

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2019

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## CHRISTMAS AT LAKEWOOD

*Sunday, December 1st @ 6:00pm*

*Solos and Ensembles*

*Sunday, December 8th at 3:00pm*

*Heather Sorenson & Combined Choirs*

*Sunday, December 15th at 7:00pm*

*Alleluia Choir Concert*

*Sunday, December 22nd @ 6:00pm*

*Instrumental Christmas*

*Tuesday, December 24th @ 6:00pm*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



*Welcome Home.*

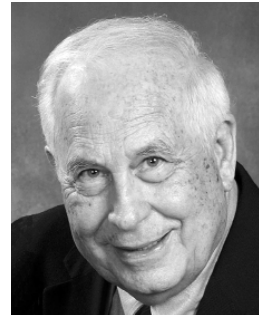


# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

As I begin to write this note I must admit that I am struggling with the reality that December is here and 2019 is all but over. I still remember the Y2K frenzy as many thought for certain the world was ending with the year 2000. As a child growing up we would often see dreams and ideas of what life would be like in the year 2000 with flying cars and space travel and computers you could talk to. I remember saying to myself I'll never live long enough to see any of that after all I would be forty years old by then. Age really is a matter of perspective I guess because at that point in my life I couldn't imagine life beyond 40 because those people were really old. Then in the year 2000 I was 40 and I found myself dreaming of a magical time in my life called early retirement at age 60 in the year 2020 where I would still be healthy and strong and financially stable and traveling and doing all those things on my bucket list. Well, that dream is right next to the flying cars, neither has turned out to be real. Instead I find myself at the end of my 7th year here at Lakewood and instead of being finished I feel as if I am just getting ready to start over again. Because of my recent surgery I have been forced to think a lot and do very little which has brought me to realize just how far we have come and the opportunity we have before us. It just seems right that at the end of 7 years one should actually be planning to start over because we are in a new place and faced with new challenges and new opportunities. In Deuteronomy 15 God challenges the people to cancel all debts and release all servants every 7 years and not only that but to make sure those servants don't leave empty handed so they might have what they need to start all over. You see God has been all about new beginnings from the very beginning. Why God chose to bless 7 days and 7 years I don't fully understand but ever since creation the 7th day has been special. I know that today talking about the 7th day and making sure it is Holy and set apart isn't real popular it still remains special to God. We actually rob ourselves when we fail to lay aside a special day of rest. A time with family, a time to be free from the curse of sin and labor. Hebrews 4:9 reminds us that there remains a day of rest for the people of God because we are supposed to be blessed to have such a day. Imagine each week a brand new beginning filled with opportunity and promise. Imagine every 7th year starting over again with the lessons of the last 7 years fresh in your memory. Some might say it is only a matter of coincidence but you will never convince me of that. 7 years ago at this very time in my life I was taking a short sabbatical between my past ministry and this one. It was a time to stop and think, a time to get ready to start all over and that was exactly what I did here at Lakewood. Now I had failed to plan for a break after 7 years and God allowed this surgery to come my way to force me to stop and rest. To be still and listen so I might be ready to start all over again. These are the Holidays and God wants us to remember to keep them Holy and by that I mean a time of rest and refreshing, a time of hope and blessings. This is a time to plan and dream of what the world and the church and your life could look like in another 7 years. It is this kind of dreaming that fills our lives with hope and purpose and meaning. It is this kind of dreaming that creates our visions and after all a vision is nothing more than a goal with a deadline. So take a look at our 2020 vision posters all around the church and smile as you read through that list and realize we are almost there already. Now get out there and each one bring one and we can start dreaming all over again.

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Not all of us live up to the meaning of our name, but that isn't true of Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 tells us that His name is Wonderful, and so He is. This is not a term of flattery. It is simply a name worthy of the Son of God. We have a tendency to overstate the obvious and understate the incredible. We throw words like "great," "super," "wonderful," and "incredible" around too easily. There's a huge gap between a winter wonderland and a wonderful savior. To understand this word better, let's look at the original languages.

