

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

June 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 6

LBCPC.ORG

VBS 2017

June 4th-8th



5:15pm-8:30pm

3 years thru 6th Grade

On-line Registration @ lbcpc.org



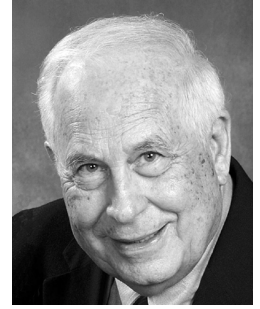
A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

June is here and with it will come the first really hot weather of the summer. I can remember June for a lot of different reasons but none so clear as the hay fields. As a young high school student growing up in Southern Illinois among the farming community I can still remember the smell of fresh cut hay. In the Midwest the word hay meant clover and one encounter with clover hay will leave a lasting impression on you. You see we worked in a crew that would put up the farmer's hay for 12 cents a bale meaning each of us were paid 3 cents for every bale of hay that made it to the hay barn. On our best days we could put up 2000 bale if everything worked just right. That was \$60.00 a day and we thought we were getting rich. The clover leaf dries into a delicate paper like consistency that easily breaks up into a small cloud of dust when baled into the square bales we worked with back then. The stem of the clover on the other hand would become quite hard making it heavy, prickly and dusty all at the same time. Now bring along some really hot weather and that is the recipe for long term memories. I can remember my 1st day on the hay crew like it was only yesterday as every newcomer goes through the same introduction to the barn loft. Now I know all about all the wonderful visions you might have of a roll in the hay of a barn loft but trust me it was nothing like that. It was super hot up there and the more hay you put in the less the air could get through to help you. The hay bales were coming up a conveyor belt and they made sure they were coming back to back. Soon it would grow dark in the loft from the cloud of clover dust that would cling to a sweaty teenager like moss on the north side of a tree. I can recall thinking that I would not last another minute up there but I was determined to prove my worth. After the first few minutes I remember being surprised by the fact that I wasn't already dead. The next thing I remember was the sound of the conveyor running empty as the bales stopped coming and then it happened. It was glorious and life changing all at the same time. It was the farmer's daughter! She had realized what they were doing to me and she had come to my rescue. My eyes were fixed on the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life. I stood at the top of the conveyor speechless overcome with delight at the site of that ice cold watermelon coming up that conveyor right into my waiting arms. It wasn't the most sanitary conditions but never have I eaten anything as good as that. The funny thing about this story is that the farmer's daughter was named Dawn, so I can honestly say I was saved once by dawns arrival. Well boys will be boys and the Devil we remain true to himself as well so the next time he trys to work or worry you to death and the world just seems as dark as it can be you just hold on to this one great truth. Dawn is coming and nothing is sweeter than being rescued.

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



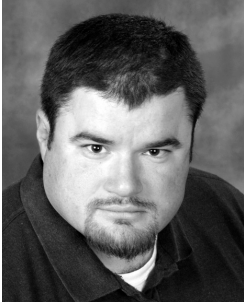
Over the past 25 years or so I have made annual, and oftentimes semi-annual ministry trips to Asia, during which time I have preached and taught extensively in most of the countries in that part of the world . I have just returned from one such trip, on which I spent the last few days in Shanghai, China, a sprawling city of 25 million people. In 1953, shortly after they took control of the country, the communists expelled all missionaries, and in 1966 Chairman Mao banned all religious groups. In 1979 the government once again allowed approved religions, which consist of Protestant Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism, and modified Catholicism, that is, independent of Rome. All registered churches are subject to government supervision, and the government can censor and control churches as it deems necessary and appropriate. Church meetings, activities, and publications are monitored. Churches must be indigenous, with no foreign mission activity or outside influences. There are to be no networks or denominations, presbyteries, or other such groups. Every church is to exist under the leadership of the municipal and provincial council. The government can even require pastors to submit sermons in advance for review and approval.

Because of all these restrictions, there are many thousands of illegal underground churches, meeting in apartments, rented hotel rooms, and other such places. On Sunday I preached at an international church, which the government allows, because only foreigners attend. However, I taught Chinese Christians many hours in other meetings that were held in private rooms at restaurants owned by Christians.

