

Connections

LAKESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 11

LBCPC.ORG

Merry Christmas

Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11



Welcome Home.



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

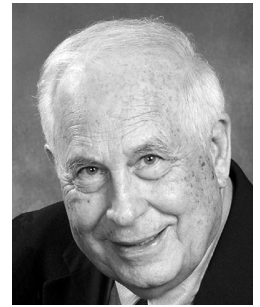
Christmas and all that goes along with it encompasses the month of December. To so many Americans the true meaning of Christmas has been lost in the busy scheduling and gift giving and even in the family aspect of this great day. Though all of these are great things and a real part of the blessing we know as Christmas it is not the reason we hold this Holiday in such high regard. Christmas is the greatest of all the Holy Days we celebrate each year and for good reason. The coming of Christ Jesus to take away the sins of the world is the single greatest event in all of world history. It is the day we stop as a world and celebrate Jesus' Birthday and this year we are super blessed with the fact that His birthday falls on the Lord's Day when we already stop and set apart our day to be Holy. This year we have double the reasons to come together and celebrate as Christmas falls on a Sunday! I mention this as I just read of a church that is closing for Christmas and I am fighting to hold back my tears. I must admit that I feel angry which is a sign that I am threatened by this reality. But the fact that Christmas falls on a Sunday should mean a record number of worshippers and a record number of worship opportunities. The church is in the world to lead the world to follow Jesus but I fear that the world is leading our churches to follow it. This is a holy day because on this day we remember that God so loved the world that He gave His only son. God gave us the greatest gift ever given in the history of the world so how should we respond to that gift? The wise men brought gifts and it would be wise for us to do the same. So what is the greatest gift we can give to God on this day that we celebrate His stepping out of mystery and into history? Trust me, closing churches is not it! Let me encourage you as you make your plans for this Christmas to make sure among all the presents is one for Jesus. After all it is His birthday we are celebrating and He is the reason for the season. So what does God like and just how could you give Him a great gift this Christmas? Make plans to visit Him as He will be at the church just like He is every Sunday.

*May God Bless you this Holiday Season
as we strive to be a Blessing!*



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



It was not by accident or incident that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The place of His birth was engineered by God, as prophesied centuries before by the prophet Micah in Micah 5:2. The fact that there was no room for the Lord in Bethlehem foreshadows His rejection by a world that has no room for Him.

There is no room for Jesus in *the world's government*. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.'" Beginning with King Herod, who sought to kill Him, the world has rejected Jesus.

The Jews responded Pilate's question, "Shall I crucify your King?" with the declaration, "We have no king but Caesar." They had room for Caesar, but no room for Christ. It's the same today. Jews who immigrate to Israel receive automatic citizenship, except for Messianic Jews, those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah. An atheistic Jew, or a New Age Jew, or a Jew who believes in almost anything except Jesus can receive automatic citizenship upon immigration to Israel.

Several years ago the United States Post Office designed a Christmas stamp that depicted a wreath in a window, with a candle in the wreath. Some official ordered the design to be changed, because he said the window pane behind the wreath resembled a cross. We have secularized our society to the point where not only is there neutrality, but antipathy toward the things of God.

There is no room for Jesus in *the world's educational system*. In a speech in 1948, General Omar Bradley spoke these words: "We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. We're living in a time when our achievements, our knowledge of science, has gone far beyond our power to control it. We have many men of science, and too few men of God. We have achieved brilliance without wisdom, and power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and spiritual infants."

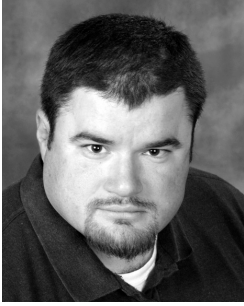
In our public schools today, there is room for evolution, but not for creation; there is room for humanism, but not for the gospel; there is room for values clarification, but not for Bibles; there is room for revised history of our country, but not for our foundational Christian history; there is room for all kinds of clubs, but not for a Bible club; there is room for policemen in the halls, but not for the Ten Commandments on the classroom walls; there is

room for condoms, but not for Christ; there is room for discussion of abortion, homosexuality, and the occult, but not for biblical principles. As a result, in our public schools we are developing characters instead of developing character.

