

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 2

LBCPC.ORG

YOU ARE
LOVED

More than you

WILL EVER
KNOW

BY SOMEONE WHO DIED TO KNOW YOU

Romans 5:8



Welcome Home.



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

Time certainly does change a lot of things and some we can appreciate while others we would like to live without, but things just keep on changing. February is the perfect example of exactly what I mean. As a child I hated February because it stood between new year and my birthday. You see, back then I really looked forward to my birthdays and I just couldn't wait to get one year older. Today I see February a little differently and now, I like it because it gives me one more month before I have to deal with the reality that I am getting a lot older than I think I should be so soon in my life. Now that I live here, February has taken on a whole new meaning in my life because of the great weather and the fact that February here is April or even May in the mountains. You see, in the mountains February is the month you just fight to get through as it is cold and snowy and everything you enjoy about living in the mountains is either behind you or in front of you. If you can only get through February. So, as I begin to write this letter I feel like I should be a little discouraged—like I am putting a root canal on my calendar. But time sure does change things and one of the things that has changed is February. Today I find myself in another place where February spells the end of winter's grip and a time of refreshing. I guess God is trying to teach me something very important about my perspective. When my life is so focused on the past or what is coming in the future that I fail to enjoy the present, I really am making a big mistake. I have failed to appreciate everything February is in God's plan for my life because of that very reality. God reminds me in Ephesians 5:15 -16 to "be very careful then how I live, not as unwise but as wise. Making the most of every opportunity (Redeeming the time NKJ)." God is trying to remind me that when I wish away February I'm not wishing away time, I am wishing away my lifetime. So perhaps this year I will make it a goal to redeem February and try to make it the very best time of year. God is a God of seasons and He has a plan for that time if only I redeem it. Who knows, maybe if I live long enough I might actually find myself on the wise side of one of God's illustrations. After all time changes everything!



Priscilla **SHIRER**

HERE, AT LBC
SAVE THE DATE!

SIMULCAST

APRIL 23, 2016

God has a plan and a purpose for your life, so resolve to **DIG DEEP** into **HIS WORD** this year. And with Priscilla's unique approach to **TEACHING, ENCOURAGEMENT, and PRAYER**, you'll leave *spiritually revived.*



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

Do you love mystery stories? If you do, then I invite you to come to a new series of Bible studies that I will teach beginning February 15 at 6:30 p.m. This series of seven lessons is a study of mystery stories that Jesus told, and they are full of instructions that will give you a deeper understanding of your relationship with God and what He has in store for you.

I assure you that I'm not making up the idea that Jesus told mystery stories, because that's exactly what He called them in Matthew 13:11. What did He mean? First, let's notice how He told the stories. In Matthew 13:13, He explained that He spoke in parables (see v. 3). The word translated "parable" comes from a verb that means "to lay

A *mystery* in the Bible is a *spiritual* truth that could never be known by human wisdom...

alongside." Think of our word parallel, which comes from the same word. A parallel is two lines lying alongside each other, and a parable is a method of teaching that lays one truth alongside another truth, just like the parallel. It was the Lord's favorite way of teaching. He would first give a truth in the natural world, and then He would make an application to the spiritual world. Or as a little girl once explained, "A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." In Matthew 13 Jesus told seven stories, and He explained to His disciples in verse 11 that He was teaching in parables to help them to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Today we define a mystery as something impossible or at least difficult to understand or

explain, so it remains an unsolved problem or secret. The biblical word has the same meaning, but with one exception, and that is that the mystery has been revealed to those who receive it. Let me explain. A mystery in the Bible is a spiritual truth that could never be known by human wisdom, by human discernment, by human logic, or by human computation. In fact, it would always remain unknown unless God chose to reveal it by divine revelation through the Holy Spirit.

A liberal philosophy professor at a certain college asked the students in one of his classes if any of them believed the Bible. One bold young Christian stood up and said, "Yes, Sir, I believe the Bible." Whereupon, the professor began in a malevolent way to humiliate the student and to ridicule the Bible. He declared, "I've read the entire Bible through, and it's just a bundle of confusion that makes no sense at all to me." The student, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, responded, "Sir, I mean no disrespect to you, but you see, the Bible is God's love letter to His children. If you have read it and you didn't understand it, it's because you've been reading somebody else's mail."

Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 that spiritual things can be understood only by spiritual people, those who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit. The things of God are mysteries that you can know only as the Holy Spirit reveals them to you. Those who refuse to lay their intellectual pride in the dust can never know them, because God has hidden them from the wise and the prudent and has revealed them to babes (Matt. 11:25; see 1 Cor. 2:6-14).

In our studies we will discover why Jesus chose to speak in parables and learn the meaning of the parables of the Kingdom. The principles of interpretation that we learn may be applied to all the parables. If you are serious about becoming a better student of the Bible and growing in discipleship, then I invite you to join us.

As you read these words, I am in Cambodia as part of a three-week teaching and preaching mission there and in Singapore and Indonesia. Please pray for this mission and for your brothers and sisters in Southeast Asia.