In Hebrew, the word wonderful is *pele*, an unusual word that is difficult to define. It's root is the word for miracle, so it describes something extraordinary and marvelous, so wondrous that it's beyond description. The first time we find the word is in Gen. 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" It expresses something that is beyond the bounds of human powers or expectations, but not impossible with God. You will see this concept clearly in such passages as Exodus 3:20; 15:11; Psalm 77:11, 14; 118:23. The word always carries with it a sense of awe, reverence and astonishment.

The Greek equivalent is *thaumazo*, used in Luke 2:18 to describe the reaction of those who heard reports of the birth of Jesus. Again, the word means "to marvel," but even more. It's to be awestruck, astonished out of your senses. We see then that wonder was the first emotion expressed by those who first saw the baby Jesus. Wonder was the reaction of Joseph and Mary at the things said about Him (Luke 2:33). We have all heard about the great wonders of the world. But there is no event, and certainly no person who has ever created more wonder and amazement than Jesus Christ. His birth is a wonder to us. How God became man and dwelt among us is a wonder to our finite minds. God's Christmas gift is the gift of Himself—deity wrapped in humanity. Here is the mystery of the manger, that God translated deity into humanity without either discarding the deity or distorting the humanity.

Jesus was wonderful in His birth and He was wonderful in His life and character. He was perfect, "without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He was wonderful in His teaching. He stands alone as the world's best scholar, sage, and philosopher. When he was only twelve years of age, the greatest religious teachers of that day were spellbound by Him (Luke 2:46, 47). The crowds who heard His powerful and captivating preaching were astounded, and affirmed that nobody had ever taught as He did (John 7:28, 29).

He was wonderful in His works. His miracles demonstrate the reality of His deity. He controlled the elements of nature by commanding the winds and the waves of a stormy sea to be still, and they obeyed Him. He controlled the forces of Satan by casting demons out of possessed people. He controlled sickness and death in healing the blind, the crippled, the deaf, and all kinds of diseases, and by raising the dead.

Jesus was wonderful in His victorious death. At the cross He paid the penalty for our sins and purchased our marvelous salvation. But the cross is not the end. Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the grave. Peter ran to the tomb and stood in wonder when he looked in and saw that it was empty. The empty tomb makes life wonderful and the thought of heaven incredible.

The Bible describes the return of Jesus Christ as an indescribably wonderful event. He came the first time as a little baby, but He will come the second time as a mighty monarch. He came the first time to redeem us, but He's coming the second time to rule and reign over us. A giddy crowd can dance around a manger and love a little baby. But we're not just called to be giddy about a little baby, but to bow before Him and to crown Him as Lord of lords and King of kings.

Wise men bowed down before Him in Bethlehem. Because His Name is Wonderful, our only proper response to Him this Christmas and always is that we must do the same. "Bow down before Him; love and adore Him," because His Name is Wonderful. He alone has the credentials to be our rightful Lord.





