

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 2

LBCPC.ORG



LOVE

your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back...

LUKE 6:35



Welcome Home.



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

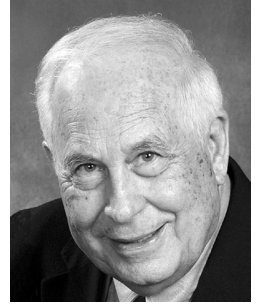
SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I once considered January to be a month you just tried to get through until we moved here. This January we had some of the nicest weather of the year and now February has arrived I can only imagine the days we have ahead. I now have a different perspective and that new perspective has changed everything for me. Have you ever stopped to consider the way the world looks from Heaven's perspective? Romans chapter one reminds us that everything that can be known about God's invisible qualities and power can be understood by what has been made, so by looking at the world around us and by the study of creation we can learn about the unseen things of God. With that in mind I have often wondered if birth and death have a lot in common. I wonder if we as adults aren't just like a set of twins just about to be born arguing over the reality of life after birth. Can't you just hear the faith filled child though filled with fear and the pain of childbirth trying to assure the other child that life after birth is real and even better than anything they had ever known before. While the other child that we might call doubting Thomas argues "how can anything good come from suffering, and just how can you believe in a life after birth when no one has ever returned from this passage". We find that funny from our perspective because we all know with absolute certainty that the

life after birth is real and that it is so much more than any child could imagine. But unlike the children we have Jesus who did indeed die on the cross only to rise again on the third day. He has come back from the dead to prove once and for all that life exists after death. **Just as the children fight against being born we fight against passing from this life into eternity because we are all troubled with change even for the better.** I wonder if when we get there we won't look back and wish we could have come to that place sooner. Perhaps that change of perspective will change the way we look at those who have gone before us into heaven. Perhaps then we might realize that those who entered into that reality without the lengthy suffering and pain of this life were actually blessed. I guess we will never really know until we get there but I suspect that a great many of our views will certainly change from our heavenly perspective. Just look how much a move across country can change your perspective. January and February are really great months from where I am today and who knows what they will be like where I am going. I can only imagine how great a lot of things I once dreaded will be from a heavenly perspective.

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



I am writing this article only hours after Donald Trump took the oath of office as the 45th president of the United States and delivered his inauguration address. In his speech he declared that his inauguration signified the transfer of power from Washington, D. C. back to the American people. In a significant statement he said, "What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people." That statement is absolutely true, because our founding fathers believed that the best government is the least government. They wrote a constitution that established a representative government with checks and balances, with officials governing with the consent of the governed. The result was a constitutional republic created by a principled people, for a principled people, that can be maintained only by a principled people. What that means is that with liberty comes responsibility, and when we fail to be responsible and substitute license for character, then we will lose our republic. The reason is simple. There cannot be self-government without self-control. When people interpret liberty as the ability to "do their thing," that is, to have their own way, all sense of responsibility is lost and decadence invariably results. From there it's only a short step to dependence, because people begin to equate security with dependence on the government to provide

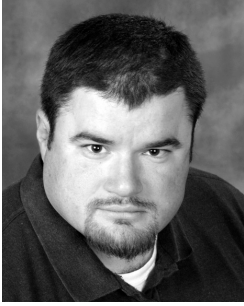
things that they ought to be providing for themselves. But in their foolishness they fail to realize that the government cannot give what it does not first take away. The more responsibility the people fail to exercise, the more powerful the government becomes. A fundamental principle of life is that you can control anything that depends on you for its subsistence. Unfortunately, millions of American citizens have never learned that government is meant to protect life and property, not to sustain it.

On the day of the inauguration, multiple groups of protesters flooded the streets of Washington, most of whom engaged in anarchical violence. On the following day hundreds of thousands of shrieking women overwhelmed the city. All these groups were screaming about their rights, but apparently they are ignorant of the fact that rights and responsibilities always go hand in hand. Rights without responsibilities breed revolution, but rights with responsibilities produce the atmosphere the new president envisioned in his address. He wants to "make America great again," but it will never happen unless and until the citizens of our country accept and exercise their responsibilities, and learn the self-control of a moral and spiritual strength that can come only by faith in God. What are our responsibilities? Well, a good place to start is 1 Peter 2:11-17.

Dr. Horner's Bible Study

6:30pm

in the Fellowship Hall



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who have played a part in helping to make the new building come to fruition!

