

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 1

LBCPC.ORG

**THEREFORE,
IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW CREATION;
THE OLD HAS GONE,
THE NEW HAS COME!**

2 Corinthians 5:17



Welcome Home.



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

The great redwood trees along the coast of California are some of the oldest living things on earth. Living for over 2,000 years they can reach widths of 24 feet and weigh as much as 1.5 million pounds. Well, I just bought a small piece of sinker redwood and you will never believe the story that piece of wood told me. Creation has always spoken to me and the story this piece of redwood tells is one we all need to hear. God gave life to this tree at just about the time of the Birth of Jesus Christ, both had a purpose in His plan and a familiar race to run. The tree was blessed to be rooted near a stream so it could grow tall and strong for almost 1,900 years. It's great size and proximity to a stream which made it grow so tall, would lead to its fall. By the late 1800s the settlers looked upon the tree and dreamed of wealth and prosperity. It would take an effort and struggle beyond

Alive I was
silent, in *death*
I was buried, risen I
will *sing*

anything I can imagine to cut down this giant with just an axe but it would fall. Once on the ground it would have to be sectioned in the same manner, and finally released to fall in the river where it was hoped it would drift down stream to be milled. After weeks or even months of toil the lumberjacks had to smile as the great tree began downstream with so much promise of a great reward. They would follow the tree in disbelief as it slipped slowly deeper and deeper into the waves. Despite all their efforts it finally sank lodging itself in the silt of the river where it would lay forgotten for more than 100 years. Then, another generation of modern day lumberjacks would dream of cashing in on the heartbreak of their ancestors and with another

unimaginable effort of great toil and sacrifice it rose from the depths into the light of day once again. It's time in the water had changed it from red to shades of brown, grey and black. Not only had its appearance changed but its soft wood was now stiff and strong, hardened by its time in the depths. I bought a piece of this great tree just as God knew I would when He planted the tree at the birth of Jesus. I would buy it at Christmas time to build a Christmas gift. You see, that tree is becoming the face of a guitar that will be used to praise the Lord and Savior that was born at the very same time as the tree. It grew strong and straight in silence by the stream that gave it life. It died at the hands of men and was forgotten in the depths where no one expected to ever see it again. But after all hope was gone it was raised even stronger than it had fallen. And only now is its purpose revealed. It will sing and lead others to sing praise to its creator. As you attend worship with us in the weeks ahead watch close and listen and you might just hear that old piece of redwood speak to you as well. I believe it has a lot of songs to sing, a lot of joy to bring, as it was a long time in the making. Inside of guitars their builders leave a note or a message and inside the top of this guitar I know exactly what it will say. "Alive I was silent, In death I was buried, risen I will sing."



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

We have entered a new year, and if you are like I am, you make resolutions that go in one year and out the other. We determine that we are going to do or not do this or the other, and at the end of the year we look back and see that to some degree we have failed to keep our resolution. But that doesn't mean that we should not resolve again, because God is the God of beginning again, a new start, a second chance. He tells us in Ephesians 5:15-17: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

In the New Testament, two Greek words are translated "time." One is the word *chronos*, from which our word "chronology" comes. This word simply means a space of time, such as so many hours, minutes, or seconds. However, the word used here is *kairos*, which also speaks of the passing of time, but in the sense of an opportunity. You will see this meaning clearly in Galatians 6:10, which tells us, "As

we have opportunity, let us do good to all." So the passage in Ephesians tells us that we need to see time not just as something that is passing, but as an incredible opportunity. When you redeem time, what you are really redeeming is opportunity. You are maximizing your time.

Ephesians 5:14 describes some people who have been chloroformed by these evil days and need to be jolted awake. There is a day of opportunity that we dare not let pass by.

God is the creator of time, and He has given us

every day as a gift. Time is not something we own; we are only the stewards of the time that God has given us. Therefore, we are accountable to Him for what we did with every day that He gave us. There are 24 hours in the day, 1440 minutes in the day, and 86,000 seconds in the day, and every one of them is a precious gift from God. How I use every minute is up to me. Sometimes it seems that we never have enough time, but we have as much time as any other person on earth. The difference between people is how they use the time that God has given them.

This passage instructs us to live carefully, "because the days are evil." According to Psalm 118:24, we are to rejoice in this day that God has made. There are two other days that can steal your joy from today. One is yesterday and the other is tomorrow. Unlike Paul's testimony about forgetting things of the past, some people live in yesterday. They cannot forget past guilt, past glory, past grief, or past grudges, so the load they carry from yesterday takes the joy out of today. Other people are consumed with anticipating tomorrow. They either look forward to what's going to happen or worry about what might happen. Such people need to have a thorough understanding of what Jesus said in Matthew 6:34.

