

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2015

VOL VI: ISSUE 5

LBCPC.ORG



Christmas at Lakewood

DECEMBER 6 AT 6:00
A Christmas Worship Experience
with the Alleluia Choir & Orchestra

DECEMBER 9 AT 6:00
Kidz Choir Christmas Program

DECEMBER 13 AT 6:00
A Christmas Concert
with the Kempter Family

DECEMBER 20 AT 6:00
An Instrumental Christmas
with Justin Belew



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas ahead how can this message not be filled with hope and a sense of anticipation? It seems as each year passes it gets easier to allow the excitement and enthusiasm of our childhood to grow just a little bit colder. I can still remember the days before Christmas when the excitement was so great that sleep became difficult. I can remember watching each day to see if any new packages had appeared with my name on them. Do you remember how slow the days passed back then as each day grew a

God is
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little longer the closer it came to Christmas? I often wonder what ever happened to the man I am today that so changed the kid I

used to be. The memories are there to remind me of my potential to know real joy. They exist to prove that I am capable of living a life marked by enthusiasm and hope if only I could recover what I lost somewhere along the way. I can't help but be reminded of the truth shared by Jesus in Mathew 18:3 "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". He wasn't telling us that we should physically become children again, but He was telling us we needed to start living and thinking like children again. Children have great faith and that reality makes life the joy it is for them. It is this childlike faith that has been lost through the passage of time. It is this childlike faith that

can restore in each of us the passion for life and the hope and enthusiasm that makes life such a joy. After all what was it that caused us to find sleep nearly impossible on the night before Christmas when were children? It was hope and the enthusiasm real hope brings. Hope in a magical visit from a mysterious friend who knew the desire of our heart. So convinced were we in the reality of the visit that we made preparations for his arrival. We hung an empty stocking on the mantle and set cookies and milk on the table next to the tree. There were no doubts or even the slightest hint of consideration given to the idea that he might not come. He was coming because that is what Santa does! Well as we got older we left behind such childish dreams and ideals and accepted the real world realities that are not real at all. The truth and reality is that God is good and God is real! God is a mysterious friend who knows the very desire of our hearts. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us and He not only wants to visit but to actually come and live with us so everyday can be a holiday for the rest of our lives. Listen to the promise found in John chapter 14:23 "If anyone loves me he will obey my teachings. My father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him." Christmas is, after all, the celebration of the coming of Jesus and therefore everyday really is Christmas for everyone who loves Him. Jesus has come into my life and each day that He gives me is another day of discovering the incredible gift my mysterious friend has in store for me. Every day really is a holiday for those who know Jesus.



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I have read that many Christians are upset with Starbucks because they are pouring their coffee into plain red cups without any Christmas symbols. Personally, it doesn't matter to me what color the cups are, and I haven't met anybody else who cares. I have never patronized Starbucks, not because of their cup colors, but because of their prices. Besides, Christmas is not about symbols; it's about a Person. You can take Buddha out of Buddhism and still have Buddhism. You can take Confucius out of Confucianism and still have Confucianism. You can take Mohammed out of Islam and still have Islam.

Adherents of those religions just salvage the teachings of their founders and try to follow them, so the founders are not

necessary. But Christianity is not a creed, not a code, not a cause, not a church; it is Christ. You can't take Christ out of Christianity and still have Christianity. To take Christ out of Christianity would be like taking the notes out of music or numbers out of mathematics. There is nothing left. The founders of other religions say, "Here is a sign to the way," but Jesus says, "I am the way." Others say, "Here is a philosophy that points to the truth," but Jesus says, "I am the truth." Others say, "Here is the way to find life," but Jesus says, "I am the life."

History's greatest happening was when God came to earth in the form of a baby named Jesus. With all due respect to those learned individuals of this world who worship at the shrine of their computers and who are absorbed with their cyclotrons and their

laboratories and their dusty tombs of history, I declare that if they do not understand the meaning of the birth of Jesus, they don't have the key to all knowledge and history. How tragic to know biology, the study of life, and not know Jesus the giver of life. How tragic to know astronomy, the study of stars, and not know Jesus the bright and morning star. How tragic to know celestial navigation, the study of how the heavens go, and not know how to go to heaven. How tragic to know geology, the study of the strata of the rocks and all the geological ages, and not know Jesus the Rock of Ages, and not be able to say, "On

Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." How tragic to know botany, the study of flowers, and not know Jesus the sweet Rose

I am the truth

of Sharon who can perfume any life. How tragic to know history, the study of all the events of the past, and not know the central event in history, the story of Jesus. The wise are ignorant, the rich are poor, and the strong are weak without the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is not about decorations on a coffee cup. It is this: "Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given." God came to earth to live, breath, work, laugh, cry, and teach, and then carry our sins to the cross and die that we might live. And one day every tongue, even those that curse Him now, will confess Jesus as Lord and every knee will bow before Him.

