

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 9

LBCPC.ORG

Begins September 6th @ 5:45



Awana Clubs



3-4 years old

K- 2nd

3rd - 4th Grade



5th-6th Grade

faith. life. together.



Welcome Home.



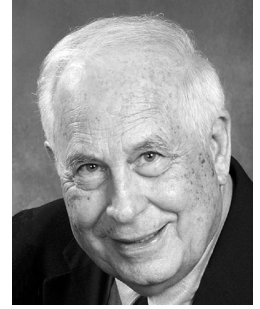
A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

September has always been a magical time of year for me and this year is no different. This September, we as a church find ourselves in a very different place, a place where we have dreamed of being for nearly 40 years and now that we are here it seems as though it has always been this way. Just last week a large group of us were laying sod on the hillside in front of the new building when suddenly I realized that I was putting sod in the very location on which our old antenna once stood not so very long ago. I had to laugh out loud as I remembered how we prayed it wouldn't fall on the church as we cut the first few cables. That was the first thing we did that started the building project moving in the right direction. Now I look back and I am reminded of the many days that would turn into months to make this day possible. Then I couldn't help myself and my mind returned to one of my favorite lines in the movie Jeremiah Johnson, "you have come a long way pilgrim." It sure feels like a long way. And how fitting it is that we would finish up the project by putting sod on the very place the project started. And that reality leads us to ask a very honest question. What now? Where do we go from here? A great many things about tomorrow I don't know but this one fact is as certain as anything I have ever known. We have not arrived at our final destination, and the journey for us may be changing paths but it is no time to linger on the mountain from which we now stand. It is right for us to take a moment and just enjoy the view. And it is right for us to look back and feel the joy of accomplishing a task we so often thought might be too great for us. But now we have the opportunity to look beyond this mountain at what God has in store beyond this place. Now is a time when clear plans are made so that we can soon reach the next generation for Christ Jesus and how to best use this new space to reach out into new fields of opportunity. Now is the time to address the many issues that have been set aside with our other facilities. A time to update and improve our sound in our present facility so that all can clearly hear. Now is the time to move our television broadcast from its present state into High Definition as that ministry continues to expand its reach into more and more households. Now is a time for me to shift my organizational responsibilities from work crews and material list to church organization and better communication. This is a time to get our leadership all pulling together and that can only work if they all know where and why we are going there. Now is a time for spiritual growth equal to or greater than our numerical growth. This may well be a time of great harvest ahead of us and we must be ready when it comes. This is a time to not put our faith in worldly solutions to our spiritual problems and believe that a building or even a dozen more buildings is the answer. Certainly the new building is great but without love it will come to nothing. When we love God and allow God to love others through us the battle will finally be won. So I see the future as an open door before us if only we don't give up on loving one another. I see nothing in our way if we just love one another. Certainly there will be challenges, but nothing love can't overcome. God's love unites us and together with God there is nothing we can not do. So it is right to want to stop on this mountain and enjoy the view from here because from where we are standing it is all down hill from here. God has been working towards this day for a reason and we are blessed to be here to see it happen.

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



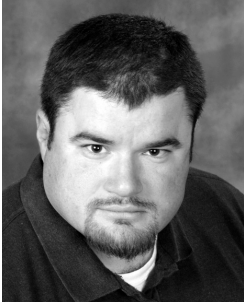
I just read about another megachurch that announced its acceptance and support of same-gender marriage and the right of the LGBT community to hold offices in the church, including the ministerial staff and Bible teachers.

In his sermon announcing the policy, the pastor stated that the Bible teaches that we are to love and accept everyone, and that people have the right to marry whomever they choose. I'll have to admit that Satan is good at his job of deceiving churches into allowing public opinion to determine their view of doctrine and morality, rather than the Word of God. This trend should not surprise us, because it's a fulfillment of prophecy as we enter the last days.