There is much persecution against these unregistered churches, particularly in provinces away from major cities, where there are not many foreign tourists or residents. For example, in the past two years in Zhejiang province, where Christians make up 15% of the population, more than 200 churches have been demolished and 2,000 crosses removed. Pastors and other church leaders have been imprisoned, and some have been martyred. But in the face of such persecution, the Chinese Christians refuse to give in. One of their popular sayings is, "The greater the persecution, the greater the revival."

The battle the Chinese Christians are enduring may seem like an ant on an elephant, but statistics show that their motto is true. When the communists took over the country in 1949, there were an estimated half million Christians in China. Reliable sources estimate that today there may be as many as 175 million, and the number increases by several million each year. Those who are knowledgeable of such figures say that by 2030 there will be more than 275 million Christians in China, making it the country with the largest Christian population in the world.

I can testify from experience that the stereotype of the church in China as consisting of the elderly and infirmed is completely false. Not only in China, but in all of Asia, including the Muslim countries, millions of young people are responding to the gospel. In fact, most of the churches where I have ministered have a majority of young, well-educated, active professionals. The vibrant enthusiasm of Asian Christians, thriving in the midst of opposition, makes typical Christianity in America seem drearily lethargic. In the next issue of Connections I will give a biblical and contemporary description of this contrast.



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

It is summer missions time! We are just a few days away from hitting the open road and the friendly skies to go serve in Boston and Belize this summer. We started preparing for these two service opportunities last October and now it's almost time. Again, just a quick breakdown of what we'll be doing in both places. In Boston (June 9th-17th), we'll be working with four North American Mission Board church planters who are in various stages of "planting" their churches. One church meets in a school building on Sunday afternoon and shares a meal together each week before worship, one meets in a dance studio that must be setup before and torn down immediately after each Sunday morning worship service, another meets in church member's homes and is currently looking for a space to meet regularly by the Fall, and the final one actually has their own building. Some of these churches wouldn't seem very much like church to us in the traditional sense. They don't have a nice complex, they don't have great musicians, but they are passionately pursuing God in a part of this country that truly needs it. Second, we'll be headed down to build on our previous work in the Central-American country of Belize (June 25th-July 1st). We are taking 70+ people, which represents the largest foreign mission team I've ever led. I am so excited about all the pieces God has put in place to set us on a course for success on this mission. I truly believe this will be a special trip as we have a great mixture of returners and first-timers. Once again, we'll have the skilled servants to work on construction projects and on the medical team (including dentistry), and lots of able bodied children's workers who are ready to witness to the children of Belize through VBS. Once we've completed the work in Boston & Belize we're not done yet, we have reserved Southside Park here in Phenix City for what we're calling our Pop-Up VBS July 10th-12th. Our students and young adults will be bringing a Lakewood-stlye VBS program to kids who could not normally attend our regular VBS here in June. That's local missions, stateside missions, and foreign missions all in the same summer and you can be involved too! I know many of you have supported our Belize and Boston fundraisers, and we all want to shout thank you, thank you, thank you! We couldn't go and serve without your love, prayers, and financial support. However, we will need adult volunteers who can serve in our Pop-Up VBS in July, especially those who will have already served here in our LBC VBS in June and will already be familiar with the materials. If you're interested please let me know. If you haven't been involved with supporting our summer missions efforts as of yet, there is a list of needed items we are still collecting for our mission trips listed below.. Please pray for our 50+ people going to Boston and 70+ going to Belize, and we look forward to sharing what God did in and through us once we get back.

We are in the process of collecting the following items for our summer mission plans; **crayons, coloring books, markers, hair ties/bows, jump ropes, Frisbees, soccer balls, kick balls, basketballs/nets, footballs, bubbles, stickers, small bibles, wiffle balls & bats, glue sticks, sidewalk chalk, powdered Powerade/Gatorade mix, hard candy, balloons, kites, hand pumps w/needle, ibuprofen, children's Tylenol, chewable vitamins, antibiotic cream, hydrocortisone cream, diaper rash cream, Band-aids, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.** If you can donate any of these items please drop them by the church office **by June 4th.**

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! We are on a star search for Galactic Starveyors!

