

# Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 4

LBCPC.ORG

*"He is Risen"*



*Welcome Home.*



# *A Message from* **M.R. Hamilton**

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

**April showers bring may flowers or so the saying goes.** But April is a month of new beginnings and none are sweeter than the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter. This year as always we have big plans for Easter and please plan to attend with your family and friends as we will be holding identical services both at 9:00 and 11:00 AM. My first Easter here four years ago I made a mistake and we had more families than we had room, but we have moved to correct those problems by offering the identical services so you can come early and be sure to find a seat and this helps to open up space in the second service. Yes, April is a great time of year as everything is green again reminding us that God is a God of seasons and I hope as you read this short note that it might find you in a place of fresh beginnings and a spirit of renewal. April this year will hold a great deal more in store for us as we will certainly be close to completing the Family Life Center by then so plan on another celebration along with Easter this year. As soon as we are permitted to occupy the building we will put that new kitchen to the test by having our harvest feast as a dedication to the completion of a very long dream. April is such a wonderful month because it is a month filled with great hope. And hope is to the human experience much the same thing as the April showers that cause us to look forward to the May flowers. Hope gives us the power to dream and to believe that the best is yet to come.



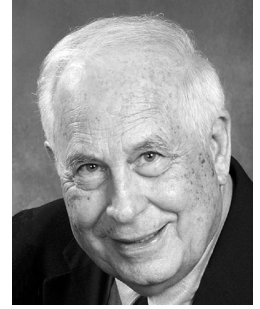
*Join us April 29th*  
*"Nothing's Gonna Steal my Joy"*  
*Women's Conference with Joani Tabor*  
*\* Concert Artist \* Author*  
*\* Motivational Speaker*

*Lakewood Baptist*  
*9:30am-3:00pm*  
*Lunch Provided*  
*Cost is \$20*

*Register @ [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org)*  
*Resources - Ladies Ministry*

# *A Message from* **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



**Many liberal pastors and teachers try to explain away the bodily resurrection of Jesus and tell us that you can be a Christian without believing in this fundamental truth of the gospel.** Such people may call

themselves Christians, but those who do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ have no right to bear the name Christian. But suppose the resurrection never happened? The apostle Paul answers that question in 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. He tells us six tragic things that would be a reality if Christ had not risen.

1. Preaching is pointless (v. 14). Paul states that without the resurrection, preaching is “empty,” that is, futile, with no purpose, profitless, a total waste of time. Why? Because in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul defines the gospel. It is “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” Several years ago, a misguided liberal pastor explained to me his view of the resurrection. “The body of Jesus still lies in an unknown tomb, but his deathless spirit marches on,” he said. He concluded by announcing, “It wouldn’t make any difference in my preaching if some archaeologist discovered the bones of Jesus.” I replied, “I’m sure it wouldn’t,” because no preacher preaches the gospel unless he preaches the resurrection of Jesus. That man ought to get an honest job.

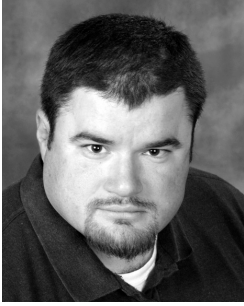
2. Faith is foolish (v. 14). If Jesus didn’t rise from the dead, you’re trusting something that doesn’t deserve your trust. A dead savior is nobody’s savior. Why put your faith in Jesus if Jesus is dead? That faith would be vain, because there is no point in following a loser. Somebody who is dead can do nothing for you. According to Romans 10:9, there can be no salvation without confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. How do you know that Jesus is the Son of God and that He can save you? The answer, according to Romans 1:4, is the resurrection of Jesus.

3. The disciples are deceivers (v. 15). Paul doesn’t say that the disciples were mistaken if Jesus was still in the grave. He says that they were deliberate liars. A false witness is somebody who knowingly, willingly, and deliberately perjures himself by lying. The disciples boldly testified that Jesus was alive, so if He had not risen, they were con artists who deceived the world with a colossal fraud. But these men were so certain of their testimony that they paid for it with their very life’s blood.

4. Sin is supreme (v. 17). If Christ is still in the grave, then God did not accept the payment for our sins. No resurrection, no salvation. But the resurrection is God’s stamp of approval and authenticity that full payment has been made. Paul declared in Romans 4:25 that Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” That statement means that Jesus died for our sins, but the work of redemption was incomplete until God raised Him from the dead. Without the resurrection we have no hope of heaven, but we have a risen Savior who has paid the penalty for our sins.

5. Death is dominant (v. 18). If Jesus did not rise, then death is the winner, and all we can hope for is to get older and sicker until it all ends at the grave, where we are left to rot and decay. It’s all over, and there will never be a reunion with our loved ones. But we preach a resurrection gospel that assures us that life is not just a colossal bad dream that ends in a veil of tears as we say goodbye, never to meet again.

