

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 6

LBCPC.ORG

June 5 - 9

5:15 - Light Dinner
6:00 to 8:30 - VBS



Welcome Home.



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

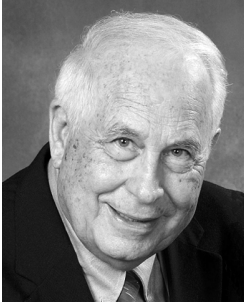
As I write this month's letter I have just gotten off the phone with Morton Buildings and they want to get started right away on the Family Life Center. So by the time this message reaches you, we will all be getting tired of hearing the backup beepers of the heavy equipment and delivery trucks working on the building. The foundation will be the first and most important part of the construction process and our building will go down before it ever starts to go up. For those who have dreamed of this project for nearly forty years this day has certainly been a long time coming. I know that I inherited it only 3 years ago and I am more than ready to get it going. The Bible says that a "hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life". (Proverbs 13:12) This Family Life Center is a hope that has been deferred several times in our church's history and I for one can't wait to see the fruit of this tree of life when it is completed. I

honestly believe that the enemy knows all too well the way in which God plans to use this building to advance His Kingdom, and that is why he has fought it so hard for so long. Perhaps the victory may not actually be the building itself but the victory of finally getting the project done. This dream has been carried and supported by three generations of church members and five pastors which in itself is quite remarkable. The patience and fortitude that has brought this day into reality is a testament to the heart and soul of a great church family. It has taken a consistent long term vision and a steadfastness that speaks volumes to me as your pastor. I can serve here and know that this church family will continue to its completion any task that it starts.

Have you ever stopped to consider that perhaps some of the greatest finishes in history have not been made by those who finished first? I would argue that some who have had to fight the hardest to finish at all

were the true winners. They finished the race few would start in their condition. They finished the race few, if any, thought they could ever run. They dared to dream of going further than they could ever go alone. They took a leap of faith and dared to believe in a God who would, not a God that could help them. The prize is not always for the fastest, nor is it always about being first. Sometimes the prize is just finishing at all. To the community that has been watching, this building might just speak volumes more than words could ever say about who we really are. We are a people with a vision and the heart and determination to see that dream come true. I really do pastor a great church!

Hope
**deferred makes
the heart sick,
but a longing
fulfilled is a
tree of life**



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH, LBC

The term “gender identity, “ unknown until recently, has become quite familiar in current political and social disputes. Dictionary.com defines gender identity as “a person’s inner sense of being male or female, usually developed during early childhood as a result of parental rearing practices and societal influences and strengthened during puberty by hormonal changes.” It adds, “One’s gender identity may continue to evolve over time and may diverge from the male/female gender division.”

So it seems that parental and societal influences determine gender identity. But the Bible says that God made man and God made woman,

**A real man
seeks God’s
blessing...**

and God made them different, and God made them different for a purpose, and the Bible says that God did it “in the beginning.” It doesn’t take a brain surgeon or a clinical psychologist or a family therapist to convince us that there is a difference between a man and a woman. The expression of that difference is the first thing to reach our ears when we emerge from the womb: “It’s a boy!” or “It’s a girl!” So why should there be a problem with gender identity? One of the dumbest things I ever read was an article in *Time* some years ago. The title of the article was “Why Are Men and Women Different?” The subheading read, “They’re Born That Way.” No kidding? There is no end to the marvels of modern research. We have finally proved in the halls of science what we already learned in the kindergarten room.

The term “gender identity” is prominently used in arguments concerning civil rights and equality, and those who use the term proclaim that there is no fundamental difference between male and female. Just recently I read a stupid argument that women should be required to register for the military draft; otherwise, it would be a violation of equal rights. Men and women are equal, but they are not the same. Equal is not a synonym of function.

There is a basic, vital, fundamental, psychological, physiological, chemical, chromosomal difference between men and women, and the devil is doing all that he can do to blur that distinction. Some so-called experts have never learned that difference. For example, Gloria Steinem, one of the leading feminists in the modern feminist movement, wrote, “We are human beings first with minor differences from men that apply largely to the act of reproduction. The only functional difference between men and women is the woman’s ability to give birth. Therefore, a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.”