The article reminded me of Peter's declaration that judgment begins at the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17), and I found a great example of that kind of judgment in the Book of Ezekiel. Israel was in captivity in Babylon, and God revealed to the prophet why He had brought judgment upon the people by allowing the captivity. In chapter 8 of the book, God took Ezekiel back in time and showed him through a hole in the wall all the abominations going on in Jerusalem, and particularly in the Temple. Then in chapter 9 God gave Ezekiel a vision of six men, one of whom had a writer's inkhorn by his side, and the others armed with weapons. The man with the inkhorn went through the city and put a mark on the forehead of everyone who was burdened by the sins of the people and were crying out to God. The ones with weapons went out after him and killed all those who did not have the mark. God gave the executioners the command, "Begin at My sanctuary" (v. 9). So judgment began at the house of God. Our country today is filled with evil every bit as vile as that described in Ezekiel, and we don't have to look through a hole in the wall to see the filth and corruption.

The man with the writer's inkhorn marked all who were grieving over the sins of the people, and all who were unconcerned were slain. If God followed that same procedure in America today, we would see the most devastating massacre in history, because many pastors and multitudes of professing Christians are either flowing in the tide of public depravity or showing indifference to it. "The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God," wrote Peter. Too many sermons are bedtime stories that lull the people to sleep instead of morning reveilles to wake them up. God will not withhold His judgment, and He will reveal the true colors of compromising pastors and the mass of nominal churchgoers who honor God with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. Much of the blame for the national depravity and spirit of hatred and violence lies at the door of the church. Our indifference, our neglect, and our failure to cry out against iniquity have encouraged more of the same ungodly atmosphere. Unfaithful preachers, unbiblical theology and morality, and unholy living have disgraced the house of God until He must first cleanse the temple, as Jesus did long ago. God's house has become a den of thieves, and it's time for a whip of judgment.

We are in the last days, and God is sifting His people. Even now there is a beginning of separation between the large crowd of Sunday-morning church attenders and the smaller group that really mean business with God. On the one hand, there are the compromisers who trim their sail to catch the breeze of society's breath. They will end up in one great apostate aggregation in league with the world, the flesh, and the devil. On the other hand, there is the faithful remnant who set their sail to catch the wind of the Holy Spirit and who stay the course through the storms. The word of Joshua to "sanctify yourselves for tomorrow" (Josh. 3:5; 7:13) is timely right now. I beseech everyone who claims the name of Christ, reconfirm your commitment to Him, get your priorities in order, get back to the Book, and watch unto prayer.



A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

This month, I'd like to share with you a letter I received from Ashley Woodburn, one of our student leaders, who's a senior at Glenwood. As many of you know, Lisa Woodburn (Ashley's mother), has had some serious health problems over the last couple of years which are detailed in the letter, those health issues weighed heavily on the family, and especially Ashley. We all face troubles, hardships, and trials in this life, the only question is how we respond? The letter from Ashley speaks to her physical and spiritual journey through this trial, and I know it will be meaningful to you, as it was to me.

Lost and Found

I have always grown up in church and have come to know the Lord as my Savior and friend. I have always heard people talk about how they have become blind to His path and I could never understand why people, who love God, just forget Him in an instant. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I have trusted His plan for my life, but seeing my mom lie in pain made me not want Him anymore. January 27, 2015 is the day my life fell apart and I was lost.

My mom and I had just started working out at Anytime Fitness with a trainer. We were in the middle of a workout and my mom felt lightheaded and sick. The trainer instructed her to lie down on the couch, but things just became worse. By the time we got home, my mom could barely walk. I called my dad to come help her out of the car. After she was settled, I went to my room to do my homework. One hour had passed and my dad called me downstairs to tell me that my Grammy was coming to watch me because he was taking my mom to the emergency room. When those words came out of my dad's mouth, I knew something was wrong. Around twelve o'clock at night, my dad called to tell us they were rushing mom to Birmingham for monitoring because they found something wrong. He came back home and drove us to Birmingham. When we got to Birmingham, the doctor let us know that my mom had an AVM, or a brain bleed, and they sent her to ICU. I stayed in the waiting room that whole weekend being comforted by family and friends, but I was hurting inside and I did not want their comfort. I just wanted my mom to be okay. Saturday night my mom had a seizure, and I thought I was slowly losing my mom to this thing inside of her. On Sunday, my dad decided that it was best for me to go home so I would not miss school. I did not want to leave my mom because I thought that could be the last day I would see her alive. Thankfully, the doctors sent her home and she would return back in a few months for radiation. I was slowly slipping away from God and my old life I knew.

