

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2017

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Welcome Home.



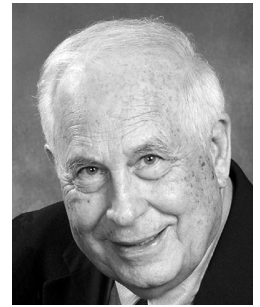
A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

January is a whole lot of things to a whole lot of people but I wonder how God sees it from His point of view? If I were to ask you to describe January how would you respond? The end of the holidays, the coldest month of the year, tax time, a fresh start, a new beginning, another chance, another day or perhaps the first day of the rest of your life. Most likely your answer would come from your perspective which has been shaped by the experiences you have had in the recent past. That's the very reason people would have so many different responses while God would have the same response he has had every January from the beginning of time. If I were to ask God "What does the New Year look like from your perspective" what do you suppose he would say? "All things are working together for the good of those who love me just like I knew they would". Or He might just remind us that he can see both the beginning and the end of the New Year and each and every day is going just as he expected. There are no surprises that will find him unprepared, no problems that he has not already prepared an answer for. There are no storms he can't calm, nor are there any situations he can't handle. You see this New Year is just another year in God's plan for history to run the race he has laid out before the beginning of time. Perhaps the best thing we can do as Christians at the beginning of any New Year is to remind ourselves of the truth that history is going some place. You see all of history from the beginning of time until today has been marching steadily towards a final destination. It is moving forward with a purpose and is going where God has determined it would. Now that may seem difficult at first until we look back and realize that all of human history is broken into only two chapters. Human history before and leading up to the first coming of Jesus Christ, and now we are living in the second chapter of human history that is leading up to the second coming of Jesus Christ. In the days prior to the Birth of Jesus it would have been a lot harder to convince most people that history was playing out just as God had known it would. But after His death, burial and resurrection that it had played out exactly as the prophets had proclaimed hundreds of years before the fact, it became a whole lot easier. Now just as then we have been waiting and watching in anticipation of his coming for a very long time. During that time we have been confused and often dismayed by our circumstances which often cast doubts on the reality that history is playing out perfectly in the hands of a loving God who wants the best for us. So this New Year I want to challenge you to look back and see that history did indeed work itself out exactly like God said it would before Jesus made His first appearance in a stable in Bethlehem. Why in a stable, why would God choose such a place for the King of Kings to be born? Well, where else would a lamb be born? And now that reality, the very fact that this same God that told his story up until the Lamb of God was born in a stable in Bethlehem is still telling the rest of his story. By the way his story is not a mystery as he has told us how we win in the end. I believe he did this to keep us from being afraid of the future because we know how his story ends. It may seem impossible from our present perspective but God is not limited by our lack of understanding and nothing is impossible for God. So have a Happy New Year!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



In a matter of days our new president will be inaugurated, an event that inspires hope in some and horror in others. Some people regard Donald Trump as hell's chief emissary, if not Satan himself incarnate, who will bring destruction upon our nation. Others view him as God's chosen vessel to restore the moral and spiritual character of America and put the country back on its biblical foundations. Whatever attitude you may have toward Mr. Trump, I think you will agree that our country needs divine intervention. Only someone just awakening from an extended time suspension can be unaware that this nation has declined to the point that it is now tottering on the brink of spiritual and moral stagnation. The cesspool of iniquity is full and running over in America, and there has been a total disregard for the things of God in our national leadership. In 1788, James Madison, the architect of our constitution and our fourth president, said: "We have staked the whole future of American civilization not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind of self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." Today we cannot even post the Ten Commandments on our classroom walls.

In light of this situation, I offer several observations.

1. We need to look up. There is only one who can save us, and his office is not in the White House or in the Pentagon or in the United Nations or on Wall Street. Our hope is in God. According to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, we are to pray for those in authority, and that includes the president. When Paul gave this instruction, Nero was the emperor, and he wasn't exactly a boy scout. Whether you admire Donald Trump or detest him, he will be the president of your country, and, according to the Bible, you are commanded, not requested, to pray for him. Who knows what changes might take place in our nation if we spend as much time in praying for our leaders as we spend in criticizing them? Pray for the president, that he will seek God in every decision, that God will give him the wisdom and knowledge and protection that he needs, that he will submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ and

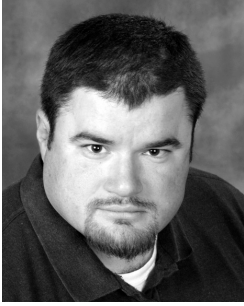
openly confess Him as Savior, and that he will set a biblical example in righteous living.