6. The future is fearful and fruitless (v. 19). If this life is all there is, then it’s just bad news. Earnest Hemmingway summed up the attitude of people without Jesus when he said, “It’s as though we are a colony of ants living on one end of a burning log.” If Christ is not risen, then life is a bad joke, a chaotic thing of time and space that makes no sense. But verse 20 shouts the glad news that Christ is risen, and because the resurrection is a reality, preaching is purposeful, faith is fruitful, the disciples are dependable, sin is subjugated, death is defeated, and the future is fantastic. The resurrection of Christ takes the sting out of sin, the gloom out of the grave, and the dread out of death, and we have a hope that is steadfast and certain.



# *A Message from* **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

**Last month I addressed the “lost generation” of churchgoers, the trend among Millennials to leave the church (and Christ) or to maintain a relationship with Christ but eschew the institution of church as a whole.** Many churches have addressed this problem by becoming more trendy, changing worship styles, and becoming more “seeker friendly”. While it is definitely true that the church as a whole needs to adjust to changing trends in worship, and modernization to remain relevant, this cannot come at the expense of true theology and forsaking any part of the truth of God’s Word. Many churches have become weekly religious performances instead of true worship, in Spirit and in Truth. I for one am sick of religious performance, the “look-at-me” use of God given talents from musicians and preachers alike. So many ministries today have filled churches and stadiums to the brim with the dreaded “easy-believe-ism” that focuses solely on the love of God (which is obviously true and self-described by God as who He is) without teaching that God is also the Righteous Judge as well. We have watered down the Gospel message to focus solely on love, blessings, and happiness without mentioning the cost of following Jesus and teaching the process of sanctification. That process empowered by the Holy Spirit, which rids the strongholds of sin in our lives and brings about the new creation in Christ we are to become. Our God is a Holy God, and doesn’t tolerate sin, otherwise He wouldn’t be Holy, and by default wouldn’t be God. We have taught Millennials, and the church as a whole, an anything-goes-kind of religiosity. This has created mixed results, we have vast numbers of church goers who are merely religious people who consume weekly religious tradition without the Word ever taking root in their lives driving them to action. Therefore, they are always consuming, never serving. Among the younger generation, it has created a belief system that is muddled with sin and freedom that is of no benefit in a true believer’s life. This has enabled and even encouraged the viewpoint of “how close can I get to sin without sinning” instead of “I will seek personal holiness” as commanded by God. Even worse, we have created a belief system that is incoherent to the outside world. The world knows some Christians who are legalistic, some who are anything goes, some who are judgmental, some who are very forgiving, and most who are hypocritical. We are sending such a mixed message that the world just ends up avoiding the whole thing, as there seems to be no one set of values or principles that can be universally supported among Christians. Denominational doctrines have helped to confuse this problem even further creating a “we versus them” mentality among believers. We often don’t see ourselves as a part of the whole body of Christ first, instead we see ourselves only as; Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostal, Catholic, etc. Further, many churches are divided into factions of senior, middle-aged, and young, married or not, and everyone just stays separate in their respective grouping, never truly pulling together in one direction to reach those outside the church walls. I believe this damages the fellowship of believers and that isolation is often a tool of the enemy. This creates a church where 10-20% do all the service and ministry within and without the church, while the rest simply consume and complain.

So, how do we combat these trends and even reverse them? Well, we can’t, but God can! We may have created the problem but only God can fix it. The answer is not simply an overhaul or new format. The fix is in application, the application of God’s Word to our lives, working out our salvation in front of others by displaying Jesus to them accurately. Jesus was always around “sinners”, and He maintained His purity and witness while applying love and righteous judgment simultaneously. Before you just dismiss this as; “Well of course He did, He was God”, remember Jesus was also fully human and felt the pull towards compromise as we do, yet He stood firm. We have the same ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us to stand firm on truth. Furthermore, we have the responsibility to preach the truth in love, to speak and live out our stories in front of other people, relating to them how Jesus has changed our lives. We can’t do this if our mindset is merely seeking religiosity or is muddled with sin, we have to deliver consistent compassion, grace, empathy, and love without sacrificing the Truth. Pastors must preach the Word unapologetically (all parts), teachers must teach the Word in small groups (not just hang out, or gossip/complain), and musicians must lead worshippers into true worship of the Savior (not religious performance). We must learn to partner with other churches, across denominational lines, as one body of Christ, after all, aren’t we all going to be in heaven for eternity together? We aren’t going to report to the Baptist subdivision in Glory!?! We must seek relevancy that doesn’t sacrifice Truth, and we must seek to serve those outside the walls of the church first before ourselves. Show this town, this generation consistency and they’ll heed the call to follow Christ. Stop living a Christian walk that permits stretching your foot across a line to see if it’s hot over there, instead ask; is this thing in my life beneficial, will it cause others to stumble, and does it help accurately reflect Christ to others, or does it send a mixed message? If anything fails any of those test questions give it no place in your life. God’s Word tells us that He wants all to come to know Him, and while we know many will reject Him, we need to do all we can do to bring as many others to His feet as possible. To do this we will have to battle sin, deny self, serve others, and by doing this we will discover what a true follower, a real disciple of Christ looks like. When we do this our own lives will necessarily change. When we do this we will be stretched and feel uncomfortable. When we do this we will develop a burden for the lost and others different than us. When we do this we will bring glory to God. When we do this, others will follow!



