

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 10

LBCPC.ORG

Now He who supplies  
seed to the sower and  
bread for food will supply  
and multiply your seed  
for sowing and increase  
the harvest of your  
righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10



*Welcome Home.*



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

**October is a magical month no matter what part of the country you might be in.** In the mountains and across the Northern United States, October means the first snows are on their way and the harvest is coming to an end. In the Midwest, October is a magical time of color and all types of activity as it is a time of plenty. Here, October means the end of the heat that was summer and a time of refreshing as we all long to get outside and enjoy creation. October is a miracle in many ways as it may be the most popular month of the year as people everywhere seem to love October. Now this reality is perhaps the most curious aspect of October to a person like myself. October is able to do what I have often tried and seldom accomplished, it ushers in great change and everybody loves it. People don't usually like change even if that change is for the better. I have never had a problem getting people to agree with me that something needs to change. I have actually had fairly good success getting those people to make a great many of those changes. But I have never been able to get people genuinely excited about change to the point that they welcomed it like an old friend and actually celebrated its coming. October

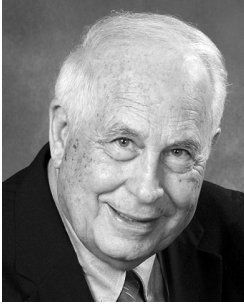
*October* is all  
about change and  
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is all about change and people love it. October causes people to celebrate and they wait for it longingly and once it arrives they want it to stay longer than it can. I have often wondered about this magical power that drives the whole celebration and wondered how I might use that same magic to usher in the very real life changing power of revival. If only I had the tools at my disposal that God has then I could just turn up the heat like God does in August and have everyone longing for change. You see God really is a Good Shepherd and he knows how to get us to change by making us not want to stay where we are. Like any shepherd he has several tools to do that such as a rod and a staff. But when those fail to work He can and will use a dog to make our present place in life a place

we just want to get away from. I really believe October owes a great deal of gratitude to August and all its heat. After all isn't the end of that heat one of the very best reasons to love October. I sure hope and pray that as you read this note you are going through an October in your personal life, but if you're not and your life feels a lot more like August just hold on to this truth. October is coming your way soon. A time of refreshing and a time of plenty, a time of harvest and a time of beauty.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

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



# *A Message from* **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH, LBC

**Our country is supposed to be a “government of the people, by the people, for the people,” including Christians, and each citizen bears the responsibility to vote to keep the government in check.** Christians especially are to be the salt and light of our society, and we cannot effectively function as such if we fail to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship. A non-vote by a Christian is a vote for secular control of our government. It’s a sad commentary that more than 25,000,000 Christians who were registered to vote did not vote in the 2012 presidential election. Who knows what the outcome would have been if only a third of that number had voted? It is within the power of Christian voters to shift this country back in the direction of its biblical foundation by voting for candidates who regard the sanctity of life, marriage, family, and biblical moral principles. I truly believe that bad officials are elected by good citizens who don’t care enough to vote.

Abraham Lincoln said, “Elections belong to the people. It’s their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” If a Christian doesn’t vote, he has no right to complain when he sees things happening in our nation that violate his faith and values.

I have heard many of my fellow believers declare that they are not going to vote in the upcoming election, because they don’t approve of any of the candidates. If that is your attitude, then I want to remind you that this election is not primarily about the personalities involved, but about the platforms they represent. Forget the personalities long enough to consider only the issues. Do you know what the candidates represent? Some people argue that once the officials are elected, they are not bound by the platform of their party. That may be true, but statistics show that officials follow the party platform at least 85% of the time.

With that sobering thought in mind, I challenge every American, particularly every Christian American citizen, to read the Democratic and Republican platforms. You will discover that they are as different as night and day and as far apart as evil and good. One is the most blatantly anti-biblical and thoroughly socialistic platform in American history, one that Karl Marx would happily endorse. The other strongly reflects biblical principles on every major issue. Remember that when you vote for a candidate from a certain party, you vote for everything that party stands for. I urge you to vote, but before you do, research the party platforms and cast your vote prayerfully. Then if you can’t conscientiously vote any announced candidate, write in your own choice. At least you will be exercising your right and speaking your voice.