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

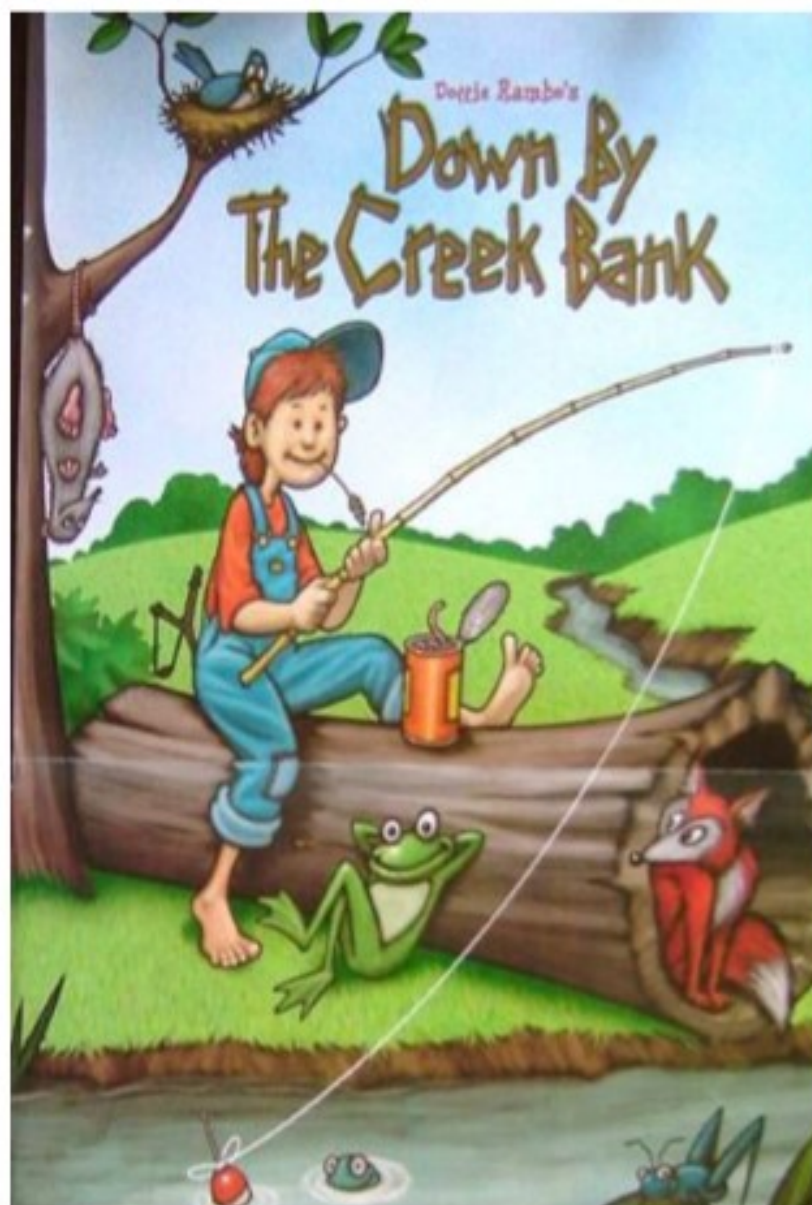
STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

I want to relay to you how truly awesome Disciple Now weekend was this year. In seven plus years of ministry here at Lakewood I cannot remember a D-Now effort that was more blessed. From the host homes and sponsors, to those who gave food or provided transportation, God truly met every need through you! Then the students just kept signing up, more and more, and they were excited and expectant for a weekend of discipleship and spiritual growth. What makes that more amazing is that most knew going in they would be listening to a man (Dr. Ross) who repetitively described himself as the "old guy", not young and dynamic, not edgy, not overly entertaining, but a guy would expose the truth of God's Word in a plain and understandable way and show them Jesus as THE exalted King of Kings! While Dr. Ross is humorous and overwhelmingly knowledgeable as a seminary professor at Southwestern, I must admit that we, the group of student pastors responsible for bringing him here, had no idea how the students would respond to him? The answer; overwhelmingly positive, attentive, and excited to hear a man of such experience and character expost the Word! Then there was the parenting session on Saturday afternoon, and while I admit that I wish that I could've forced every Lakewood parent and grandparent to attend, I believe from all reports, that LBC members made up half the group which is awesome! All that said, the real proof was the outpouring of God's Spirit on Saturday night, the lives that were changed, the walls of pretense that fell, and a newfound excitement among our young adults. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way, and may God richly bless you! This month, our student pastor group is sponsoring another community-wide event that will draw between 400-600 students called True Love Waits. This year's theme is Pure-Life, and this one night event will take place at Morningside Baptist Church in Columbus on Wednesday night February 10th from 6:00-9:00pm. This free event invites students to take up and tackle the challenge of living a life of purity before a Holy God, to proudly express to others that a life of purity is a high calling but that it is a calling worth sacrificing for. Our guest speaker will be Brian Puckett, the BCM campus minister from Georgia Southwestern University and worship led by Eminent Worship who has performed here at Lakewood before. We are expecting a big turn out and are praying for a mighty move of God in the hearts of many on this night, especially those who are lost or have fallen in the area of sexual purity. Please join us in prayer leading up to this event. The month of February also brings other cooperative events such as a Battle Royale (Sat. Feb. 20th), and Rise 2016 (Sunday night, the 28th) where we'll join other churches and ministry groups for fun and worship. In closing, thank you to all who sponsored a student for our ski trip (Feb. 5th-7th). We so look forward to enjoying God's creation, and growing closer together as a group! Things to look forward to are Winter Jam in March, graduate recognition in May, Mission Lab Summer camp in June, and the Romania Mission trip in July. We always need your prayers, and be encouraged as I am, God is raising up students and young adults here at Lakewood who will be leaders and lifetime disciples of Christ!