Having made such observations, let me get to the purpose of this article, which is to acknowledge Father’s Day. It may seem a contradiction to what I have written above that I should now write that not everyone who is a male is a man. However, what I mean is a real man, a godly man. You can be born a male, but it takes maturity to be a man. You are young only once, but you can be immature forever. A tourist visiting a quaint little town asked someone who lived there, “Have any great men been born here?” The citizen replied, “No, just babies.” You can be born a male, but you have to grow up to be a man.

If you want to know God’s plan for the man, you won’t get it from Hollywood; you won’t get it from a TV reality show; you won’t get it from a panel of psychologists. You will only find the right standard of manhood and fatherhood from the Bible. Psalm 128 is a manual of instruction for real manliness, describing the pattern that a husband and father is to set before his wife and children. A real man is known by **HIS FAITHFUL WALK** (v. 1). He walks in the ways of God, representing God in the home. A real man is known by **HIS FRUITFUL WORK** (v. 2). God’s plan for the man is to provide for his family and to be blessed thereby. A real man is known by **HIS FAMILY LEADERSHIP** (v. 3). His wife is like a vine, and his children are like olive plants. He is the support and strength of his wife, just as a vine clings to a wall. He cultivates his children as olive plants, nurturing them with discipline, instruction, and demonstration. The olive in the Bible is a symbol of fruitfulness and righteousness, and a well-cultivated olive tree can produce edible fruit for twenty generations. A real man is known by **HIS FUTURE LEGACY** (vs. 4-6). A real man seeks God’s blessing and therefore becomes God’s blessing, and that blessing goes beyond his own family to the whole nation. America will never be right until our homes are right, and our homes will never be right until the fathers get right.

A Message from **Patrick Thornton**



CHILDREN, LBC

Congratulations to all the kids who were a part of the Awana Night Program, which took place Sunday evening, May 15. This year's Sparks Clubber of the Year Awards went to Libby Parkman and Ethan Henderson. They were both awarded the Sparky Award for finishing all 3 books in the Sparks program. Many of our kids also received their awards for finishing the 1st and 2nd books for the year. Way to go, kids!

As this "Connections" deadline approaches, a great many volunteers and I are finishing up all of the last minute preparations for Vacation Bible School, which is June 5 — June 9. We will have a light supper served at 5:15 and the worship rally and rotations begin at 6:00 and end at 8:30. We look forward to seeing all the kids during this exciting week as we delve deep into the mysterious sea. We will be "submerged" into God's Word, where kids will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people-He looked deep down on the inside! So kids, grab your goggles, step into your flippers and dive in to find truth below the surface! The key verse for this year's VBS is "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23-24 (HCSB). The motto is "Jesus sees. Jesus knows. Jesus saves."

Jesus sees.
Jesus knows.
Jesus saves.

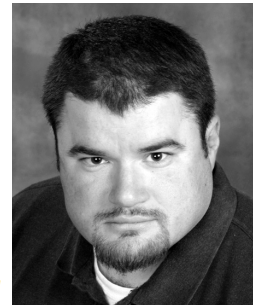
On Wednesday nights, beginning June 15th, we will be having "Wet Wednesdays." All elementary age kids, K-6, are invited to come for a time of fellowship, devotion, and swimming fun. Please remember that we do require a parent or guardian to remain with any children who are not accomplished swimmers. Children in the preschool division are also welcome to come, but must be accompanied by a parent. We will meet in the children's church room at 5:45 for our devotion and will return to the church by 7:15. Make sure you wear your swimsuit and bring a towel with you!

June 5 - June 9



A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC



This month I'd like to share some observations as I hit the twenty year mark in student ministry. One of the reoccurring questions I'm asked by many parents over the years is;

“What do I do when my student begins to rebel and doesn't want to do what I say, and doesn't care about going to church anymore?”