**SHOEBOX COLLECTION WEEK IS NOVEMBER 14-21, 2016.**



# *If not now...when?* Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

**One of my goals in student ministry is to equip parents with the necessary tools and knowledge to reinforce what we teach here in the student ministry at home.**

After all, I only have an hour or two with your student each week at most, while you care for them every hour of every day till they're at least 18 (and beyond). I'd like to tackle an issue that's becoming more prevalent these days across the church spectrum. It's a thought that seems to be rooted in logic but is flawed at its base. I sat around tables a few weeks ago with other student pastor's from the Columbus & Phenix City area, all from different backgrounds, different church dynamics, and varying experience and age. We meet together monthly in a group called One Accord. This student pastor group exists for accountability, interaction, fellowship, encouragement, and cooperative event planning. Each month we discuss topics that are evident in our lives and churches, we collaborate how to better work together to advance His Kingdom, and to pick each other's brains for new ideas of how to reach young adults for Christ. This particular meeting, as our discussion grew, a common thread appeared, the question was asked; *"Are any of you having trouble with parental support of your ministry?"* I lead this group and it's one of my functions to develop the discussion so I quickly dug into the question; *"Do you mean getting parents involved as volunteers in your ministry?"* The guy responded; *"Well yes, that too, but more specifically that parents these days just don't seem to be encouraging their students to attend regular worship or student ministry events anymore, everything else is more important, and I feel as if I'm battling for the souls of these students alone!"* It was as if a collective nail had been hit on the head as student pastor after student pastor nodded in agreement and vocalized their experience with this same issue in their church. Story after story was exchanged of how a student had fallen away into sin or apathy and once the student pastor had

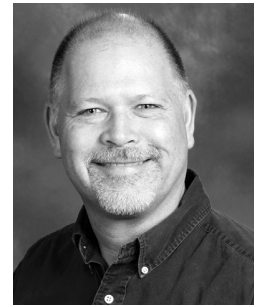
tried to usher them back they encountered a unconcerned student and parents who didn't seem to be near as concerned as he was. This led to other questions for many of these student pastor's such as; *"Am I serving in the-right place/church, am I really good at what I do, is God calling me elsewhere or to do something else?"* These student pastors had internalized the defeat they felt from losing a student to the world and many times the enemy had seized upon the opportunity to bring doubt into their lives and many had even doubted their very calling. As I listened to others in our roundtable discussion my mind went to a lunch meeting I had with a now former student pastor from a large and thriving church in Columbus. He was a member of our group, and very passionate about reaching students for Christ. Though young, he was a leader in our group that others respected and listened to. A while back I had noticed that God was leading Him through a fast, and while not wanting to pry into his reasons, I wanted to let him know that I was praying for him. Several weeks after his lengthy fast had ended he text me and asked if I could go to lunch with him. We met and immediately the problem was apparent; he felt that his ministry was at a crossroads, the students just weren't as passionate anymore, he had personal doubts about his abilities/talents, and parents just didn't seem to care anymore. I already eluded to the outcome, he felt God was calling him to do something else, and he decided to get a secular teaching job and eventually go back to school. I encouraged him, I prayed with him, and I continue to follow up with him. Now back to the meeting, I eventually chimed in and agreed that I had seen varying degrees of this phenomenon in all three churches I've served in, and honestly I do see it here at Lakewood. In fact, if I am being *REAL* honest, it's rampant here at

# I know you sacrifice for your student in so many areas of life, but join with me in sacrificing for the most important area, that *being the cause of Christ!*

LBC among what I'd consider our good, and faithful families. Please don't read into this as I don't say that to point any fingers, or to call anyone out, but instead as a challenge, as a call to action, and as a plea for help! I think often this is unintentional, that in the busyness of life, as we're pulled in so many different directions, sometimes it is hard to achieve a singular spiritual focus. Let me say; I know that no one loves your student more than you do, no one sacrifices more time or finances for their betterment than you, and that each and every parent wants the best for their child. I also know that all of you want your children and grandchildren to love Christ as you do, more than you do, and you want them to live eternally with Christ in heaven. However, it is the meanwhile, the time in between their salvation decision for Christ as Savior & Lord and eternity that I'm writing about. What should they invest in, better said...how should you lead them to invest in Jesus Christ right now? I have had many parents over the years say something like this; *"I don't wanna cram Jesus down my students' throat because they will reject Him and I'll lose them forever!"* This is very logical, and I believe, an honest statement. None of us should attempt to force Jesus on our child because the decision to follow Jesus has to be their own or it will be worthless as time passes. Unfortunately, many well-intentioned Christian parents seem to wish to expose their student/s to enough Jesus in the hopes that it will rub off on them and eventually stick, but digging a little deeper exposes the flaws into that train of thought. The studies and polling show that the vast majority of all people who come to know Christ make that choice between 4-19 years of age. The numbers starkly decrease over time and age and once over forty are minuscule at best. A closer look at the numbers also tell us that majority of people develop morals, character attributes, and service mindset during their teenage years. So, translate that to the child rearing years for parents, if your student is not passionately in love with Christ during their teenage years the law of averages says most never will be!?! Going further, if the numbers are true, you also know (just ask some of our grandparents) you'll never have more influence over your students' life that you do right now. If you're hoping that you'll be able to interject *"religion"* into your adult child's life later on the numbers just don't back it up as they listen to us less as they age

