

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 10

LBCPC.ORG

CITY WIDE CONCERT

God Will Make A Way

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH

6PM



Welcome Home.



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

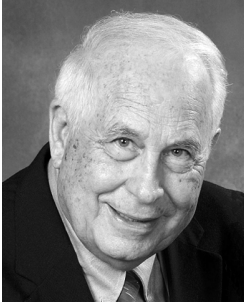
SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

November is a wonderful time to be in Alabama. The weather is great and the food and fellowship surrounding the holidays really starts to get underway. This is not the normal experience for those living in the northern and western parts of the nation as November may bring the same great food and fellowship but it also brings the first taste of winter weather. In the west November brings heavy snows and cold winter nights that some celebrate as they love to ski the fine powder or explore the high country by snowmobile. But for most of the residents November means the end of so many things they enjoy and a time to hunker down and get through like a bad case of the flu. I can remember the first time I was asked if I had my gas line heater checked on my car before the winter weather set in. I didn't know such a thing existed but I soon found out why I needed one. Gasoline will not burn when cooled to 35 below zero and Crestone Colorado often had night time temperatures well below that. I also found out how hard a car seat can get if you get it down to about 50 below. November in the high country is the season when you have to drive your car several miles before the flat spot on the tires from where

you parked it last time will pop out to be round again. It is also one of the most magical times of the year as the snows bring with them a quiet that has to be experienced to be understood. The cold crystalizes what little moisture that remains in the air and rainbows in the snow are common. The crowds of fisherman are gone from the streams as the native fish now live under the cover of heavy ice as they too wait for the spring thaw to open up their world again. The Bears are now sleeping and the Elk, Deer and Big Horn Sheep have long departed for the safety of the valleys below. The waterfall that only a few weeks ago ran free is now frozen in time unable to move. I share all this because the Bible tells us that God's invisible qualities and divine nature can be seen in all that has been

For since the *creation* of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse

made. (Romans 1:20) You see just as people throughout the nation are experiencing the seasons in such a different way so are we experiencing God. Yes, God is a God of seasons but not everyone experiences those seasons in the same way. And yes even in the bitter cold of the worst of winter days there is beauty and wonder to be seen for those who take the time to look for it. I fear that so many of us are just trying to hunker down and get through the seasons we don't particularly like, and by doing so we are missing out on some of the greatest blessings. It takes some very bitter cold to freeze a waterfall, but only through enduring that cold can you discover that even the waterfall has to wait upon the Lord. So whatever your season, look hard enough and you just might discover some of the greatest wonders in the world can only come from enduring a bit of discomfort.



A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH, LBC

When I was recently in Vietnam, a Christian businessman asked me a strange question. He asked, “Do all eligible voters in America vote?” I almost responded by answering, “No, but a lot of non-eligible voter’s vote,” but I answered, “No, they don’t.” Then he proceeded to tell me that everyone in Vietnam who is eligible to vote does so, because it was required and the police make certain that there was 100% participation in the elections. He added that there was actually no choice of candidates, because the Communist party is the only party and there is only one slate of candidates. In other words, the outcome of the election is assured, because there is no opposition. That’s the way it was in the old USSR, before the collapse of communism. Many years ago I was in the Soviet Union during election time. The whole process was a joke, because there was only one candidate for each office, and voters were simply doing what the state forced them to do.

While we might consider the communistic system a mockery, it is more shameful for people in our country, who do have choices, not to exercise their privilege and fulfill their responsibility. I believe that failure to vote is even more shameful for Christians, whom God expects to be exemplary citizens. Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Can the liberties of a nation be secure, when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?” Yet, in the presidential election of 2012, approximately 25,000,000 eligible Christian voters did not vote. To me, that statistic is disgraceful. What right do we have to pray for God to bless our country if we don’t care enough about our country to have a part in choosing its leadership?