A Message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC

I want to say a great big "Thanks!" to our Awana kids, parents and leaders for helping pack 30 shoeboxes this year for Operation Christmas Child. We had a great time taking the boxes over to the OCC room, and Linda Keown made the night so special by sharing with the kids how important these boxes are because there are still so many children who don't receive one. There just aren't enough to go around to all of the children. We love Mrs. Linda and appreciate all the time and effort she and her team of volunteers put forth in collecting and packaging all of the boxes!

Our annual Parents Night Out is scheduled for Friday, December 4, from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. We will have supper, games, and crafts for the kids. Parents, take this opportunity to go on a date, go Christmas shopping, or just chill out together at home while we entertain the kids at the church. The cost will be \$5 per child. A

nursery will be provided for babies and toddlers. We are asking that you please sign up on the sheet outside of the children's office so that we can prepare enough craft activities and food for everyone. Thanks!

Our children's choir has been hard at work preparing to share their Christmas music with you. The preschoolers will perform with the elementary choir in sharing traditional Christmas carols telling the good news of the birth of our Savior. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 9 at 6:00 pm!

It is such a joy to see our families support the many projects that we take on throughout the year. Thank you so much for the gifts, the prayers, and the time you invest in the lives of our Lakewood kids. It is through these loving actions that they are learning what it means to truly live out our lives as Christians.

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Lesley Vance for Food Closet by Fran Loftin

Joyce Murphy for Amen Choir by Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Martin

Shirley Yancey for Food Closet by Charles Yancey

Shirley Yancey for Food Closet by Diane, Scott and Kaylen Bush

IN HONOR OF:

Carolyn Pruski's birthday for Challenge to Build by Charlene Keeter

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBER**
Georgia Edwards



For there is born to you
this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord





Holiday Happenings

Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

This month I'd like to highlight two things we'll be doing in the student and young adult ministries. First, as you have probably heard, we'll be doing a Christmas Tree Fundraiser for Romania Missions beginning November 28th through December 13th. We have fresh Frazier Fir Christmas trees from North Carolina in sizes from 6ft-9ft to brighten your celebration of Christ's birth this Christmas, and at a lower price than many local tree lots. We thought since so many already purchase a real Christmas tree each year why not be able to support Romania missions at the same time? Our students and young adults will be working the tree lot which will be in the side parking lot nearest the South Educational building and will gladly help you load your tree. Thank you to those who pre-ordered a tree!

Second, we will again be participating in the Valley Rescue Toy Drive here at Lakewood.

We need unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 0-12 to be placed in either of the collection boxes; in the sanctuary foyer or the downstairs elevator lobby. These toys will be combined with other toys collected from around the community and will be distributed to prescreened families at Valley Rescue on Saturday, December 12th from 8:45am-2:00pm by our students & young adults. This is a wonderful way to show a needy family the love we have for them in Christ and to bless a child on Christmas morning who might not otherwise receive a gift. With both of these efforts you are taking part in something bigger than yourself and enabling the Gospel and love of Jesus to be spread to others who need to hear and see it. May God bless you as you bless others! All the students, young adults, teachers, and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



CHRISTMAS TREES FOR MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! PURCHASE YOUR LIVE TREE FROM LAKEWOOD. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT MISSIONS. HELP US SPREAD THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA SO THAT WE CAN MAKE THIS FUNDRAISER ALL IT CAN BE.

SEE A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT MINISTRY TEAM OR CALL THE OFFICE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.



The Kempters

December 13

This will be a highlight of your Christmas season.
Come see and hear this talented musical family!



Lakewood Happenings

December 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		Christmas Trees for Missions.... 1	10:30 am VKWMU 2 3	6:00pm Parent's Night Out 4 5
6:00pm Kidz Choir ALLELUIA CHOIR & ORCHESTRA CONCERT 6	10:30am Amen Choir 7 8	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT @ 6pm 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 9	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 10 11 12
KEMPTER'S CONCERT 13	10:30am Amen Choir 14	15	YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00pm Finance Meeting 16	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 17	18	19
INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS WITH JUSTIN BELEW 20	21	22	6:00pm Bible Study Only 23	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED 24	OFFICE CLOSED 25	26
27	28	29	6:00pm Bible Study Only 30	NEW YEAR'S EVE 31		

October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/4	\$23,298.01	\$740.00	\$1,095.00	\$1,024.41	\$26,157.42
10/11	\$13,234.45	\$565.00	\$1,015.25	\$2,830.20	\$17,644.90
10/18	\$7,832.96	\$115.00	\$160.00	\$1,777.32	\$9,885.28
10/25	\$3,302.37	\$125.00	\$296.00	\$1,572.46	\$5,295.83
Daily 10/31	\$2,083.30	\$125.00	\$142.00	\$806.00	\$3,156.30
	\$49,751.09	\$1,670.00	\$2,708.25	\$8,010.39	\$62,139.73

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
5:00-5:45pm.

DECEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

12/2

HAMBURGER
STEAK & GRAVY
MASHED
POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

12/9

BAKED & FRIED
CHICKEN
RICE & GRAVY
PEAS &
BUTTERBEANS
BISCUITS
SALAD
DESSERT

12/16

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

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



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