Looking for Kidz age 3 years old through 6 th grade. We want YOU to join us in our clubhouse on June 4 - June 8 where we will Search the Visible, and Discover the Invisible and learn how our God, creator of everything there is, wants a relationship with YOU. So grab your telescope and head to our clubhouse observatory where endless discoveries await! You will search the skies and God's Word to uncover God's truth etched in His handwork. From the very beginning, to the furthest reaches of space and beyond, nothing is outside God's control or beyond His grasp. God loves us, and will never leave us.

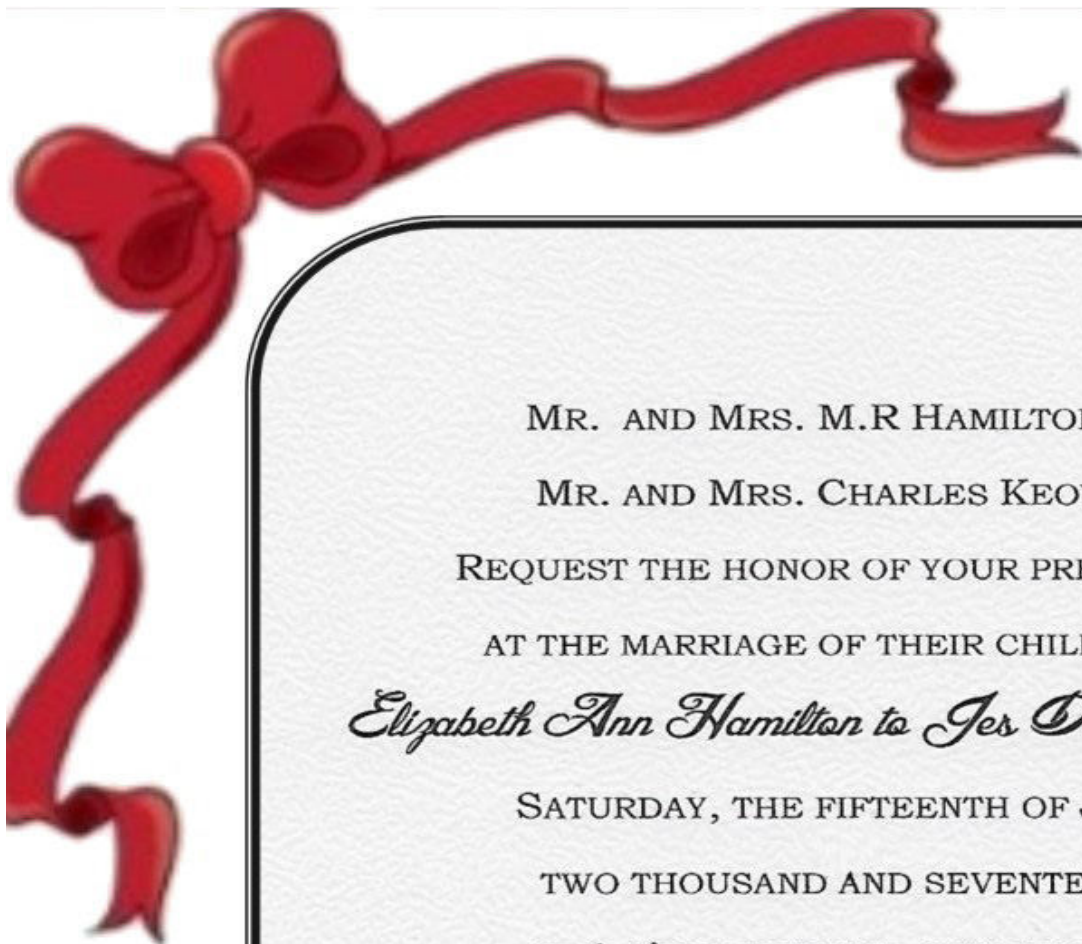
Vacation Bible School June 4 - 8 5:15 - 8:30 pm

Spread the word . . . Come learn His Word!