I am tired of hearing Christian friends say that they are going to stand on principle and not vote at all, since they don’t approve of either candidate. I suppose they think it righteous and noble to take such a stand, but I’ve got news for you. Not voting is a sign of apathy, not principle, and your decision to stay home on election day deserves no applause. I have more news for you. When you vote, you are not merely voting for a personality; you are voting for principles. Regardless of how adorable or detestable a candidate may be, that candidate is representing a platform that clearly states what the party intends to do. It does not matter what you think of Trump or Clinton or any other candidate as a person, but it matters a great deal what laws will be enacted and what judges will be appointed, depending on the outcome of the election. If you really care about principles, you would read the party platforms and then prayerfully cast your ballot. The platforms are readily available on the Internet, and if you are in doubt about which one more nearly approaches your principles, I challenge you to read them, because they are as different as night and day and as far apart as evil and good.

God exhorted the people living in exile in Babylon: “Seek the welfare of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jer. 29:7). While there is no command to vote here, one way to insure the welfare of a country is to choose excellent leaders. So by way of a contemporary application of this exhortation, I believe that Christians today have a similar obligation to vote in a way that will “seek the welfare” of the United States.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas on November 21st please let Margaret Wilson know. 706-332-7536



What about tomorrow? Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Who knows what is to come? The future is unknown to us, but is certain to God.

His Word promises us that He alone is in control, and that He sets kings upon their thrones and moves their hearts as He wills. This certainly has been a contentious year with all the turmoil of the looming presidential election. As you are reading this, you're most likely preparing to go and vote in a week or so. Most Christians are unsettled, to say the least, about the presidential choices we have this year. Many will choose to vote strictly along party lines, and others will stay home and not vote at all. While we don't yet know the outcome, God does, and whether your candidate wins or not, God is still in control. Things may get tougher, and no matter who wins, Christians are likely to face deeper persecution here in the United States and worldwide. It's estimated that globally over 100 million Christians live under daily persecution for their faith by their governments or terrorist regimes. In 2015, it is estimated that over 7,000 Christians died for their faith in Christ alone, and that doesn't count the believers oppressed, displaced, and murdered by ISIS in Iraq, and Syria, or by the radical communist dictatorship in North Korea. In those countries it is simply impossible to get accurate numbers. All that said, this world is becoming more and more toxic for Christians, but we are challenged to not shrink back from the challenge. The 1st century church was no different with the exception that things were actually worse for Christians then than now. When a person became a follower of Christ they often lost their jobs, their friends, and even their families disowned them. As you know, many were hunted down and arrested, some were killed for sport, some thrown to the dogs, many crucified, and others burned as human candles and ISIS has revived many of these abhorrent practices adding to them beheadings and public boiling of Christians. As mentioned earlier, Christians are not called to shrink back, we can't take our ball and go home, and we can no longer be the silent majority, it is time to take a stand! The modern day church is somewhat to blame for the timidity of believers today as we've taught an easy-believe-ism that says come to Jesus and He'll make everything alright. While well intentioned this theology has perpetuated the myth that Christians don't have to live their faith out loud and can simply attend their "holy huddles" each week then go home feeling better about themselves more informed than before. However, let us ask ourselves these questions; ***Is that what Jesus suffered and died for? Did Jesus leave heaven, bear insult, ridicule, shame, and ultimately endure a horrid death to have followers who give less than their all? Followers who hide their faith instead of wearing His name (Christian-follower of Christ) as a badge of honor? Or followers who live in society but never affect it?*** I love the words of 1 Peter 4:16-17; ***"However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"*** Can we truly say that we praise God for allowing us to bear His name? I would never try and tell any of you how to vote as I believe each person needs to vote their own conscience and prayerfully consider their choice, but I do know one thing, God will still be in charge on November 9th just as He's always been! Let us be reminded of the truth found in Hebrews 4:14-16 which says; ***"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*** Our country is in a time of need, we need revival, and we are looking for a king like Josiah (2 Kings 22, 23) to return the nation to God, but no matter who wins we aren't going to get that kind of leader this year. So what can we do? We pray, to that High Priest named Jesus, we thank Him for His mercy and grace, we pray in agreement with God's will to be done, we hold firm to our faith, not timidly but boldly, and we become more like Josiah. We start tearing down the idols in our own lives, we repent of false doctrines that taught idleness and only an academic pursuit of God, and commit to changing our world. Let the change begin in us, the household of God, and see if it won't spread into our nation as a whole, because I know God will honor, equip, and empower that choice every time!