From those who have been faithfully giving for decades now, not trusting in what their eyes saw, but instead the vision God had given this church, and to those who have donated their labor to go out and hammer a nail or cut wood, you are all greatly appreciated! Our students are greatly looking forward to the buildings completion and can't wait to hold worship in it each week. I also want to thank Bro. M.R., who has not only led the project (along with others), but has almost daily invested his time and talents into its construction, I know a lot of pastors but I don't know many pastors who would've or could've done what he's done! I have stood back many times and admired God's plan in bringing M.R. here, with his construction, and church planting background, to get this project done. God truly does always have a plan, and He is working out that plan all around us, through us, and sometimes even in spite of us! I remember when I was first interviewed for the student pastor position here at LBC eight years ago, they told me then that they were in a building phase. One of the biggest selling points was to have a new space for young people to worship and to do outreach. There were many days that vision didn't look like it would ever happen, but praise God it did, praise God for you, those who made it happen! While the student and young adult ministries are by no means the sole beneficiaries or occupants of the new building we are extremely grateful for those who have made it happen, and I know it will be a new visionary launching point for all our ministries here at LBC going forward.

Many of you know how passionate I am about missions, and our ministries are already heavily involved in local, stateside, and global missions. With that, I am very excited to announce our full plan for

missions here at Lakewood in the student and young adult ministries. As you know, we have been going to Belize for several years now off and on, and we will go again this summer (June 25th-July 1st). I am elated about this year's trip as we have almost 70 people signed up to go, with almost 40 from Lakewood alone, who are willing to go and fulfill Christ's command to "go make disciples". This will be the largest international mission trip that I've ever led, and this large number will enable us to be very effective in multiple phases of ministry in Belize. We will also be traveling (along with Morningside Baptist) to Boston, MA in early June (9th-17th) to assist four NAMB church planters in getting traction for their fledgling churches. We'll be doing door-to-door evangelism, block parties, movies on the lawn, playing with kids, and helping with their worship services all to bless these folks who are spreading the Word in an area of the U.S. that desperately needs it. Finally, the newest part. We will do what we are calling a "Pop-Up VBS" here in Phenix City in July (10th-12th) on the south side of town at Southside Park. This was born out of the idea that we want to minister to the kids here in Phenix City too, kids that may be unable to attend our regular VBS here at the church, so we're are taking the church and VBS to them. We will be encouraging the whole church to get involved as we'll need plenty of volunteers to make it a success. More details to come on all three of the student & young adult missions opportunities here at Lakewood. My prayer is that each one of us will follow Jesus' commands in obedience, because we know that God always honors obedience, and it is through obedience that the world will be changed.

May God continue to bless the hard work and ministries of Lakewood Baptist Church!

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

Love is in the air. Oh yes, it's the "Love" month again. It seems to follow us around year after year. Well it's my birthday, so I couldn't shake it if I tried. Valentine's Day is equated with chocolate, cards, flowers and romance. Love will be marketed in advertisements and store displays. Of course, love can be demonstrated in many ways. But as followers of Christ, we have been shown that love is so much more! It is essential for this kind of Love to be communicated to our children in our homes, neighborhoods and ministries. Throughout my life I witnessed single people being left out of the love celebration. I encouraged my daughter from a very young age to think differently about Valentine's Day. It truly is about "Love", but not the love that retailers make of it. So this Valentine's Day, even if you are not "in a relationship", know that you can be in a relationship with God, our creator, who loves you more than anything. Spread love from your heart to the hearts of others, and don't feel left out or alone. Just "Love", as God first loved us. Let's communicate His perfect love at this time of year and all the year through as we love on one another and project our Love for Christ. Love DEEPER, and speak SWEETER, as love is the best gift you can give anyone. It is this precious gift we received, for God gave us the gift of love for Jesus Christ, His Son. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life,"* John 3:16

Praise continues in our children's ministries. The CMTL members all returned for another year of committed service. We are truly blessed with the many servants we have in all areas of our ministry. Ideas were shared to enrich recurring activities, develop new activities and events that will continue to lead our Kidz on the path to Jesus. The team is exploring ways to increase interest and attendance of the preschool choir on Sunday nights. This is

an excellent program introducing children to praise through song. Opportunities for summer camp are under study by the team. Pray that God will lead us to fulfill this need in our ministry.