2. We need to confess up. Before criticizing anyone else, we need to make certain of our own relationship with God and focus on personal and national repentance. The most patriotic thing an American can do is not to demonstrate for or against the president, not wave a flag or shoot off a bottle rocket, but get right with God.

3. We need to speak up. Satan's strategy is to keep good people silent in evil times, and it works. If it didn't, Nazi Germany would never have happened, and America would not be tolerating the filth of perversion, immorality, corruption, crime, and disrespect that has been poured out upon the nation like a broken sewer. We must be civil, but we must not be silent, and we need to realize that nothing is politically right that is morally wrong. The church is not the master of the nation, but it must always be the conscience of the nation.

4. We need to stand up. The Bible tells us to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake (1 Peter 2:13), but God also inserts the proviso that "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). When the government tells us to do something that clearly and plainly transgresses the law of God, the principle of obedience to God takes priority over the principle of obedience to earthy authority. As much as possible, Christian citizens must obey the laws of the country, but there is a higher law to which we are subject.

Many years ago, another president-elect, Abraham Lincoln, spoke a farewell address to the citizens of Springfield, Illinois, before he departed for Washington. He said, "I leave now, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that that rested upon the shoulders of Washington," and added, "without the assistance of the divine being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail." He concluded by asking everyone to support him in prayer. Without the assistance of God, Donald Trump cannot succeed; with that assistance, he cannot fail. Can we not pray for him?



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

It's a new year, a new start, a new president, and time for new year's resolutions. As we all know, most resolutions are broken and forgotten before the end of January. Think back to last year, did you make a resolution, and did you stick to it? How can this year be different, and what should our spiritual resolutions be? I tell our students all the time that we need to be able to track our spiritual growth year to year. Just the other day I was looking back at many of our old pictures we've accumulated in the student ministry since I've been here and I can't believe how much our students have grown as they change from kids to young adults. In the same way, as our students look back over their time in the student ministry they should also be able to see personal spiritual growth. They should be much more spiritually mature as a senior than when they were a seventh grader. Unfortunately, this is not always the case, as they grow, and the influences and pressures grow around them, they sometimes stagnate or even regress instead of growing. We as adults are not immune, and spiritual stagnation and regression can become the rule instead of the exception. This year I'd like to encourage you to set specific spiritual goals. If you're not regularly reading your bible, there are tons of free online study materials that can help your passion for the Word grow. If obedience in tithing has been a struggle, set aside your first fruits in a new budget and commit them anew to the Lord this year. If worship attendance has faded where almost anything can supplant it, recommit yourself to place priority on worship. If

prayer has gone from a strong point to a weakness or you find your prayers are mainly selfish instead of thankful and selfless, then write out a new prayer list and pray through it daily only changing things as new needs arise or God answers the current prayer. If you've never been involved in service or missions, step out in faith, serve the needy in our food or clothes closet, go feed the homeless, and/or sign up for a stateside or international mission trip. Finally, if you haven't been sharing your faith, begin to pray that God would burden your heart for the lost, and specifically target one person to pray for and then get involved in their lives. All effective evangelism is by divine (Spirit-led) appointment, but there's nothing wrong with putting yourself out there, ready to be used by the Lord. If fear is keeping you from witnessing, intentionally put yourself in situations where you will be stretched, one of the best ways is while on serving missions. I've seen so many students who would be scared to death to share their faith with someone at school or on their team, but take them to another city, or another country and suddenly the fear melts away and their lips are loosened. Then they come back wearing the badge of their faith proudly as they feel a new found freedom to share Jesus with their friends and loved ones. Whatever your spiritual commitment/resolution is this year, stick to it, God will always honor faithfulness and obedience. Then when 2018 comes you can look back and see how blessed you were to grow in Christ in this new year.

Dr. Horner's Bible Study

Do you know what the Christian Declaration of Independence is? Do you know what the gospel is, and are you certain that there is only one gospel? Are the Old Testament laws still in effect? Did you know that there is a civil war raging within every Christian? Would you like to know how you can live a victorious Christian life? Would you like to learn how to have better relationships with other people?

To know more, come on Monday, January 9, at 6:30 p.m., when Dr. Horner will begin an intensive study of Paul's letter to the Galatians.

A Message from **Gina Fusillo**



CHILDREN, LBC

A birth is a single occurrence, but the blessing is never ending. Jesus Christ was born and His birth is celebrated every year on December 25th. In December, teachings were based on this spectacular event. The Christmas season marked with decorations, gatherings, concerts, etc. have come to an end until next year, but in our ministries, we leap forward continuing to learn about the life of Jesus and all that He has done. The celebrations will move from Christmas to praising and thanking our Mighty God every day throughout the year.