Time is a present opportunity. Yesterday is a canceled check; tomorrow is just a promissory note. Today is the only cash you have. Yesterday is only a dream; tomorrow is just a vision, but each day that you live well makes yesterday a dream of happiness and tomorrow a vision of hope.

Time is a present
opportunity



Disciple Now - Ascend Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

It is January and a new year, and it's time for Disciple Now Weekend (15th-17th). D-Now weekend is a collaboration between more than a dozen local student pastor's/churches who come together in a spirit of cross-denominational unity to provide an opportunity for our students to grow in their faith. What is Disciple Now? D-Now is a weekend totally focused on spiritual growth and worship and this year is unique in the options we are providing to our students and parents. For the first time we are providing elective discipleship classes on Saturday afternoon which will allow students to choose a topic that interests them. Some topics included are; #Selfie (being selfless in a self-centered society), Christian Philosophy, Apologetics (defense of your faith), Basic Hermeneutics (Biblical interpretation-how to study the Word), Creation vs. Evolution, Dating,

Athletics=Christian witness & achieving balance, Christian leadership, Sexuality, and Missions. These classes are being taught by local student pastor's and other lay leaders who are gifted in these individual areas. Furthermore, for the first time, we are offering a parents/grandparents session with Dr. Ross on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Ross is extremely gifted in teaching students but even more so with parents. I am asking (even begging) for all parents and grandparents (even those with younger children not yet youth age) to set aside Saturday afternoon around 4:30pm-6:00pm for this session (younger childcare provided). We are also offering parents the option to stay for dinner and the final corporate worship session. If staying for dinner, we'd ask for a \$5 donation to cover your meal expense otherwise there's no charge for parents/grandparents to come to the session with Dr. Ross. Parents please encourage your students to sign-up for D-Now weekend as it can be a life changing, and spiritually enriching weekend. In fact, if they tell you they don't want to go it is likely they are struggling in their walk and need a weekend like this to bump them out of apathy. Students, if your parents say they don't want to go to the breakout session with Dr. Ross, it

is likely they've been struggling in their relationship with you and this may be the fresh start that your family needs to get back on track, so encourage them to go. We still have needs to make this weekend a reality; we need sponsors (\$30) for

JANUARY 15-17 2016

ASCEND

DR. RICHARD ROSS

FOLD

EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
 3564 FORREST ROAD
 COLUMBUS, GA 31907
 CONTACT **ANDREW SPIRES**
 (334)298-6433 EXT. 7002
COST FOR DISCIPLE NOW WEEKEND IS \$30 PER STUDENT

SPONSORED BY OUR AREA STUDENT PASTOR'S ASSOCIATION

-continued on back page

A Message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC

Every Christmas season I am reminded of how blessed I am to be a part of such a loving, caring congregation. During this past month, I saw evidence time and time again of the generous spirit that inhabits our church family. Whether it was buying a Christmas tree to support missions, giving shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, or donating items to families in need, it warmed my heart to know that the people in my church family were truly demonstrating the love of Christ by giving of their time, talents, and money. I pray that in every season of the year and in every season of life that we continue to place Jesus and our relationship to Him as our main priority.

Forty-four kids participated in Parent's Night Out, and we had a great time making crafts, eating pizza and playing "Minute to Win It". Berkley Taylor was the champion of the night, and everyone had fun playing all of the games. The children's choir recited the Christmas story from Luke 2 during their performance of traditional Christmas carols in their annual program, and they blessed our hearts as they ministered to us through song. They will begin a new musical to be presented in the spring when children's choir resumes on Sunday, January 10. Awana and Flyte will resume on Wednesday night, January 6th at 5:45.

Everything you need
to piece together
the people, places,
and promises of the Bible.

There's a seamless thread woven through every story in the Bible—a thread that connects its people, places, and promises in a whole new way. Ready to replace insecurity that holds you back and move forward with clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture?

JOIN US for *Seamless*, a 7-session Bible study by Angie Smith!

BEGINS JANUARY 10 FROM 4:30-5:30PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. COST IS \$15.