My mom had her radiation and things were looking up for her. On August 30, 2016, my mom received the news that the radiation had killed the "tumor" but it was expanding. The doctors planned to perform a craniotomy on my mom to completely remove the "tumor". All I knew was that I was done with God and this life that I once knew. I tried to pray and stick with it, but I felt that it was all a joke. Nothing seemed to help the situation. How could He let there be a "part two" to my mom's situation? I dreaded going to church and I wanted to resign from the youth leadership team. I became unhappy and did not want to participate in any church events. The devil was testing and he was winning.

On October 17, 2016, my mom was sent into surgery. My dad, Grammy, and I were left in the waiting room for eight hours. It was crowded, cold, and I worried the whole time about what was happening to my mom. I checked the progress board every thirty minutes to see if my mom was out of surgery. I roamed the hospital to make time go by faster. The chaplain came by about three hours into the surgery and prayed for us, but I did not want his prayer. After mom's surgery, I finally got the chance to see her. When I entered the room, my heart broke. I saw my mom lying in pain with many wires and tubes coming out of her and her head wrapped up in a ton of bandages. My dad and youth pastor were both motioning me to come to her bedside, but I did not want to go. I did not want to go because I was afraid if I touched her I would cause more pain. I became overwhelmed with emotions and I ran out of her room. I ran all the way to the bathroom. I had no comfort in the bathroom. It was just me alone in silence because I had rejected the last hope of God. After crying for ten minutes in the bathroom, I decided to just sit in the waiting room in my own thoughts. When I came out of the bathroom, I saw my youth pastor standing by a table with a metal tree. I did not notice that tree before when I came to the waiting room. When I reached the tree, I realized this tree was filled with prayers. The prayers were written by family members and friends asking for healing for their relatives in the hospital. Under the tree were cards with bible verses on them. When I looked up at my youth pastor, he was handing me one of the verses, and told me I needed to read it. In my mind, I rolled my eyes and said I do not need this. I read the verse, but I do not remember what it said. I always go back to the thought of how I could not stop looking at that tree, and I think now that that tree was God's call to say I'm still here.

After reading all the prayers on that tree, I realized that God had not given up on my prayers and my mom. At that moment in time, I realized that my mom was going to be okay because she was in the hands of God. I also realized the devil had tested me this whole time, and I knew I could not let the devil win any longer. I dried my tears and went back to my mom's room and stayed with her until I had to leave. Every bad emotion had left my body, and I knew God never stopped loving me. Ever since that day, my relationship with God has never been closer, and my mom is just fine now. I never thought the worst part of my life would bring the best spiritual experience of my life.

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

September CHALLENGE . . . all Kidz are challenged to invite and bring friends. Visitor attendance for Sunday School, Church, or AWANA will count for the challenge. Prizes will be given to the class with the most guests. So put your lips in motion and start talking praise about Kidz opportunities to grow in Christ.

It feels far too hot for Fall to be around the corner but we are ON FIRE for our busy fall season in the Kidz Ministry. The AWANA Clubs and FLYTE kick off the season with our first meeting on Wednesday September 6th. An exciting season is planned with passionate leaders prepared to teach the Gospel to Cubbies, Sparks, T&T's and Flyte. AWANA is a safe and happy place for kidz to “hang out” on Wednesday evenings for bible study, fellowship and lots of fun. But BEWARE.... They will return home with some Gospel in their souls. The goal of AWANA is to reach Kidz with the gospel and engage them in long-term discipleship. The program emphasizes memorizing and understanding key Bible verses, and a series of awards mark their achievements. A relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ is the most exciting and important thing anyone can ever have. Children age 3 thru 6th grade meet in the Children's Building on Wednesday evenings from 5:45pm to 7:15pm between September and May. Last year began with 35 Kidz, with a steady increase in attendance, and a record high attendance of 77.

HELP ! PLEASE sign up to help a child learn his or her verses or help with games or music.