# A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

As we end 2019, our student ministry has just finished a 30+ week study of the book of Acts on Sunday mornings. We have studied the book thoroughly each week and clearly seen what a Gospel-centered servant and church looks like. Looking back over our study, we noted several important things. We read of many healings, many magnificent moves of the Spirit, and many other miraculous events in the book of Acts. Each one had the dual-purpose of; helping a person in need, and opening the door for the advancement of the Gospel message. Next, the book of Acts (28:17-28) ends with Paul giving a defense of the Gospel before the Jews, including the quoting of **Isaiah 6:9-10**. This powerful portion of the Old Testament, which vividly describes Isaiah's vision of the Lord seated on His throne along with Isaiah's commission, also immediately precedes (Isaiah 7) the prophecy of the Messiah to come who will be called **Immanuel** (God with us). Paul scolds the blindness of the Jews to the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in their time, a fact that would not have been lost on the Jews listening that day. Peter and Paul have recurrently pleaded with the Jews throughout the entire book of Acts to see Jesus as Savior and Lord, with little success. As they rejected Jesus, many Gentiles believed. We live in a day and time where access to the Gospel is nearly unlimited, as we can stream numerous preachers, there's a church on every corner, and most people in America have access to a copy of God's Word. Yet, with the Gospel so freely available, many hearts are reminiscent of Isaiah 6:9-10, hard and calloused. This world is hearing but never understanding, seeing but not perceiving, we have willingly chosen not to listen, and closed our eyes to the Truth. We, like the Jews of old, should clearly see the Messiah with our own eyes, yet we walk away, or we muddy the Gospel message with an 'us-centric' world view. Many search for God in other places/religions, instead accepting the message of grace and true relationship that depends on Christ alone. Even the Church in America has become polluted with such things. Many no longer place priority on corporate worship or even belong to a church, others come occasionally but are unaffected by the life-changing message, and even those most involved and dedicated seem to grow weary of the message at times? This was not the case with the early Church, it was not the case with the Apostles, they consistently placed their lives on the line for sake of the Gospel. It was the driving force of their lives. If we look at the final chapter of Acts we find Paul enduring house-arrest for two years waiting for his appeal to Caesar. The final verse of the chapter (28:31) gives us the summary-statement of Paul's life; **"Boldly and without hindrance he (Paul) preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ."** We know Paul would not remain silent, as writes many of his letters (epistles) over time, while in various states of captivity. He endured some of the harshest persecution of anyone who ever lived; repeatedly arrested, stoned, lashed, beaten, and placed in chains for the name of Jesus. Yet, the book of Acts ends without giving us the rest of the story of Paul's life and death!!! Even history is cloudy on the details of the end of Paul's life, but most agree that Paul was martyred for his faith in Christ around the middle 60's A.D. (likely by beheading). Back to verse 31, did it resonate with you? Does it describe you? Are you boldly and without hindrance preaching Christ to this world? If not, repent, and ask God to revive your "calloused heart", and ask the Lord for the privilege of being put on display for the sake of Gospel. Oh, that at the end of our days, verse 31 could tell the story of our lives as well! God Bless,

drew

John 3:30



# A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

## O Christmas Tree

Tis the Season!

Hey every one  and  . . . We'll be at the  Lot. Come for Fellowship, listen to the  enjoy some  and . Let the  pet God's creations in the petting zoo lot. Take a  with a  and, while you are at it, shop for your . Photo proceeds go to Missions, too!

6:00pm - 9:00 pm  
Friday, December 6th

**In the News.** . . our Kidz Worship Services at 9:00 and 11:30 every Sunday continue rising in attendance. It's a great place for our children to worship together, with exceptional leadership in both services. Awana attendance is running at all time record highs with attendance of 75-85 kidz and 30 -35 workers every week. God is so good and we are blessed with these faithful servants and children who hunger for the love of God. The Awana Operation Christmas Child Ministry exceeded the goal of 300 boxes to be packed by the Awana kidz. A lot of work is required for this success. We are thankful for this team and their endless giving to help boxes reach the ends of the earth from our young hearts at Lakewood. The boxes are full of a lot of love and prayers.