We hear the words "Welcome Home," but it felt like home on a Friday night in December when parents of 42 children brought their children "Home to Lakewood." Parent's Night Out is also a night out for the Kidz. Twelve volunteers loved on them as they played, crafted, ate, danced, sang and praised God all evening. It is a special affair for children from Nursery age through sixth grade. A huge shout out to those wonderful volunteers who serve our Lord in this valuable ministry. The Nursing Home visit was a big hit with the elderly who so eagerly greeted us as 50 children and 10 adults moved from room to room singing Christmas Carols. Close your eyes and imagine a tiny lady lying in her bed with 25 children gathered around her singing Christmas Carols. Her hands are in motion as she silently directs their songs with a loving smile on her face. Sadly, this might have been the highlight of many days for this elderly person. They selflessly gave love through their touch, smiles and songs. Children truly are a gift from God and give wonderful delight to others with such simple offerings. The evening closed as we celebrated Jesus' birthday with cake, songs, praise and prayer.

Awanas/Flyte and Kidz Choir had their winter break. Awanas/Flyte resumes Wednesday night January 4th at 5:45 and usually has between 50 and 60 kidz. They will continue to work on their programs learning more about God through lessons and scripture. Kidz Choir resumes on Sunday night January 8th at 6:00. They are learning new songs through which they will praise God with their voices in a Spring concert. There is always space for more so invite friends and neighbors.

As my journey began last October in this ministry, I knew I could be faced with difficulties finding volunteers for the needs of this department. January starts a new year with the Children's Ministry Team Leaders and all have agreed to serve in this capacity for another year. What a blessing these commitments are and I am truly thankful for their dedication to serve. January is also planning time for the events of 2017 as the Team will put their thoughts together to explore new possibilities to nurture the children's knowledge and love for God. We pray that God will lead us to deepen and enrich the relationship of Jesus Christ with every child as they learn obedience through God's word. There is always a need for service. If you feel called to serve in any area of the Children's Ministry this year, please contact Gina Fusillo. May God Bless you and your family in this New Year.

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

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Jay Tier for the Budget by Glenda Medley

Montie and Clide Miller for Lottie Moon
by Clara Jean Watson

Bobby Watson for Lottie Moon
by Clara Jean Watson

Bernice Franklin for Homebound
by Loretta Montgomery

IN HONOR OF:

Bill and Margaret Wilson for Lottie Moon
by Brenda Slappey

Cathy Greene for Challenge to Build
by Joyful Servants Bible Fellowship
Class

Byrdie Skipper for Lottie Moon
by Glenda Medley

Dr. Horner's Bible Study

January 9th
6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

VIP Opportunities

January 22 - 29 will be our first VIP week of 2017. I pray that you will sign up now to prepare a meal, spend the night or host families with children who have found themselves in a difficult place. They have gone through background checks, drug tests, extensive interviews and have 12 weeks to secure employment and housing. Pray now how you can meet a need for these little ones. God bless!

Lakewood Happenings

January 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
NEW YEAR'S DAY 1	OFFICE CLOSED CDC CLOSED 2	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 3	10:30am VKBW 4	5	6	7
Lord's Supper 8	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class Begins 9	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 10	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 11	12	13	10:45am Young Married's Feed The Homeless 14
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Church Conference 15	MLK Birthday 10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 16	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:00pm Finance Meeting 18	19	20	21
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 22	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class VIP Week..... 23	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 24 25	Mystery Trip 26Colorado 27	10:45am Youth Feed The HomelessSki Trip..... 28
4:30pm Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 29	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 30	10:30am Women's Bible Study @ Pansy Slocumb's 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 31	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	

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/6	\$27,475.99	\$305.00	\$4,086.00	\$1,241.11	\$33,108.10
11/13	\$16,667.21	\$716.10	\$1,044.00	\$173.00	\$18,600.31
11/20	\$15,939.65	\$175.00	\$3,190.11	\$152.51	\$19,457.27
11/27	\$8,616.15	\$145.00	\$326.00	\$600.20	\$9,687.35

THE **2017 FLOWER CALENDAR** IS IN THE ELEVATOR LOBBY.

SIGN UP FOR THE WEEK YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE FOR FLOWERS SOON.

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.

JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

1/4

BEEF STEW
RICE
PEAS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

1/11

MEAT LOAF
MASHED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

1/18

FRIED CHICKEN
RICE
LIMA BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

1/25

PORK LOIN
BAKED POTATOES
BROCCOLI & CHEESE
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

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

THEREFORE,
IF ANYONE IS
IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW
CREATION;
THE OLD
HAS GONE,
THE NEW
HAS COME!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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