A Message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC



Our children's choir has begun work on the musical, "Down by the Creekbank." **The preschool choir, for 3 and 4 year olds, and the elementary choir, for grades K through 6, both meet on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m.** Carole Thornton and Lindsey Tidwell lead the elementary choir, and Diane Bush and Lauren Ny lead the preschool choir. All children in these age groups are invited to join the choir and get involved as practice for the musical begins!

The Children's Ministry Leadership Team is busy working on the schedule of activities for the coming year. Our next big event, the Awana Lock-In, is always a tremendous hit with the kids. We will be sending home details as soon as the planning is completed.

Although it is hard to believe with all of this cold weather we've been having, summer is just around the corner. And that, my friends, means that the countdown to VBS is already beginning. Our annual VBS will be held from **Sunday, June 5 through Thursday, June 9**. If you would like to volunteer this year, please see Patrick and he will get you plugged into the most exciting week of the year for our children's ministry.

June 5 - June 9



True Love Waits

2.10.16



BRIAN PUCKETT

Georgia Southwestern BCM Campus Minister

Worship led by

EMINENT WORSHIP

MORNINGSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
6095 Morningside Drive, Columbus, Ga. 31909

7:00pm-8:30pm
(groups should arrive by 6:45)

Free and open to the public

SPONSORED BY ONE ACCORD STUDENT PASTOR'S ASSOCIATION

Battle Royale Saturday, February 20th, 10am-12pm—join us for an epic “Braveheart” like event as several local churches meet at Flatrock Park in Columbus for a battle. Each participant is to make their own armor out of cardboard beforehand and show up ready for war! Drinks and lunch provided at no cost. *Who will be the last church standing?*

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Emily Davis

Challenge to Build from

Jimmy and Susan Graham

Food Closet from Fran Loftin

Fred Poole for Stage Lights from

Mr. Poole's family

Jane Gallops for the Budget from

Don and Judy Gallops

W.C. (Bill) Brown for

Circles of Influence from

J. P. and Esther Benton

IN HONOR OF:

Rick McGowan for

the Food Closet from

the Homer Gray Bible Fellowship Class

John and Elizabeth Giles

for the Food Closet from

Brenda Slappey

Chris and Jan Bankston

for Challenge to Build from

Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Bus Trip to Bulloch House

Warm Springs, Georgia

February 23

Bus Leaving at

10:15am

\$20

(includes lunch, drink, dessert, tip & gas)

Contact

Lorene Parker

706.570.1207

Lakewood Happenings

FEBRUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir 1	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 2	10:30am VKBW 3			SKI & TUBING TRIP 5 6
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 7	10:30am Amen Choir 8		6:00pm True Love Waits 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 10	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 11	5:30pm Game Night Pizza & Salad 12	Young Married's Feed The Homeless 13
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 14	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 15	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 16	7:00pm Finance Meeting 17	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 18	Women's Ministry Craft Night 19	10:00am Battle Royale @ Flat Rock Park 20
4:30pm Romania Trip Meeting 4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 21	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 22	Bus To Bulloch House 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 23	7:00pm CDC Meeting 24	7:00pm JEGBW 25		Youth & Singles Feed The Homeless 27
5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 6:00pm RISE 2016 SSJHS Auditorium 28	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner's Class 29	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		

December Giving

	TITHE	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/6	\$27,907.84	\$895.00	\$3,940.00	\$2,490.00	\$28,072.40
12/13	\$11,518.50	\$870.00	\$5,401.34	\$1,170.00	\$18,959.84
12/20	\$11,005.00	\$265.00	\$2,018.50	\$1,980.00	\$15,268.50
12/27	\$ 20,631.92	\$240.00	\$625.80	\$4,476.28	\$25,974.00
	\$63,902.82	\$2,270.00	\$11,985.64	\$10,116.28	\$88,274.74

Visit **LBCPC.org**
for more info
and activities.

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.

FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

2/3

SMOTHERED
PORK CHOPS
MASHED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

2/10

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

2/17

BAKED & FRIED
CHICKEN
POTATO SALAD
MAC & CHEESE
BISCUITS
SALAD
DESSERT

2/24

BEEF TIPS OVER
RICE & GRAVY
CORN
COLLARDS
CORNBREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

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

Welcome Home.

new members

Jensen Jones
Charles Jenkins
Owen Jenkins
Elijah Jenkins
Diane Ballenger
Michael, Meredith
& Madilyn Studds

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton
PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires
STUDENTS & SINGLES
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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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