My first response to this question is there is no absolute perfect answer that once applied will give you the intended result as all students, parents, and family dynamics are different, however, I do notice some trends that I'd like to share with you. First, I firmly believe and have seen that consistency is the best policy! Although students are still growing both physically, mentally, and spiritually they are *ALL* excellent manipulators from an early age. If they detect a moment of weakness from either parent they will force it wide open like water in a cracked dam. Students, also like water, will always take the path of least resistance, they will work on the parent who gives into them more often leading to parental/family frustrations. Many times I see one parent who is wrapped around the child's finger while the other is the bad guy/gal, being the disciplinarian. I watch as the student cleverly maneuvers around the household rules until they attain the desired result. Now we as parents are no fools, most of the time we know when we are being played, but sometimes we are blinded by our love for our children or because we relate to their struggle in our own upbringing. When a student shows those initial signs of rebellion remember what you see on the outside has been brewing on the inside for a while and although it may be hard to wrap your mind around this new found image of your young adult you need to be prepared for the battle to come. I mentioned earlier that students are growing up fast and part of that growing up process is the need or drive for independence. They often express this independence in rebellion to authority whether to your face or behind your back. Many parents make their first mistake by wishing for the good ole' days where your baby girl or boy thought you hung the moon, and climbed up in your lap to give you hugs and kisses and actually wanted to spend time with you, but those days are gone...at least for a while. You stare at the pictures of your student and don't believe they are really struggling as much as it looks like, so you just

dismiss it. The second common mistake is to think this is just all part of being a teenager and after all, you rebelled and you ended up ok, so they will too, right? While a few elements of that statement are true, a parent should never excuse bad behavior because they did the same thing or worse growing up. I was an extremely sneaky, disrespectful, and downright rebellious young adult who indulged much of what this world had to offer however, that in no way gives my two kids a free pass to do what they want because I did wrong. In the same way it also doesn't disqualify me as a parent to discipline and set boundaries as I see fit just because I intentionally didn't follow the rules growing up, in fact, it's the complete opposite, because of my experience I should be all the more diligent to protect my kids from the same mistakes I chose. Then if they willfully rebel and head in the wrong direction I can know I did all I could do to lead them correctly. Third, wishful thinking is just that, and will not fix the situation, neither will a stern talk every now and then, only consistent leadership can drive your student back into place and back to God. I've watched countless students drift away from God and I intentionally go after them, but after a while the fading gets worse and talk with the parents only to hear a familiar phrase; *“I don't wanna force Jesus on them!”* This always gives me pause, because it makes sense to us, if I force Jesus on them, force them to come to church, or force them to go on missions when they don't want to, then surely they'll resent it/me and I'll lose them forever, right? However, I've noticed an unsettling trend in parents who choose this approach; the students run farther and faster, like a dog released from its chain, the new found freedom actually leads them further away from God. The fear that you might lose them, or somehow damage their view of God actually has the unintended effect of empowering them to be their own boss which opens the door for temptation, therefore this approach is the most spiritually damaging. Instead, those parents who

choose to model consistent leadership with set boundaries and rules seem to experience more success and their young adults are more respectful and Christ-centered. Fourth, (and my least favorite) is the friend-trend. This is the parenting style that thinks it's best to be as much like your students as you can. You dress like them, buy them anything they want, keep up with their music and friends, and allow them an experiential upbringing where they do whatever they want, with whoever they want, when they want to. So many parents are far too worried that their students will be ostracized (not cool) if they're not allowed to do what everyone else is doing. This out of the four approaches is the most dangerous in turning out students who are shallow and care little for the things of God. I think we as parents need to ask ourselves a question; "What's the worst that can happen?" What's the worst that can happen if we model consistent Christ-centered leadership to our students that God has blessed us with? I think we might be surprised at the outcome, things may change in our homes, and even in our own lives as parents. While I am constantly challenging and equipping students to become disciples of Christ, we as parents are called to lead them every day, and in every way; in life, in speech, in actions, and in godliness, to show them what Jesus looks like in us. We as parents are called to be the servant leaders, the pastors, the shepherds of our own little flocks. So, ask yourself right now, what is the condition of your sheep? Our homes and our parenting abilities will never be perfect, but kids don't demand perfection, they just need us to show them consistent Christ-centered love.

