but that is not walking by faith. Oh how I would love to become more comfortable when God has the wheel. To deal with my concerns (that's a polite way to say fears) I began to remember all the times in the past that God had been at the wheel, and the wonderful blessings that always came from those journeys, and my fears turned to joy. My hope sprung forth from a history of God's faithfulness, and the anticipation of just what He had planned for me next. My mind began to dream of mountains and rainbow trout. Perhaps a trip to the desert west, and the opportunity to see the Grand Canyon again, and to live where rain, when it came, was always a reason for rejoicing. But the one thing that I never dared to dream or imagine is now the reality of my present day. So this is a day for celebration! A time in the life of myself and my family that is filled with rejoicing over what God has done for us. He has brought us south and not west, to a people and opportunity that leaves us with nothing but praise and thanksgiving. Paul would write it first, and pastors everywhere have continued to repeat his words of praise for the very same reasons since the church began. "I thank God for all of you" , says it all and we are excited and humbled to serve alongside you here at Lakewood.

MESSAGE FROM BROTHER M.R.

My favorite memory that always carries me when I find myself dealing with anxiety is not what you might expect. It is the memory of a beautiful grey phase ruffed grouse I once saw in northern Wisconsin. You see I often traveled to the north woods in the fall to hunt grouse with my bird dogs, so I have seen many grouse before this one. But this day was very different. I would go there alone and the quiet and isolation of the experience has always restored me, and proved to be a great blessing for me spiritually. On this day I had decided to leave early and explore a rather large track of wilderness that was new to me. I would not turn back in small loops staying close to the road system as usual and it proved to be a blessing that has left me forever changed.

Five hours past before I came to the shore line to take in the wonder and beauty of the St. Croix river that I would use to navigate home. Like many before me no doubt, I began to wonder if I was the only one to ever sit on that rock listening to water flow past in its race to the sea. Then I looked over to see the flowers and the beauty of the fall colors reflecting the sun all around me, and I suddenly realized I was not alone. My dog "lucky" was just a few yards off to my side, his body frozen, unwilling to move except for a quick glance at me with his eyes. Between he and I was a magnificent ruff grouse, the very reason for the journey and he was not the least concerned with our presence. We had traveled deep enough to have moved well past the grouse that understood the reason for our presence. He made his way toward me, and my dog now trembled with the excitement of the moment, his body tight like a coil spring as I spoke to him softly to hold. The bird walked over and drank from the stream never realizing for one instance that he might be in danger. He was right to feel safe, for he too had known a life of God's faithfulness to supply his needs. Now if God is concerned enough to take care of that grouse that only he had ever seen, how much more will He care for me. Matthew 6:25-34 was played out before my very eyes. Like the grouse I needed to live without fear, free from the worries of trying to supply what God has promised to those who love him. My calling was to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things would be given to me for the father knows what I need, and He is faithful.

As long as the grouse in the wilderness that no one but God knows is well cared for, I have nothing to fear. God is Good all the time! And God can be trusted when we find ourselves in need.

God Bless & Best Wishes!
Brother M.R. Hamilton

Children Are A Gift From God

Our children's choir is working very hard on their new musical, L.O.S.T., But Now I'm Found, which will be presented Sunday night, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. It is a fun island adventure in which you will be taken on a voyage with the Captain and his first mate, along with the crew and passengers of the S.S. Hope. Come see what happens when this day cruise gets caught in a storm and the ship is stranded on a deserted island (or is it?). Experience what happens when the storms of life confront us, and evaluate if your own faith is built on the shifting sands of the temporary things we allow to enter our lives.

Hear ye! Hear ye! VBS 2013 is coming to the Great Hall of LBC on Sunday, June 2 – 6. We will be “standing strong in the battle for Truth” as we as prepare for this year's VBS, “The Kingdom Chronicles.” In the battle for truth between God's good kingdom and the Enemy's bad kingdom, we will be teaching our children to stand strong by equipping them with the full armor of God. As they fasten on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, covering everything with prayer, they'll learn how to become mighty warriors for the Creator King of Kings!

Patrick Thornton, Children's Minister

Shaping the Future

Youth & Younger Single Adults

Adults

Calendar for May:

Amen Choir – 6th and 20th

Alleluia Choir – 7th and 21th

Orchestra – 8th, 15th, and 22nd

Youth Choir – No Rehearsals in May – Sing Sunday morning May 5th and 19th

Sweet Spirits – May 14th

Program will be Gail Gentry

Lunch – Roasted Pork Loin, Green Beans, Potatoes and Desert

Firm Foundations for Future Generations



**Lakewood Baptist
Church Child Development Center**

This is a sad and exciting time of year for us here at the CDC. Our Pre-K 4's are getting ready to graduate and enter the big world of Kindergarten. Our graduation date is set for Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 PM. Ms. Margaret Wilson is helping us with decorating the Fellowship Hall for a reception for our graduates and their families. Ms. Gail Brantley is going to ask her Sunday school class about helping out with food. We would appreciate any help with finger foods.

Summer Camp is coming and we will begin on Friday, May 28th. We are so excited to get the Summer started with our fun camp. We still have spots available, so if you know anyone who is interested in coming to CDC Camp please let them know that we are registering now. There is a \$50 registration fee and a \$100 summer activity fee. We have all kinds of fun activities planned including field trips to The Columbus Museum, the Library, Columbus State University to watch different plays, and many other fun trips. We also will have water days and fun crafts during the summer. We are looking forward to a great summer.