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

It is my pleasure and a blessing to serve and lead our Children's Ministry.

In the shadows of Patrick, there are some really big shoes to fill, but knowing that he has done his homework well with solid organization and leadership, there is a team in place for great and encouraging support of this ministry as we continue with new leadership. I personally thank you for the faith placed in me to see that our Children's Ministry is led through Christian example and my love for God. I heard Brother M.R. say these words several times, "Let us pray that God will send someone to lead this ministry." Oh what a happy day it was for me when God showed me that "I" was an "answer to someone's prayer!"

Fall is well underway bringing many blessings to the Children's Ministry. Although I have been involved in the Children's Ministry for the past three years at Lakewood, this new leadership role has opened my eyes to the true blessings we have with our volunteers who so reverently and passionately serve God.

The 2016 - 2017 Awana and Flyte programs launched on September 7th with a total attendance of 38 children and 15 workers. Over the past weeks, the attendance has grown to an all time record high of 62 children and 20 workers, increasing every week. Attendance extends beyond LBC families. **Volunteers who extend their ministry to providing transportation to children at a local elementary school make it possible for these children to be involved in the programs and to learn about God's love.**

Fall Festival was held October 30th. Because the event was at the end of the month, information about proceeds will be available in the December issue. All proceeds from the Bake Sale at the Fall Festival will benefit Operation Christmas Child.

With the holidays upon us, the Decorating Committee will put their touches around the Church with holiday trimmings on November 21st. Take notice of the Christmas tree in the foyer on the second floor at the elevator lobby. This tree will be decorated during Sunday School on November 20th by our Children's Bible Fellowship Classes, age birth through 6th grade. I am excited to see how God's "little creations" express their celebration of Christ's birth.

Mark your calendars for December 2nd. Parents are invited to drop off their children age Nursery - 6th grade into the hands of loving volunteers and enjoy a "Parent's Night Out." The cost is \$5.00 per child. Dinner, crafts and game time are being planned for a fun evening for the children. If your child has special dietary needs, please be sure to drop off food and snacks for your child. Plans for this event are not finalized, and we still need volunteers to assist in all categories. If you can serve, or if you would like more information, please see Gina.

There is a need to fill a position that was vacated at the end of the summer by Miss Diane, who was a paid worker in the Children's Department. If you are interested or know someone who is, this position is four hours a week from 8:30am - 12:30pm every Sunday and attendance at special events on an as needed basis. This is ideal for a person studying Child Development and a love for children is an absolute MUST! Call Gina @ 321-759-6065.

NANOR RECEIVED A SHOEBOX IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THE AGE OF 8.

I will never forget the day that I received my shoebox. I still remember every gift in it. I've kept the box to this day. It was so lovely. The cardboard shoebox was beautifully and meticulously wrapped in green wrapping paper that had little children on it opening gifts by a Christmas tree. Then I opened it! The most exciting gifts were a Barbie doll and a stationery kit. I loved Barbies—and then I got a real one! She was so beautiful. "I loved Barbies—and then I got a real one!" I felt I must be really special to have my own stationery kit. It had pink leopard print on top and inside there was a little notebook, five different colored markers, a stamp, a glittery sticker sheet, and a pink pen. There was something about the colors, and something about the fact that it opened like a book with a little zipper that made it so special. I didn't want to use it. I've only used about four or five stickers out of 50 in there and I've only used one notebook sheet. Almost everything in the kit is intact. One thing in the box I'll never forget was a picture of a girl and her letter—Heather Roberts from Enon, Ohio. I admired her picture with her blue eyes and her blonde hair. We started writing letters and today, nearly 20 years later, we're friends. It's such a blessing to be pen pals with the girl who sent me the box. "That box was a seed of friendship planted years ago." Years later I moved to America and I realized how much tension there is between the Middle East and the U.S. That box was a seed of friendship planted years ago. Even though we lived in completely different parts of the world, Heather and I had the unity of Christ when our countries had disagreements, especially after 9/11. The box is a sign of peace in a time of war. "I realized how much care had gone into preparing the shoeboxes with prayer." The spiritual part, of course, was the biggest gift of all, but it didn't hit me until later. A year after I received my box I accepted Jesus at a camp. But only when I got to the States and was sending a box myself did I get what happened. It all hit me where I had been and the journey God had brought me through. It made me realize I received something very, very special at that