### *Dates to Remember*

December 6th	O Christmas Tree
December 11th & 18th	Awana Nursing Home Ministry
December 18th	Last Awana meeting in 2019
January 8th	Awana resumes for 2020

Blessed wishes for a Merry Christmas to the wonderfully supportive and hard working faithful servants who serve our Lord God in our Children's Ministries. We are successful because of you and I thank you for your love, kindness and devotion you extend to the children. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God Bless,  
Gina

**In Memory of:**

Esther Benton:  
For Challenge to Build:  
J. D. and Diane Whitehead  
Terry and Clara Grimes  
Sherry Scroggins  
Margie Jackson  
Roger and Grace Slaughter  
Steve and Margie Argo

For Amen Choir:  
Fred and Margaret Van Horn  
Eddie and Judy Ezell  
Girlfriend's Book Club

Dr. Horner's Medical Expense:  
Ruth Drinkard  
Joyful Servants Bible Fellowship Class  
Patricia Carroll

Bill and Judy McCarley for Circles of Influence

Ricky and Becky Smith for Youth Ministry

Brenda Slappey for Homebound Ministry

**In Honor of:**

Lester and Jessie Little for Amen Choir from Doug and Susan Wall  
Wilbur Kilcrease for Challenge to Build from Bill and Judy McCarley  
Korbin Atchley for Children's Ministry from Bill and Judy McCarley



**Christmas with Heather Sorenson**

**December 8th @ 3:00pm Lakewood Baptist Church**

# Lakewood Happenings

## DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AM Dr. Horner 6:00PM Solos & Ensembles 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 3	10:30am VK/WMU 4	6:30pm Widow's Banquet 5	6:00pm O Christmas Tree Festivities 6	7
3:00pm Heather Sorenson Concert 8	10:30am Amen Choir 9	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 10	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 11	12	13	11:00am HHMinistry FTH 14
7:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16	17	7:00pm Finance Meeting S&YA Christmas Party in FAC 18	19	20	9:00am Valley Rescue Toy Drive 21
6:00pm Instrumental Christmas 22	23	6:00pm Christmas Eve Service 24	Christmas 25	Closed 26	27	28
29	30	New Year's Eve 31				

## October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/6	\$26,832.03	\$625.00	\$1,224.99	\$969.33	\$29,651.35
10/13	\$13,330.57	\$428.67	\$870.53	\$1,696.41	\$16,326.18
10/20	\$14,026.39	\$420.00	\$712.14	\$70.83	\$15,229.36
10/27	\$14,258.89	\$30.00	\$815.74	\$2,152.37	\$17,257.00

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:00am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

#### WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 6:30pm Youth Worship
- 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

## DECEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

# 12/4

PORK LOIN  
RICE & GRAVY  
LIMA BEANS  
ROLLS, SALAD &  
DESSERT

# 12/11

FRIED CHICKEN  
MAC & CHEESE  
GREEN BEANS  
ROLLS, SALAD  
DESSERT

# 12/18

TACO SALAD &  
DESSERT

# 12/25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

2020

SMOKY MOUNTAIN  
BIBLE CONFERENCE

~

FEBRUARY 7-9

\$25 CONFERENCE FEE

### December Greeters

GAIL BRANTLEY

ROY MCHARGUE

## Check Bulletin Board

FOR

THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS, NEWS

ALSO OUR WEBSITE:

[lbcpc.org](http://lbcpc.org)

MINISTERIAL STAFF

**MR Hamilton**

PASTOR

[BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG)

**Charles Keown**

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS

[CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG)

**Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES

[ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG)

**Beau Reimink**

MAINTENANCE

[BEAU@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BEAU@LBCPC.ORG)

**Gina Fusillo**

CHILDREN

[GINA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto: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](http://LBCPC.ORG)

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

FRI 8:30AM-12PM

**Jerry Horner**

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

[HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM)

OFFICE STAFF

**Onezima Everritt**

FINANCE ASSISTANT

[ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG)

**Carol Breault**

OFFICE ASSISTANT

[CAROL@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CAROL@LBCPC.ORG)

**Linda Keown**

MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA

[LINDA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:LINDA@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Cabbi Evans**

DIRECTOR

[CABBI@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CABBI@LBCPC.ORG)

**Tammy Stephens**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

[TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

O: 334.298.6461

[LBCPC.ORG/CDC](http://LBCPC.ORG/CDC)

HOURS: M-F 6:30AM-6:00PM

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