I'll end with **FOUR DON'TS**

- 1. Don't be afraid to set firm boundaries and rules and stick to them.**
- 2. Don't be afraid to say no or to be the bad guy/gal when they rebel.**
- 3. Don't be afraid to send your students to church and place a family priority on worship.**
- 4. Don't be afraid to show your students of all ages affection, they need your love.**

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Homer Medley
for his 65th birthday
by his wife, Glenda Medley
for the Budget

Homer Medley
for his 65th birthday
by his grandson, Gabriel
Medley for the Budget

James Slappey
for the Bus Fund by
Fred and Margaret Van Horn
Max Wilkes
for the Student Ministry
from Wilkes & Wade
Chandler

Ray Leatherwood
for the Food Closet
from Fran Loftin

Jackie Webb
for the Food Closet
from Fran Loftin
Jimmy Jones
for Challenge to Build
from Clara Jean Watson

IN HONOR OF:

Fred Van Horn
for the Bus Maintenance
from Dorothy Atkins
Rex Carter
for the Bus Maintenance
from Dorothy Atkins



IMPORTANT UPDATES ~ OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

THE GOOD NEWS The Chattahoochee Valley Collection Center at Lakewood Baptist saw a **24% INCREASE IN SHOEBOXES IN 2015!** That's wonderful! So many children — so many opportunities to change their lives with the Gospel.

THE BAD NEWS Due to increasing customs regulations, candy and toothpaste have become items of regulatory issue, often causing complications with the delivery of shoeboxes. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to share the good news of Jesus Christ using a simple shoebox gift as a platform to open doors to share the Gospel. Including these items are increasingly proving to prevent entry into a large number of our recipient countries and blocking the opportunity to share God's love with children in need. Therefore, they will no longer be acceptable items in 2017. Let's stop including them **THIS YEAR** so that we are more accustomed to not buying them at all. Thank you!

Lakewood Happenings

June 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			5:45pm Kidz Wet Wednesday		10:00am Breakfast Club	
			1	2	Builders For Christ 3	..... 4
Taco Salad Lunch Fundraiser			No Student Worship Due to VBS		10:00am Breakfast Club 5:30pm Game Night - Baked Potato Bar	Young Married's Feed The Homeless
VBS 5	..... 6	..... 7	..... 8	..... 9	..... 10	..... 11
Youth - Mission Lab - New Orleans 12	..... 13	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	5:45pm Kidz Wet Wednesday 7:00pm Finance Meeting			..... 18
FATHER'S DAY	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	5:45pm Kidz Wet Wednesday 6:00pm Student Worship		6:30-10:30pm Parent's Night Out	Youth & Singles Feed The Homeless
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00-8:30pm Bruster's	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	5:45pm Kidz Wet Wednesday 6:00pm Student Worship	Food Bank Closed		
26	27	28	29	30		

April Giving

	TITHE	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
4/3	\$24,380.08	\$775.00	\$1,787.50	\$5,571.11	\$32,513.69
4/10	\$10,242.05	\$100.00	\$9,040.00	\$3,668.00	\$23,050.05
4/17	\$11,388.48	\$230.00	\$5,032.00	\$5,640.50	\$22,290.98
4/24	\$10,748.39	\$290.00	\$1,469.00	\$4,961.09	\$17,468.48
	\$56,759.00	\$1,395.00	\$17,328.50	\$19,840.70	\$95,323.20

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm Students Get R.E.A.L. AWANA
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

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.

MAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

6/1

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

6/8

VBS WEEK
NO DINNER

6/15

SCRAMBLED EGGS
BACON
BISCUITS &
SAUSAGE GRAVY
GRITS
CINNAMON ROLLS
JUICE

6/22

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED
POTATOES &
GRAVY
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

6/29

HAMBURGER
STEAK
RICE & GRAVY
CABBAGE
CORNBREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

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



Welcome Home.

new members

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Stephanie Sorrels
Ryan Griffis
Shelley Greer

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PASTOR

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CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES
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