VBS is literally around the bend. It is a wonderful ministry for ages two through sixth grade. February kicks off preparation for VBS and our devoted staff of volunteers will be hard at work designing and building stage props. Opening night of the "Galactic Starveyors" is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th. VBS opens many areas to serve. For those who don't have time available to "work", offerings are a wonderful way to serve, providing for many things that may not be allowed for in the budget. Anyone interested in participating in this amazing event, please contact Gina Fusillo.

Awana and Flyte reached the half-way mark last month. Children continue working hard learning about the Gospel of Christ and how to serve Him. Our attendance is back up to a record high of 62 after the holiday break. The annual Awana/Flyte Lock-In for ages K-6th grade will be early in March. Details will be available soon. Bible Fellowship classes are a great learning experience also. We are blessed with many servants who Love Jesus and guide and teach the children in a way that is both fun and rewarding.

Workers for the extended session in the preschool department, ages 2-4 are needed. We will continue to pray that new servants will feel led to participate in this vital ministry.

**Make Valentine's
Day a special
day of love and
appreciation for
the ones GOD chose
to put in your life.**

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

Builders for Christ

The trip this year will be
May 26-June 3rd.

They will be going to
Saranac Lake, New York.



Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Cecil Bankston, Mabel Bankston Grimes, Jerry Grimes for Challenge to Build from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins.

Max Wilkes for Youth from Malinda Wilkes

Doris Weaver for the Youth from Malinda Wilkes

Dr. Vincent M. Currier for Lottie Moon Mission Offering from Myra Currier

Linda Cawthorne for Food Closet from Mr. & Mrs. Norman Davis

Harris Henderson for Youth from Malinda Wilkes

Bobby Cook:

Clara Jean Watson for Food Closet

Jerry and Sheila Barbaree for the Amen Choir

Billy and Cathy Greene for Lottie Moon

Brenda Slappey for Bus Maintenance

IN HONOR OF:

Rick McGowan for the Food Closet from the Homer Gray Sunday School Class

Harris Henderson for the Amen Choir from John & Elizabeth Giles

Betty Burrows for Benevolence from John & Elizabeth Giles

Lakewood Happenings February 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
			10:30am VKBW		OFFICE CLOSED	8:30am Sheet Rock the FAC Youth Winter Jam	
				Couples	Retreat.....	
			1	2	3	4	
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm Youth Super Bowl Party 5	10:30am Amen Choir 6	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 7	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 8		5:30pm Game Night 10	10:45am Young Married's Feed The Homeless 11	
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 12	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 13	Valentine's Day 10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 14	7:00pm Finance Meeting 15		Student & Young Adult Camping Trip	17	
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Deacon Ordination 19	President's Day 10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 20	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 21	7:00pm CDC Meeting 22	7:00pm JEG/BW 23		10:45am Single & Young Adult Feed The Homeless 25	
4-5:30pm God With Us Rehearsal 4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 26	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 27	Amen Choir @ St. Luke 10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 28	ONGOING ACTIVITIES:				
			SUNDAY		WEDNESDAY		
			9:00am Contemporary Worship		5:00pm Family Night Supper		
			10:00am Bible Fellowship		5:45pm AWANA, FLYTE, R.E.A.L.		
			11:00am Blended Worship		6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal		
			11:15am Kidz Worship		Adult Prayer & Bible Study		
			6:00pm Evening Worship		7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal		
			Kidz Choir				

December Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/4	\$ 27,810.87	\$939.00	\$2,563.00	\$4,510.43	\$35,823.30
12/11	\$18,294.01	\$350.00	\$3,830.00	\$3,456.00	\$25,930.01
12/18	\$10,040.54	\$155.00	\$563.35	\$2,903.00	\$13,661.89
12/25	\$8,983.28	\$1,165.00	\$3,971.00	\$227.35	\$14,346.63



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.

FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

2/1

SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

2/8

HAMBURGER
STEAK
RICE
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

2/15

TACO SOUP
CORN CHIPS
CORN
ENGLISH PEAS
SALAD
DESSERT

2/22

SCRAMBLED EGGS
BACON
BISCUITS & SAUSAGE
GRAVY
GRITS
CINNAMON ROLLS
JUICE

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

Gina Fusillo

CHILDREN
GINA@LBCPC.ORG

Patrick Thornton

FAMILY LIFE
PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH
HORNERJERRY@LBCPC.ORG

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

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

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