Cabbi Black, CDC Director

Sympathy to

Janet Turner in the loss of her father,
Charles Turner

Allen Valentini in the loss of his brother,
Gary Valentini

Shelrea Funderburk in the loss of her mother,
Ollie Mae Norris

Welcome New Members

The Hamiltons
Heath Owens
Tracy Hall
Gina Fusillo

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Begins at 5:00 each Wednesday.
\$5.00 for adult
\$2.50 for child
\$15.00 max per family

5/1/13
Hamburger Steak & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Salad & Dessert

5/8/13
Baked & Fried Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Chicken Dressing, Salad & Dessert

5/15/13
Taco Salad Beans & Rice Salad & Dessert

5/22/13
Chicken Salad w/ Crackers, Fresh Tomatoes, Broccoli Salad, Potato Salad, Salad Bar & Dessert

5/29/13
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Butterbeans

Gifts Have Been Given in Memory

Buddy Hardin for Annie Armstrong from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Alice Quintana:

For Annie Armstrong from Jimmy & Susan Graham

For Bed Babies from Steve & Rhonda Harris

For Homebound Ministry from Steve & Nancy Stainsby

Harold Nevels:

For Amen Choir from Patty Grant

For Annie Armstrong from J. D. & Diane Whitehead

Gladys Ivey for Annie Armstrong from Nancy Stainsby

Mary Lowe for Homebound Ministry from Nancy Stainsby

Lois Gray for Belize Mission Trip from Terry & Clara Grimes

Ruby Hall for Annie Armstrong from J. D. & Diane Whitehead

Charles Turner:

For Annie Armstrong from J. D. & Diane Whitehead

For Food Closet from Clara Jean Watson

Ollie Mae Norris:

For Annie Armstrong from J. D. & Diane Whitehead

For Homebound Ministry from Brenda Slappey

Maggie Mae Taunton for Amen Choir from Janet Turner

In Honor of:

Martin & Becky Kinzalow for the Food Closet from Lucy Jones

Ray Quintana for the Bus Ministry from Steve & Rhonda Harris

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Horner for the Food Closet from Melvin & Sherry Scroggins

Dr. Jerry Horner in honor of his birthday for the Belize Mission Trip from Terry & Clara Grimes

Betty Burrows for Homebound Ministry

Ministerial Staff:

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
brothermr@LBCPC.org

Charles Keown, Minister of Music and 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

Rebecca McCoy, Ministry Assistant, rebecca@LBCPC.org

March Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
3/3/13	\$20,092.50	\$490.00	\$1,935.00	\$2,188.63	\$24,706.13
3/10/13	\$11,982.70	\$82.00	\$1,979.50	\$1,111.46	\$15,155.66
3/17/13	\$11,208.40	\$106.00	\$600.00	\$3,984.83	\$15,899.23
3/24/13	\$ 9,726.00	\$256.00	\$1,841.60	\$3,415.00	\$ 15,238.60
3/31/13	\$12,025.45	\$141.00	\$2,245.00	\$831.53	\$15,242.98

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 VKBW@10:00 5:45 Awana 5:45 Youth Bible Study	2 Bruster's Scoop Night 6-8	3	4
5 Children's Musical @ 6:00	6 Amen Choir @10:30	7 Alleluia Choir @6:30	8 5:45 Awana 5:45 Youth Bible Study 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	9 CDC Graduation @ 6:30	10 Awana Campout @ 6:30	11
12 Mother's Day No PM Service	13	14 Sweet Spirits @ 10:00	15 5:45 Awana 5:45 Youth Bible Study Finance Team & CMLT Meetings @ 7:00	16 Bruster's Scoop Night 6-8	17	18
19 AM Grad. Recognition Awana Service @ 6:00	20 Amen Choir @10:30	21 Alleluia Choir @6:30 9:00 Bus to S'Berry Patch & Yoder's	22 5:45 Wet Wednesday 5:45 Youth Bible Study CDC Team Meeting @ 7:00	23 JEG/BW @ 7:00	24	25
26 No PM Service	27 Memorial Day	28	29 5:45 Wet Wednesday 5:45 Youth Bible Study	30 Bruster's Scoop Night 6-8	31 Beth Moore Conference	

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

* All times are Eastern.

Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
10:50 AM Blended Worship Service
10:50 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
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00PM 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.

Benefit For LAUGHING CHILD International
A Ministry to Children with HIV/AIDS in Mexico

“An Evening of Praise & Worship” Thursday May 9TH @ 7:00PM Christ Community Church Columbus
Proceeds will help complete Charlie & Ruth’s Houses ~ Summer Camps for girls and boys
Shane Clark, Christ Community's Band, Solid Rock Quartet and Muscadine will be singing.
This event is sponsored by MorningStar International, Christ Community Church, LEAD Ministries,
St Mark Methodist, East Highland Methodist, and Ron Lucas Construction and Design.



Bus Trip Tuesday, May 21ST to Kaufman’s Strawberry Patch & Yoder’s for Lunch \$5.00 for Bus
Leave Church @ 9:00AM Return @ 3:30 Call Lorene Parker– 706-570-1207

Notes of Appreciation were received from Janet Turner and Annie Horner

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: CDCPC.org
Hours: M- F 6:30 - 6:00

**May
2013**

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