not more. Still going deeper, I'd like to ask those of you who are currently practicing this *"wait and see"* form of parental guidance if you are consistent with it over your entire parenting spectrum? Do you require your student to go to school? Do you make sure they go and get to ball practice? Do you make sure they do homework? Does your child have a curfew, a bedtime? Do you put limits on where they go, what they do, and who they are around? I sure hope so, I know I do! Then why is it okay to lead them in life but not in eternal things? You may say; *"they have to get up for school, it is best for their future!"* I'd say; I completely agree, but also invest in something ultimately more important than even school as we know only what is done for Him lasts forever. Our student ministry is full, we look forward to more room for expansion in the new building but we have lots of students who are here every time the doors are open, we have visitors on a weekly basis, we have new students making decisions for Christ and getting baptized, but still I'm watching some of our most solid students slowly slip away. I'm not asking you to do something I'm not willing to do; just ask your student, I don't leave them alone, I text them, I send them letters, I lovingly attack them in public, I show up at their schools and embarrass them, all to encourage them to get back in church, but I need your help, I need you to fight alongside me. Growing up, I was that kid who was in church every time the door was open, church was not open for discussion in my home. I used the exact words; *"You're cramming Jesus down my throat,"* to attempt to manipulate my parents, I resented and rebelled, I ran hard after this world, I used my knowledge of Scripture to argue a foolish defense of my ways, I sowed and I have reaped, but my foundation was secure! There was for me and will always be a yanking back point for those who belong to Him as nothing or no one can snatch us from His hand! I know you sacrifice for your student in so many areas of life, but join with me in sacrificing for the most important area, that being the cause of Christ! Every situation is unique and comes with unique challenges and troubles, but we serve a God who is never surprised. He holds all of the answers, He holds us all in His hands, we as parents are guardians by command of the next generation of believers, and I want to join with you to impart His truths' to His children.

# A Message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC

**As most of you have already heard, I have stepped down as Children's Minister of LBC.** It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the Lord and His church in this capacity for the past 6 years. Thank you so much for all of the support that you as a congregation have shown to me and to the children's division in all of the many activities that we offer here at Lakewood. Gina Fusillo was voted as my replacement on Sunday evening, September 11. Gina has been working as our Toddler class teacher, and she is very much loved by her class and their parents. I know that you will love and support Gina as much as you have done for me!

Our Fall Festival is almost here! This year the Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 30 from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. This is the largest event that our children's ministry puts on during the year, and we depend upon many volunteers to get it accomplished. We will be sending sign-up sheets to the Bible Fellowship classes to obtain help with games, food and registration needs. Please support our children's ministry and sign up to help with this evening of fun, fellowship, and out-reach to our community.

Individually wrapped candy and small prizes for the games are also needed. If you can donate a bag or two of candy, please bring it to the church office where we will be collecting it between now and the festival. Any small prize items, such as pencils, erasers, and small toys for kids would also be appreciated.

Our Extended Session, which is preschool care during our late worship service, is in need of some more volunteers. Amanda Owens is our Extended Session coordinator, and she is doing a great job in her ministry. With a full roster, volunteers only have to serve once every 2 - 3 months. We have had several people move away, and we need to replace them on our list. If you can serve as an Extended Session volunteer or if you would like more information, please see Gina Fusillo.