# *A Message from* **Gina Fusillo**



CHILDREN, LBC

## **Spring time brings about many wonderful changes returning life in God's creations. Leaves return to trees, flowers emerge from beneath the leaf covered ground, and birds return from migration.**

Spring is when vitality returns to the land after the desolation of winter. It is nature's cycle of life, when death and rebirth is most visible. When I see flowers emerge from beneath the leaf covered ground, I think of Jesus rising from the tomb, once again to live for us. Easter is my favorite celebration. It is the time to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who showed his undying love for us and all of His promises. He never fails us. Our children are like Spring flowers. From birth, each day they grow and blossom like flowers, growing in health and size. With the love and guidance of their parents, they also grow in their love for Christ. Let's pray for all of our parents to fly their kites high in the sky with Christian love without fear, as God holds those kite strings.

Come one, come all, come young, come old! Bring lawn chairs and coolers, friends and neighbors and enjoy Springtime at Lakewood as we celebrate our annual traditional Eggstravaganza on April 8th, beginning at 11:00. The Easter Story will captivate the attention of the children while the Easter Bunnies furiously hide approximately 3,000 eggs on the front lawn. Plan to stay for lunch! BBQ plates will be served from 11:30 - 12:30 for \$5.00 each. Lunch is supported by Patrick Thornton's Bible Fellowship Class and all proceeds will go toward purchases for Operation Christmas Child from the Children's Ministry. Advance ticket sales are underway. See any member of Patrick's class or Gina Fusillo to purchase your tickets. A minimal number of tickets will be available at the door, so please purchase in advance. Offerings of individually wrapped Easter candy and plastic Easter eggs may be dropped off at the church office. We are low in candy this year so if you feel led to bless our children with candy stuffing's for their eggs, please drop the candy off before April 4th. The Virginia Kennedy WMU group continues to bless us with their services of stuffing the Easter eggs! We are very thankful to these women and all who offer candy, eggs, time and service.

Awana and Flyte Kidz and Kidz Choir took a short break for Spring Break, but are back into the swing of things. The annual Awana Lock In is set for Friday, April 24th and we are planning a fun filled night for these Kidz who have worked very hard to learn God's word in scripture memory this year. Awana and Flyte kidz age three - 6th grade are invited to attend the lock in. The year ends in May with a Program for Awana Kidz set for May 21st at 6:00 pm for ages 3 - 4th grade. The year ends, but Wet Wednesdays begin . . . more information on dates and times next month.

Blessings of babies in our ministry at Lakewood continues. As a result, we will be forming a Toddler's class this fall which will begin in August. We will pray for God to send us a leader for this class who will bless these children and enrich them in their early learning about Christ.

Save the Date . . . June 4 - June 8th Vacation Bible School at Lakewood will look up to the stars as "Galactic Surveyors" look from the earth up to the sky in awe of God's creation. We have areas in VBS for servants so please call Gina to get on board!

May we all keep our eyes on the Lord as we continue with our Children's Ministry, enriching the lives of our children, leading them in their lessons and love for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATES

**PRAISE GOD FOR THE 38 COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RECEIVED SHOEBOXES AND VOLUNTEER TEAMS WHO ARE NOW WORKING DILIGENTLY THROUGH OUTREACH EVENTS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OVER 5.7 MILLION CHILDREN.**

**PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN WHO ARE JUST BEGINNING TO HEAR MORE ABOUT JESUS THROUGH THE GREATEST JOURNEY AFTER RECEIVING THEIR SHOEBOX.**

**PRAY FOR THE OVER 2 MILLION SHOEBOXES STILL EN ROUTE ON SHIPS TO CHILDREN IN 20 COUNTRIES.**

**PRAY FOR TAX EXEMPTION OF SHOEBOXES IN 15 COUNTRIES.**

**PRAY FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF SEA CONTAINERS FILLED WITH SHOEBOX GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES IN 18 COUNTRIES.**