As parents dedicate their children to Christ, they are presenting their children to the Lord and asking His blessings on all their days and His will for all their lives. They are asking the Lord to help them grow up like Christ---strong, filled with wisdom, and blessed with the grace of God. Scripture commands parents to teach their children about the Lord Jesus Christ. The spiritual welfare of their children will not be accomplished simply by telling them about Jesus... but only by the words of their mouths and the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives that they will effectively communicate the message of God's love and saving power to their children. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:9. On Mother's Day, Parker Judson White and Graham Hatcher Favors were presented by their parents for dedication to Christ. There are many children who do not have the blessing of Christian parenting. As VBS approaches, I ask for prayer power. Please pray each day that children of the communities will be drawn into VBS at Lakewood where they will learn how they, too, can grow up like Christ - strong, filled with wisdom, and blessed with the grace of God.

Our AWANA Clubs, Truth & Training, Sparks, and Cubbies, closed the year celebrating accomplishments during their AWANA Night Program last month. The children were rewarded for their perseverance throughout the year. Sparkie of the Year Award was earned by Kymber Nunez, Truth & Training Clubber of the Year Award was earned by Lilly Tidwell, and Gamer of the Year Award was earned by Shawn Beam. Congratulations to all who participated, working very hard to learn scripture. Thank you to all of the Leaders who coached and encouraged them along the way, giving them the support and love they so dearly deserve. The year began last September with the lowest number in attendance of 39 the first week, and steadily grew to an all- time record high of 78. Our Leaders are very proud of the growth and opportunity to be role models in the spiritual growth of so many children. We look forward to next year, when AWANA/FLYTE resumes on September 6th. The water slide will help beat the heat throughout the summer on the water slide and other water activities on Wet Wednesdays. Come prepared to "GET WET" (bring swimwear, towels and happy faces) starting June 14th from 5:45 - 7:00.

We are in need of a Bible Fellowship worker for our Toddler or Two Year Old class. If you feel led to serve in either of these capacities, please contact Gina.



MR. AND MRS. M.R HAMILTON &
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEOWN
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN,
Elizabeth Ann Hamilton to Jes David Keown
SATURDAY, THE FIFTEENTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
AT 4 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON.
LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Robert Harden for Annie Armstrong from Women of Faith Bible Fellowship Class

Alice Spivey for Amen Choir from Edith McFee and Barbara Lovell

In Honor of:

Jean Tedder for Sarah Tedder for the Belize Mission Trip from the Joyful Servants Bible Fellowship Class

Lakewood Happenings June 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
FR Lunch for Belize			10:30am VK/WMU		5:30pm Game Night Bring Finger Foods	3
Vacation Bible School 4	Vacation Bible School 5	Vacation Bible School 6	Vacation Bible School 7	Vacation Bible School 8	Youth to Boston 9	10
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting Wet Wednesdays Begin			Youth back from Boston
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Father's Day	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting			10:45am Youth & Singles Feed the homeless
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Youth to Belize	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir OCC Meeting				
25	26	27	28	29		

April Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
4/2	\$25,142.28	\$525.00	\$2,633.00	\$1,417.00	\$29,717.28
4/9	\$17,169.57	\$220.00	\$6,681.25	\$9,399.00	\$33,469.82
4/16	\$16,817.15	\$1,639.00	\$4,185.21	\$3,193.85	\$25,835.21
4/23	\$7,877.89	\$190.00	\$2,249.00	\$1,815.00	\$12,131.89
4/30	\$11,804.67	\$464.00	\$3,248.00	\$5,770.21	\$21,286.88

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

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

June WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

6/7

VBS WEEK

6/14

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED
POTATOES &
GRAVY
WHOLE KERNEL
CORN
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

6/21

SPAGHETTI
CASSEROLE
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

6/28

PULLED PORK
SANDWICH
POTATO SALAD
CORN ON THE COB
SALAD &
DESSERT

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

Welcome New Members

JOEY &
JENNIFER
WILLIAMS

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
FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES
PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG

Gina Fusillo
CHILDREN
GINA@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867
O: 334.298.6433
F: 334.298.4873
LBCPC.ORG
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

O: 334.298.6461
LBCPC.ORG/CDC
HOURS: M-F 6:30AM-6:00PM

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