**V.I.P. WEEK, October 9-16**

**See [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org) for volunteer opportunities**

**or call Linda @ 706-718-4240**

## Lakewood Medley

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Frances Kelly**

Music Literature by Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Asbury  
Challenge to Build by J.D. & Diane Whitehead

**Jody and Frances Kelly** by Jo Slappey

**Jody and Frances Kelly** for the Budget  
by Jonathan and Beth Hudson

**Shannon Bush** for her birthday  
for the Food Closet by Larry & Sarah Bush

**Mable Grimes** for Challenge to Build  
by Terry and Clara Grimes

**Jackie Newman** for the Bus by Terry and Clara Grimes

**Bobby Watson** for the Food Closet by Margaret Maurer

### IN HONOR OF:

**Annie Horner** for Circles of Influence by Terry and Clara Grimes

**Bill Benton** for 90th birthday for Circles of Influence  
by J.P. & Esther Benton

## ONLINE GIVING

Now you are able to support the work of the Lord at Lakewood Baptist Church by giving your tithes and offerings through the church website. Online giving allows you to customize your giving plan to include automatic monthly drafts, date of giving and tithe amount. Your preferences can be modified at any time, if needed. You will receive contribution credit just as if you had submitted a regular offering envelope. Online giving is easy and all transactions are secure. See Onezima or a Finance Team member if you have questions.

# Lakewood Happenings

## October 2016

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:		WEDNESDAY											
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>9:00am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00am</b> Bible Fellowship <b>11:00am</b> Blended Worship <b>11:15am</b> Kidz Worship <b>6:00pm</b> Evening Worship		<b>5:00pm</b> Family Night Supper <b>5:45pm</b> Students Get R.E.A.L. AWANA <b>6:00pm</b> Orchestra Rehearsal Adult Prayer & Bible Study <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal				1							
<b>Lord's Supper</b>  <b>2:00pm</b> GWMAW <b>6:00pm</b> Kidz Choir	<b>10:30am</b> Amen Choir	<b>6:30pm</b> Alleluia Choir	<b>10:30am</b> VKBW			<b>10:45am</b> Young Married's Feed The Homeless	2						
<b>2:00pm</b> GWMAW <b>6:00pm</b> Kidz Choir Orchestra Rehearsal	<b>10:30am</b> Amen Choir	<b>6:30pm</b> Alleluia Choir	<b>7:00pm</b> Deacon Meeting		<b>5:30pm</b> Game Night		3						
.....9		.....10		.....11		VIP WEEK 12		.....13		.....14		.....15	
<b>6:00pm</b> Church Conference Kidz Choir Ice Cream Social	<b>10:30am</b> Amen Choir	<b>6:30pm</b> Alleluia Choir	<b>7:00pm</b> Finance Meeting	<b>7:00pm</b> JEG Baptist Women	Senior Adult Choir Festival		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>6:00pm</b> Amen Choir Concert No Tricks Bag Distribution	<b>10:30am</b> Amen Choir	<b>6:30pm</b> Alleluia Choir	<b>7:00pm</b> CDC Meeting No Tricks Bag Pick-up		McGowan Class OCC Box Packing	<b>10:45am</b> Youth & Singles Feed The Homeless	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>4-6pm</b> Fall Festival and OCC Bake Sale	<b>10:30am</b> Amen Choir												
30	31												

## August Giving

	TITHE	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
8/7	\$22,413.00	\$395.00	\$872.00	\$855.62	\$24,535.72
8/14	\$13,132.35	\$595.00	\$935.00	\$863.79	\$15,526.14
8/21	\$7,293.55	\$45.00	\$452.52	\$254.15	\$8,045.22
8/28	\$10,060.22	\$170.00	\$460.00	\$65.59	\$10,755.81
ONLINE GIVING	\$263.86				

**V.I.P. Week October 9-16**  
**See LBCPC.org for volunteer opportunities**  
**or call Linda @ 706-718-4240**

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.

## OCTOBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 10/5

BAKED CHICKEN  
CORN  
TURNIPS  
CORNBREAD  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 10/12

BAKED SPAGHETTI  
GARLIC BREAD  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 10/19

HAM  
SWEET POTATO  
CASSEROLE  
GREEN BEANS  
ROLL  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 10/26

SCRAMBLED EGGS  
BACON  
BISCUITS & SAUSAGE  
GRAVY  
GRITS  
CINNAMON ROLLS  
JUICE

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.



# Welcome Home.

## new member

Jack Whaley

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

*MR Hamilton*  
PASTOR  
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MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
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*Andrew Spires*  
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*Jerry Horner*  
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F: 334.298.4873  
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

### OFFICE STAFF

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*Linda Keown*  
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### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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*Tammy Evans*  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
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**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
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**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