There is no room for Jesus in *the world's religion*. How many churches are so full of the world that they are allowing public opinion to dictate their doctrinal and moral teachings? How many are truly preaching the full deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, and His blood atonement? How many are presenting a comfortable "gimme" gospel instead of one that demands repentance, holiness, and the Lordship of Christ? In Revelation 3:20, Jesus is speaking to the church that bears His name when He knocks on the door and asks to be let in.

In large measure, there is no room for Jesus in *the Christmas season*. Instead of honoring the King of kings and the Lord of lords, multitudes of people use Christmas as an excuse for drunkenness, adultery, and gluttony. Their heroes of Christmas are Tiny Tim, Rudolph, and a jolly red-faced, rotund man with whiskers. In preparation for Christmas recently, the management of a large mall in Florida sent out a notice that choirs and other singing groups that perform there could not sing any songs that mention Jesus. Frosty and Rudolph are acceptable, but not Jesus or the three kings of the Orient. Santa Claus is coming to town, but all ye faithful won't be coming. Grandma might get run over by a reindeer, but it won't be on O Holy Night, and mommy might kiss Santa Claus, but it won't be on Silent Night. You might be home for Christmas and rock around the Christmas tree, but you won't hear the herald angels sing. It might begin to look a lot like a Christmas that's holly jolly, and you might be dreaming of a white Christmas as you let it snow in a winter wonderland, but it won't be in the little town of Bethlehem. You can deck the halls and jingle silver bells on a sleigh ride, but you won't hear the angels sing about joy to the world. With all that, there may be a happy holiday, even if there isn't a merry Christmas.

One day there will be plenty of room for Jesus and for all who follow Him, when "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord" (Rev. 11:15). As the old spiritual says, "Plenty good room in my Father's Kingdom. Choose your seat and sit down."



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

We've reached the final month of the year and it has been a great one! I can't remember a year that went by so quickly yet was full of so many fulfilling opportunities to serve. As we finish the year we look back and reflect on the challenges, opportunities, and blessings. Looking back we have accomplished our goals of service; we have served locally with the homeless, in the LBC VBS, our canned food drive, and VRM toy giveaway, we have served stateside as we worked in the inner city of New Orleans this summer at Mission Lab, and we served in the foreign mission field in both Belize and Romania. Everything we do in the student and young adult ministries is centered around these three goals of service. Even our fundraising is centered around affording students the opportunity to be used by God as salt and light. As we look forward to 2017 we already have much planned. Next summer we will travel to the city of Boston in cooperation with Morningside Baptist of Columbus and NAMB to work in a stateside mission field that is truly desperate for the Gospel. We will be challenged in new ways to assist new church plants who don't have the luxuries of their own church buildings, large budgets, talented musicians, or even sound equipment. It is hard to believe that in a major metropolitan area in the United States of America that so few people attend church because there are so few churches! It's one thing to go to a foreign country and establish a new work among an indigenous people who haven't historically heard the Gospel message but you wouldn't think that

there would be so many unreached people in New England! We look forward to this new challenge but also to the familiar challenge of Belize in 2017. Our Belize mission trips through International Servants have continued to grow and bear much fruit. The work there is endless but each time we go back we see stronger churches, new construction, new farms, and new believers in the faith. In 2017 we will be thrilled to be joined by Calvary & Bethesda Baptist from Columbus along with First Baptist of Dickson, Tennessee. We hope to be able to run simultaneous VBS programs in two locations along with multiple construction, medical, and dental teams. This will be the largest coordinated effort for me to organize in more than 15 years of Belize missions. This trip is still open and it's not too late for you to find your place of ministry with us. Finally, we need your help with our largest fundraiser of the year, the Christmas tree sale for missions. Please help spread the word about our tree lot as we'll have 200 trees set up in the side parking lot this Christmas. Hours of operation are as follows: **Mon-Fri: 12pm-9pm, Sat: 9am-10pm, Sunday 1pm-9pm.** If you preordered a tree you can pick it up **any time after 2pm on Saturday, November 26th through Saturday, December 17th** (unless we sell out before then). If you'd like to serve as a volunteer please see Drew to schedule dates and times. Thank you for your continued support and prayers, join us in praying for God's will to be done in and through us, and that we will reach the lost with the life changing truth of the Gospel in 2017.