Joyful Noises Changes have been made to our Kidz Choir this year after much discussion, processing, and prayer. With record low attendance last season, we are faced with the decision to revise our music program for the Kidz Ministry. Music has been integrated into the Awana Clubs where Kidz will be involved in a short music rotation each week. This brings musical praise to the Awana Ministry and will also allow more Kidz to choose to participate in an end of year Musical/ Drama presentation. We continue to pray for the Kidz Music ministry that God will place us where best served in His will.

Ministry opportunities available for our Kidz:

PRE-SCHOOL (BIRTH - 4 yrs)

SUN 9:00 Childcare available

SUN 10:00 Bible Fellowship

SUN 11:00 Extended Session childcare

WED 5:45-7:15 Awana Cubbies 3 - 4 year olds

ELEMENTARY (K-4th)

SUN 9:00 worship service with parents

SUN 10:00 Bible Fellowship

SUN 11:00 Children's Church (K - 4th)

WED 5:45-7:15 Awana Sparks (K-2nd)
and Truth & Training (3rd - 4th)

THE MIX 5/6 (5th - 6th)

SUN 9:00 Early worship service with parents

SUN 10:00 Bible Fellowship

SUN 11:00 Late worship hour with parents

WED 5:45 -7:15 FLYTE

Please pray about your talents and service in our Kidz Ministry. We are in need our volunteers.

☒ Musical Talent to plan and direct Kidz Musical Spring 2018

☒ Toddlers Teacher ☒ Two Year Old Teacher

☒ Helpers in AWANA Clubs, particularly in Cubbies (3-4 years old)

Ladies Fall Bible Study

THE LIVING ROOM SERIES

WHAT LOVE IS

kelly minter

The Letters of 1, 2, 3 John

Sunday, September 10th @ 4:30pm in FAC

Tuesday, September 12th @ 10:30am in FAC

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Frank McLemore for Budget from Kenneth and Judy Funderburk

Charles Turner's Birthday for Benevolence from Janet Turner

Frances Kelly for Budget from Gordon and Jo Ellen Carter

Dot Beck for Amen Choir:

Ken and Janice Noble

Gary Newsome

J. P. and Esther Benton

Billy and Cathy Greene

Jill Milner

Faye Lisle

Linda Fossett

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Shenton and Joel

Gordon and Brenda Toevs and family

Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Brenda Slaphey

Bill and Margaret Wilson

Dorothy Atkins Robinson

Carolyn Trussell

Bobbie Redmon

Dot Beck for Homebound:

Clara Jean Watson

In Honor of:

David and Pansy Slocumb for Challenge to Build
from Terry and Clara Grimes.

Lakewood Happenings

September 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					VIP	VIP
					1	2
VIP	Labor Day Office Closed	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU AWANA & FLYTE resume		5:30pm Game Night BBQ	11:00am Helping Hands Ministry
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4:30pm Ladies Bible Study - FAC	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study - FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting	10:00am Bus Trip to Bullock House	Be Strong Men's Conf.	Be Strong Men's Conf.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4:30pm Ladies Bible Study - FAC Be Strong Men's Conf.	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study - FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4:30pm Ladies Bible Study - FAC	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study - FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW		10:45am Y&S Feed the Homeless
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
7/2	\$17,605.98	\$1,213.13	\$1,162.67	\$390.53	\$20,372.31
7/9	\$17,300.61	\$843.52	\$2,078.13	\$907.45	\$21,129.71
7/16	\$15,668.23	\$75.00	\$551.06	\$1,886.43	\$18,180.72
7/23	\$8,995.56	\$40.00	\$286.60	\$2,246.30	\$11,568.46
7/30	\$9,913.69	\$345.00	\$183.16	\$538.97	\$10,980.82

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** FLYTE, 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
5:00-6:00pm

September **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER**

9/6

LASAGNA
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

9/13

HAMBURGER
STEAK
MASHED
POTATOES
BUTTER PEAS
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

9/20

BEEF TIPS & RICE
BLACK-EYED PEAS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

9/27

FRIED CHICKEN
MAC & CHEESE
COLE SLAW
SALAD & DESSERT

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

Welcome
New Member

BRAYDEN
WALKER

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
FAC: 334.298.6460
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

Bus Trip
to
Bullock House

SEPTEMBER 14TH
LEAVE @ 10:00AM
\$20

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