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Harvey Stewart for
Challenge to Build from:
Bill and Ann Tinkler
Howard and Dorothy Underwood
Bert and Lisa Woodburn
Brenda Slappey
Dot Beck

Marel Stewart
J. D. and Diane Whitehead
Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Grace Cook for the Budget
from Johnnie Dawkins

Montie and Clide Miller
for Lottie Moon Mission Offering
from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson

Chris Maurer for the Food Closet
from Randy and Beth Davis

Bill, Sara and Chris Nichols
from Glenda Medley

IN HONOR OF:

Jerry and Annie Horner
for the Food Closet
from Bill and Margaret Wilson

Cathy Greene for the Food Closet
from Faith Sunshine Class

Jean Faulkner for the Alabama
Children's Home
from Faith Sunshine Class

Margaret Maurer for Bereavement Fund
from Janice Noble

Sarah Bush for Bereavement Fund
from Janice Noble

Fred Van Horn for the Bus Ministry
from Janice Noble

Charles and Linda Keown
for Challenge to Build
from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Time is a strange commodity. You can't save it; you can't borrow it; you can't loan it; you can't leave it; you can't take it; you can't give it. All you can do is use it or lose it. You can call time out in a football game, but you can't call time out in life. You can store your money in the bank, but you can't put your time in the bank. You can add another cup of water to the soup and make it go farther, but there is no way that you can stretch time. Time is also a very valuable commodity. To waste it is to waste life, because time is the stuff out of which life is made. A person who is killing time is not killing time; he is killing himself.

Let me give you four words that will help you to redeem your time in 2016:

PRAYER. Begin each day with prayer. A woodchopper is not wasting his time when he sharpens his axe, and neither is one who is seeking God's direction.

PRIORITY. It's an insult to God to say you don't have enough time. If you don't have enough time, you are doing something that God did not intend for you to do. Most of the choices we make every day are not between good and bad; they are choices between good and best.

PROMPTNESS. Procrastination and disobedience are just different shades of the same sin. Sin is not just merely doing wrong; it is failing to do what you ought to do.

POWER. Most of us talk about "will power" as though it all depends on us. Here is a good and simple definition of will power: you supply the will and God will supply the power. Ephesians 5:17 tells us to be filled with the Spirit. Maybe instead of learning to work harder, we need to work with more power.

We are into a new year, and every minute of it is a passing opportunity. What do you intend to do with it? When are you going to do it? Stop saying, "If I had the time." You do have the time, or else God would not have given the task.

VIP Opportunities

It is our privilege to host the homeless families who are now participating in the Valley Interfaith Promise program January 17-24. If you would like to serve a meal, spend the night or be a host during a weekend shift please look at the chart on the website at LBCPC.ORG/VIP for available spots. You can sign up immediately from our website or email Linda at linda@LBCPC.org. The chart is also available during every Worship service at the sound booth in the back of the Sanctuary. **THANK YOU** for being the hands and feet of Jesus as HE cares for the needy through you.

Lakewood Happenings

JANUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
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		OFFICE CLOSED	
Lord's Supper 5:00pm Youth Choir	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VKBW	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F.	1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F.	5:30pm Game Night		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir Prism Workshop	7:00pm Finance Meeting	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F.		Women's Ministry Cooking	
17	VIP Week 18	19	20	21	22	23	
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir Church Conference	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 7:00pm JEGBW			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
4:30pm Seamless Ladies Ministry 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir							
31							

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/1	\$27,907.84	\$1,056.20	\$688.00	\$100.00	\$29,752.04
11/8	\$8,834.04	\$165.00	\$507.73	\$879.92	\$10,386.69
11/15	\$10,717.65	\$280.00	\$595.00	\$353.00	\$11,945.65
11/22	\$12,867.00	\$345.00	\$465.00	\$188.50	\$13,865.50
11/30	\$12,628.25	\$255.00	\$646.00	\$422.00	\$13,951.25
	\$72,954.78	\$2,101.20	\$2,901.73	\$1,943.42	\$79,901.13

DO NOT
MERELY
LISTEN TO
THE WORD
AND SO
DECEIVE
YOURSELF,
DO WHAT
IT SAYS.
JAMES 1:22

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.

JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

1/6

TACO SALAD
REFRIED BEANS
SPANISH RICE
DESSERT

1/13

SCRAMBLED EGGS,
BACON
BISCUITS &
SAUSAGE GRAVY
GRITS
CINNAMON ROLLS

1/20

CHICKEN &
DUMPLINGS
LESUEUR ENGLISH
PEAS
GLAZED CARROTS
SALAD
DESSERT

1/27

VEGETABLE SOUP
CORNBREAD
SALAD
BANANA PUDDING

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

—Disciple Now — Ascend continued

those who need help, we need host homes who have floor space to house 4-6 students for the weekend (so far only 2 homes have been volunteered, need 4-6), we need two-liters and snack foods for host homes, and we need drivers who'd be willing to drive students between host homes and the host church on Friday and Saturday (Edgewood Baptist, Columbus). If you can help with any of these needs, please see Drew.

Looking forward, we have our Students and Young Adult Ski Trip February 5th-7th to North Carolina, and Winter Jam in March. Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for our students and young adults.

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