A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

A glorious time to celebrate Jesus and all God's glory. It is hard to believe the Holiday season is upon us...our Lord's birthday celebration is coming soon! December is filled with Christmas concerts and programs that you will not want to miss. Invite someone to church and spread the Gospel.

Do you recall your first thoughts as a child of the Church Sanctuary? Imagine that enormous, tall room with lots of seats and people and things happening that you just didn't quite understand. The people talk, then they listen, then they sing, then they listen some more, then they put something in a tray that is passed before them, and so on. I believe children should be introduced to the greatness of God's house in many ways at a very young age. At nursery age, they are happy just being cuddled and fed. Toddlers are happy running around and playing. Pre-schoolers are happy, or maybe not, being trained to "sit" quietly in Church. By kindergarten age, they have hopefully gained a respect for God, His House, and His People. So you may have experienced my Two Year Old Sunday School Kidz presence on Sunday mornings just before the 11:00 service begins. It may appear we are "parading" through the Sanctuary, but do not be fooled. We are praising God in all His glory in His House of Worship. Along the way, we have lots of fun, meet and greet lots of people, and sing out loud as we go. I pray these experiences will have redeeming value, and lead these toddlers to love, respect, and have only good feelings about Church.

Our children felt special to be included in the Church Holiday decorating. Be sure to check out the craftiness of God's little people. Their Christmas tree is located in the upstairs foyer beside the elevator. Thank you Mrs. Wilson for inviting the children to participate in the decorating.

The Fall Festival was a grand success! We were able to raise approximately \$1,800 for the OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD boxes, making 183 shoeboxes possible for this wonderful ministry. The Kidz worked very hard packing the boxes. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Bake Sale, candy for the games, popcorn, and all of the Sunday School classes and Youth who made the games a reality for the enjoyment of all. I heard the Bunji Run was a big hit! Thank you to all who gave your precious time to support the Festival.

On December 14th Awana and Flyte Kidz will give joy to the elderly at a local nursing home, making little voice "joyful noises", with Christmas Carols. They will return to Church and celebrate at a Birthday Party for Jesus.

There will be no Awana or Flyte on December 21 and 28th. Sessions resume on January 4th.

Have a blessed Holiday season and remember the "Reason for the Season"...JESUS!



YOU CAN'T. BUT GOD CAN.



REDEEMED

ANGELA THOMAS-PHARR

God left heaven to save you, heal you, and redeem you. He knows your struggles, vulnerabilities, and pain. He knows you cannot change yourself. And that has always been the point. You can't. But God can.

Join us if you want to:

- Fully live the life of the redeemed
- Welcome change as God slowly transforms you into His image
- Become passionate about God's Word
- Apply redemption to your life in practical ways
- Learn to lean upon Jesus for your real help and hope



7 SESSIONS

LADIES BIBLE STUDY
"REDEEMED"

BY ANGELA THOMAS-PHARR

JANUARY 10TH-FEBRUARY 21ST

TUESDAY MORNINGS @ 10:30

IN THE HOME OF

PANSY SLOCUMB

AND

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS @ 4:30

JANUARY 15TH-FEBRUARY 26TH

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

**OUR FAMILY LIFE CENTER IS
NEARING COMPLETION...**

BUT WE STILL NEED YOU TO CONTINUE
GIVING SO WE CAN SEE THIS PROJECT
THROUGH TO THE END.

THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS
DURING THIS PROJECT!

