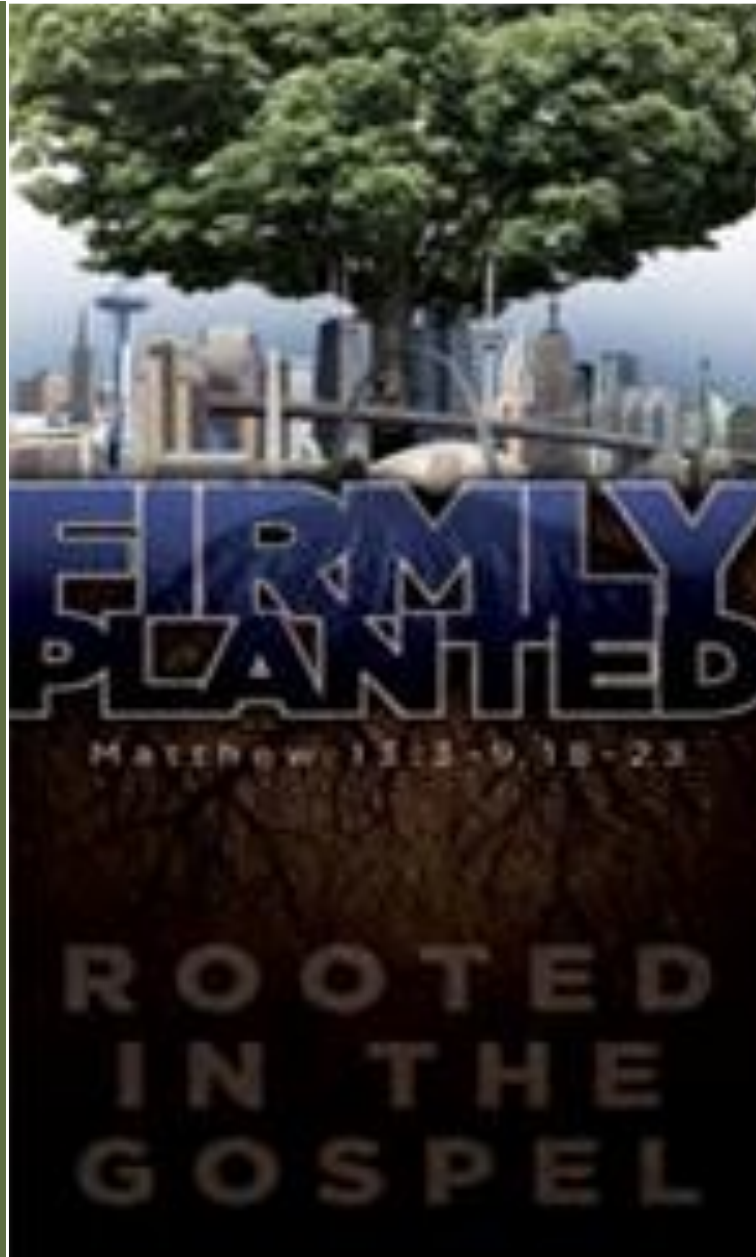


March Connections Lakewood Baptist Church



North American Mission Board
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering 2014
Week of Prayer
March 2-9
Goal \$70 Million

As I begin this letter I find myself pulled by so many blessings that I find it difficult to find a place to start. I thank God for my wife and all she means to me and my ministry. I thank God for the church and how great it is to not have to face this struggle alone. I thank God for the gift of prayer and the peace that transcends all understanding. I thank God for the staff at St Francis who have been so wonderful through it all. I thank God for my children's faith as they watch their mother struggle with breast cancer. I thank God for the Bible as those promises have all come true time and time again. I thank God for lifelong friends who have always been there through thick and thin. I thank God that for us as believers this is the only hell we will ever know. I thank God that the best is yet to come. I thank God that this too shall pass, and one day soon and very soon we will all see Jesus face to face, and this will all be over. I thank God for the truth that Satan's days are numbered.

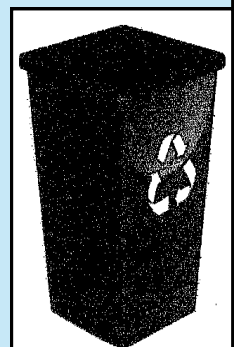
Being thankful is a wonderful spirit we call appreciation. It is no secret but yet is being missed by a lot of people. So often we choose to focus so much of our energy on what is evil and wrong with the world that we allow ourselves to be troubled. We forfeit the peace that was promised us at the birth of Christ Jesus. We surrender our freedom and then become slaves to depression, anger and even rage. This should not be. There is so much to celebrate even in the darkest days of this life if only we stop to count our blessings. Yes there is trouble all around, and should we choose to focus only on that we will know real sorrow. But there is so much good in this world as well and by focusing there we can find great joy and the peace that transcends all understanding. Remember the command of Phil. 4 to focus our attention on those things that are praiseworthy, lovely and pure. Then the God of peace will be with us. When we choose to focus only on what is not yet perfect in our world Satan wins a great victory in our personal lives. He causes our light to burn very dim in a world that desperately needs it. He causes us to take our eyes off of Jesus and all the great things He is doing all around us. Our focus then turns to the evil all around us and our hope fades into despair. While appreciation brings praise depression brings complaints and a feeling of being somehow cheated. This is curious really as the Lord Himself said that in this world we would have trouble. In Mt.6 God commands us to not worry about tomorrow for a very good reason, because today has enough trouble of its own. But we are not going through those troubles alone. God is with us! And if God is for us who or what can stand against us.