## Lakewood Medley

### IN MEMORY OF:

Bobby Cook for Bus Maintenance from Gail Brantley  
Dwight Hickman for Amen Choir from JD and Diane Whitehead

Harris Henderson for Bus from Clara Jean Watson  
Sam Loftin for Bus from Clara Jean Watson  
Virginia Kennedy for Annie Armstrong from the Virginia Kennedy Baptist Women

Ben Martin  
for Benevolence from Steve and Margie Argo  
for Food Closet from Dot Beck  
for Circles of Influence from Terry and Clara Grimes  
for Homebound from Nancy and Stephen Stainsby  
for Amen Choir from Dorothy Atkins  
for Budget from Jerry and Sheila Barbaree  
for the Food Closet from Mr & Mrs. George Maxwell

Alice Spivey For Amen Choir:  
Brenda Slappey  
Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Fred and Margaret Van Horn  
Billy and Cathy Greene  
Stone Brooke Suites Senior Living, Gray, Ga.  
Laura Mixter and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Phelps  
James Streetman  
Jo Slappey  
Jerry and Sheila Barbaree  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Boyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Terry  
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Jackson

Alice Spivey for Circle of Influence from Terry and Clara Grimes

Mary Jean Wilson  
For Circles of Influence from Terry and Clara Grimes  
For Benevolence from Larry and Cathy Weaver

### IN HONOR OF:

Onezima Everitt from Terry and Clara Grimes

# Lakewood Happenings

## April 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						7:30am-3:00pm Yard Sale for Missions Ladies Crafting 10:00am-1:00pm <b>1</b>
Lord's Supper 4:15pm Ladies Bible Study <b>2</b>	10:30am Amen Choir 4:00-8:00pm CiCi's Spirit Night for Belize <b>3</b>	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir <b>4</b>	10:30am VK/WMU <b>5</b>		6:00-9:00pm Dodgeball Tournament <b>6</b>	11:00am Easter Egg Hunt on the Front Lawn 6:00pm-9:00pm Singles & Young Adults Movie Night <b>8</b>
Palm Sunday FR Lunch 4:15pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm God With Us Summerville <b>9</b>	10:30am Amen Choir <b>10</b>	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir <b>11</b>	7:00pm Deacon Meeting <b>12</b>		Good Friday Office Closed <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Easter <b>16</b>	10:30am Amen Choir <b>17</b>	10:30am Ladies Bible Study <b>18</b>	7:00pm Finance Meeting <b>19</b>			10:00am-2:00pm Walmart Belize Day <b>22</b>
4:15pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm Church Conference <b>23</b>	10:30am Amen Choir <b>24</b>	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir <b>25</b>	7:00pm CDC Meeting <b>26</b>	7:00pm JEG/BW in F/H <b>27</b>	7:00pm-7:00am AWANA/ FLYTE Lock-In <b>28</b>	9:00am-3:00pm Women's Conference w/ Joanie Tabor 10:45am YA&S Feed the Homeless <b>29</b>

## February Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
2/5	\$37,007.42	\$845.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 5,101.70	\$44,739.12
2/12	\$13,178.24	\$1,260.00	\$8,592.00	\$2,377.55	\$25,407.79
2/19	\$20,698.50	\$98.00	\$3,736.00	\$6,195.00	\$30,727.50
2/26	\$6,562.78	\$354.00	\$498.00	\$2,408.54	\$9,823.32

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

**SUNDAY**  
 9:00am Contemporary Worship  
 10:00am Bible Fellowship  
 11:00am Blended Worship  
 11:15am Kidz Worship  
 6:00pm Evening Worship  
 Kidz Choir

**WEDNESDAY**  
 5:00pm Family Night Supper  
 5:45pm AWANA, FLYTE, R.E.A.L.  
 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal  
 Adult Prayer & Bible Study  
 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

4:15pm  
Ladies Bible Study  
5:30pm  
Set Apart @ Wynnbrook  
VIP Week Begins  
**30**

Only \$5 per adult meal,  
\$2.50 per child meal with a  
maximum \$15 per family!

# Let's Eat!

Dinner is  
served from  
5:00-6:00pm

## April WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 4/5

SPAGHETTI  
GARLIC BREAD  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 4/12

CHICKEN  
FAJITAS  
MEXICAN CORN  
SPANISH RICE  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 4/19

HAMBURGER  
STEAK  
MASHED  
POTATOES & GRAVY  
BROCCOLI SALAD  
ROLLS  
DESSERT

### 4/26

FRIED CHICKEN  
RICE  
LIMA BEANS  
BISCUIT  
SALAD  
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

Services  
for  
Palm Sunday  
and  
Easter Sunday  
will be  
the same  
in both  
services

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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