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Linda Cawthorne:

Food Closet from Bill & Margaret Wilson
Challenge To Build from Melvin & Sherry Scroggins
Challenge To Build from Kenny & Cindy Roberts
Challenge To Build from Mike & April Raiford
Clothes Closet from Mindy Megahee
Joannie McClellan for Budget from Glenda Medley
Junior Newsome for Food Closet from
Jimmy & Susan Graham

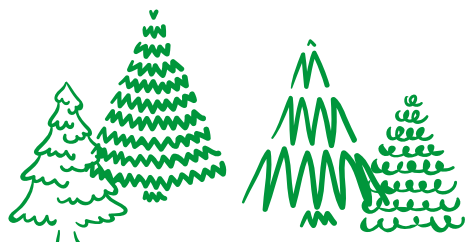
IN HONOR OF:

Melvin Scroggins' birthday for Challenge To Build
from his wife, Sherry.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE
CORNER! PURCHASE YOUR LIVE TREE
FROM LAKEWOOD. ALL PROCEEDS WILL
BENEFIT MISSIONS. HELP US SPREAD THE
WORD THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY
AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA SO THAT WE CAN
MAKE THIS FUNDRAISER ALL IT CAN BE.

SEE A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT
MINISTRY TEAM OR CALL THE OFFICE
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.



Lakewood Happenings December 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ONGOING ACTIVITIES:						
SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY				
9:00am Contemporary Worship		5:00pm Family Night Supper			5:30pm Red Door Theatre	1-3pm Women's Christmas Craft with Shannon
10:00am Bible Fellowship		5:45pm AWANA, FLYTE, R.E.A.L.			6-10pm Parent's Night Out	
11:00am Blended Worship		6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal				
11:15am Kidz Worship		7:00pm Adult Prayer & Bible Study				
6:00pm Evening Worship		7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal				
				1	2	3
Alleluia Choir & Orchestra Christmas Program	10:30am Amen Choir		10:30am VKBW	5:00pm Christmas Front Porch Tour in Opelika	10:00am CDC Christmas Program	10:45am Young Married's Feed The Homeless Youth Toy Drive
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Christmas with the Kempters at Summerville Baptist Church	10:30am Amen Choir		7:00pm Deacon Meeting	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F.		Christmas Tree Sale Ends
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Instrumental Christmas	10:30am Amen Choir		6:00pm Students & Young Adults Christmas Party 7:00pm Finance Meeting	OFFICE CLOSED FOOD BANK CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED CDC CLOSED	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE 6PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CHRISTMAS DAY Identical Services at 9am & 11am 10:00am Bible Fellowship 6:00pm Evening Worship	OFFICE CLOSED CDC CLOSED			FOOD BANK CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED CDC CLOSED	NEW YEAR'S EVE
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/2	\$20,313.62	\$ 725.00	\$1,172.51	\$905.00	\$23,116.13
10/9	\$12,174.45	\$45.00	\$1,870.00	\$1,862.78	\$15,952.23
10/16	\$ 9,468.14	\$100.00	\$140.00	\$184.64	\$9,892.78
10/23	\$11,530.01	\$150.00	\$ 745.00	\$1,853.61	\$14,278.62
10/30	\$12,480.24	\$245.00	\$ 1,493.00	\$2,370.35	\$16,588.59
Oct. Online Giving	\$4,651.15	\$60.00	\$480.00	\$175.00	\$5,366.15

Merry Christmas



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

Let's Eat!

Dinner is
served from
5:00-5:45pm.

DECEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

12/7

TACO SALAD
RICE, BEANS
DESSERT

12/14

SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at carol@lbcpc.org or call 334.298.6433.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton

PASTOR

BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS

CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES

ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

Patrick Thornton

CHILDREN

PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

HORNERJERRY@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE

PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867

O: 334.298.6433

F: 334.298.4873

LPCPC.ORG

HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM

FRI 8:30AM-12PM

OFFICE STAFF

Onezima Everitt

FINANCE ASSISTANT

ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault

OFFICE ASSISTANT

CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown

MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA

LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Cabbi Black

DIRECTOR

CABBI@LBCPC.ORG

Tammy Evans

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

O: 334.298.6461

LPCPC.ORG/CDC

HOURS: M-F 6:30AM-6:00PM



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