time. As I got to know God more, I also realized how much care had gone into preparing the shoeboxes with prayer. All of a sudden it had a different meaning for me. I understood the love and the care that Heather put into the box. The shoebox gave me an extreme amount of happiness. As the years went on, I could see the importance of using the box as a tool to show God's love.



SHOEBOX COLLECTION WEEK IS NOVEMBER 14-21, 2016.

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Tom Hallmark for the Food Closet from Clara Jean Watson
Flint Sharpe for the Amen Choir from Wynn House Birthday Group

Natalie Hollon for the Youth Department from Janet Turner

Linda Cawthorne for the Food Closet from:

Fran Loftin

Steve & Margie Argo

Billy & Cathy Greene

Clara Jean Watson

Malinda Wilkes

Challenge to Build from:

Ken & Janice Noble

Eddie & Judy Ezell

Budget from:

Glenda Medley

Terry & Clara Grimes

For the Bus from Jacky & Becky Sanders

Lakewood Happenings

November 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VKBW	6:00pm Don Craft's Class OCC Box Packing	6:30pm Rex Carter's Class OCC Box Packing	9:30am GWMAW Rehearsal @ Philadelphia Baptist Church
		1	2	Marriage Retreat 3	..... 4	..... 5
God Will Make A Way 5:00pm Orchestra 5:30pm Choir 6:00pm Program at Philadelphia Baptist 6:00pm Kidz Choir	10:30am Amen Choir 3:30 - 7:30pm ADK Sweet Retreat	ELECTION DAY 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting		VETERAN'S DAY 5:30pm Game Night Pizza & Salad	8-2pm Youth Yard Sale 10:45am Young Married's Feed The Homeless
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6:00pm Kidz Choir	10:30am Amen Choir	11am Michelle's in Georgetown 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting	7:00pm JEG Baptist Women		
.....13	.....14	.....15	Operation Christmas Child Drop Off Week 16	.....17	.....18	.....19
6:00pm Kidz Choir 3 - 5:00pm Turkey Bowl		6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	Christmas Trees Delivered
.....20	.....21	22	23	24	25	26
6:00pm Christmas Solo/ Ensemble	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir				
27	28	29	30			

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

September Giving

	TITHE	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/4	\$24,354.19	\$ 870.00	\$645.00	\$161.00	\$26,030.19
9/11	\$11,263.70	\$125.00	\$450.00	\$1,239.13	\$13,077.83
9/18	\$10,909.48	\$170.00	\$1,085.00	\$276.00	\$12,440.48
9/25	\$8,139.70	\$85.00	\$1,370.00	\$1,411.07	\$11,005.77
ONLINE GIVING	\$2,930.41	\$1,250.00	\$400.00		\$3,330.41

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.

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

11/2

FRIED CHICKEN
SWEET POTATO
CASSEROLE
LIMA BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD

11/9

BEEF TIPS OVER
RICE & GRAVY
PURPLE HULL
PEAS
CABBAGE
CORNBREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

11/16

VEGETABLE
SOUP
CORNBREAD
SALAD
PECAN PIE

11/23

THANKSGIVING
BREAK - NO MEAL

11/30

SMOTHERED
PORK CHOPS
MASHED
POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

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



Welcome Home.

new member

Cameron Herring
Judy Hightower

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
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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