Perhaps the enemy knows that his only hope is to keep us distracted from that very truth by keeping our minds and thoughts off of all the reasons we have to thank God. The Devil knows that should we choose to focus our minds on all that is good around us he has no hope of keeping our light dim or our voices silent. In the spirit of appreciation that comes from counting our blessings there is only room for praise. So count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings and see what God has done.

Lakewood Baptist will be going to Belize... Teaching, Building, Showing Love for Kids

**Please help us by recycling cans or any
other aluminum.**

**A drop off trailer is located
in the top parking lot.**



Children are a gift from God

Children's Choir has resumed on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. If you have kids or grandkids from K-6th grades I encourage you to bring them and participate in the new musical, "I Can Only Imagine." The kids are just getting started on the musical so this is the perfect time to come out and join the Children's Choir. We will be performing the program on Sunday night, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School needs:

We have been blessed with several births in the church over the past 1½ years, and that means we now need to add a toddler's Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. I need some volunteers to begin this class as soon as possible! Please contact me if you can help in this ministry to these kids and their parents!

Kathy Hollon is our Extended Session coordinator, and she does a terrific job keeping this vital ministry on target. She currently needs a few more volunteers to add to the schedule, so if you can volunteer once or twice per quarter to keep preschoolers during the late worship hour, please contact Kathy Hollon and we will gladly add you to the schedule.

"Whitney Faulk serves with Julie Pelletier as one of our 3rd and 4th grade Bible Fellowship teachers. Whitney recently received the Heart of the Community Rookie Teacher Award as a new teacher with Phenix City Schools. Congratulations, Whitney! Thank you for your loving service to the children here at Lakewood as well as to those you teach in our community."

Youth & Younger Single Adults

Coke Case Sale Fundraiser- **THIS IS THE LAST DAY FOR YOU TO PURCHASE COKE PRODUCTS FOR THIS MONTH'S ORDER.** Cases are \$20 each for 24-20 oz bottles and payment is due at time of order. Please see any student, or mission team member for ordering or drop by the Youth Room to place your order. Orders should be delivered around the second week of March.

Missions Yard Sale- It's time for spring cleaning! Start cleaning out those attics and storage rooms for our annual yard sale for missions on Saturday, **March 15th from 8:00am-2:00pm.** Due to limited storage space here at the church, we would ask that you hold your donated items until the week prior to the sale (March 10th-14th). If you need help with larger items please call the church office and we will schedule pick-ups for Friday, March 14th.

CiCi's Pizza Cards- our mission team members proudly offers **CiCi's Pizza Fundraiser cards** for sale for **\$5.00 per card.** This card gives you free items and discounts when you eat at CiCi's in Columbus. Ask any team member to purchase a card. We will also be doing some Spirit Night's with them soon, date/time TBA.

After church lunch fundraiser- join us for our next Belize mission lunch fundraiser on, **Sunday, March 30th** immediately following the second morning worship service in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving taco salad, sweet tea, and dessert. **Tickets will be pre-sold prior to the event through your bible fellowship class or at the welcome desk and are \$5.00 per person.**

The Ball-Mason Jars are back!- make sure and pick up your free missions jar from the welcome desk or the church office and start saving your change to help with our summer mission efforts, and don't forget the large missions offering jug on stage. Jars should be returned no later than **Sunday, May 25th** for counting.

Not too long ago an evangelist from India came to this country, eager to meet some of the spiritual giants and leaders that he had heard so much about. He was particularly interested in one pastor, known even in India for his powerful sermons. There were thousands of people present on the Sunday that the evangelist attended the church led by this famous pastor. Everything was just as he expected. The music led by the choir and the orchestra was outstanding, and the preaching was inspiring. But the man from India was particularly captivated by an announcement the pastor made about the midweek prayer meeting. He declared that there were some burdens heavy on his heart, and he urged people to come and pray. The Indian evangelist was so moved that he was determined to attend the prayer meeting.

On Wednesday night he brought several assumptions with him when he showed up at the chapel where the prayer meeting was to be held. The most basic assumption was that prayer meetings are the most essential part of the effective ministry of a church. In India, as well as in many other countries, especially those in which Christians are persecuted, the prayer meeting is the central part of the church's life. Everyone attends, and the meetings usually last long into the night, and it is not unusual for Christians to arise daily long before sunrise to meet together for prayer. In many places, particularly in Korea, I have often been awakened well before dawn by the tramp of hundreds of feet on the street below as believers hurried to attend prayer meeting before going on to work.

The brother from India expected a large crowd, and the chapel seated only 500 people, so he went early to get a seat. However, when he arrived at the chapel, he was surprised to find only a few people present. A few more people drifted in, but instead of songs of worship and prayers, there was only chitchat about news, weather and sports. Seven people were present when the leader, who was not the pastor, arrived to begin the meeting. He offered a few devotional thoughts from the Bible and gave a brief prayer. The meeting was over, and as the few attendees left, the Indian preacher sat in stunned silence, full of questions. *Is this all? Aren't they going to stay and wait on God? Where was the praise? Where were the tears and the cries and the entreaties for guidance and power? Where was the list of the sick and the poor and others in need? What about the burdens that the pastor said he was carrying? Aren't we going to plead for the miraculous power of God?*

Unfortunately, the Indian evangelist found the same pattern repeated in mid-week prayer meetings all over the USA. There were announcements, a couple of songs and a brief homily from the Bible, but few prayers, and that was in the churches that actually had prayer meetings in their schedules. Perhaps we should call those meetings "spare" meetings instead of prayer meetings!

You may have heard it said that a Christian's life is no better than his prayer life. We could also say that a church's ministry is effective only in proportion to its corporate prayer life. Many church members, if they pray at all, evidently have the idea that the church prayer meeting is unnecessary, as long as individuals are praying in their own homes on their own time. What they fail to realize is that most of what the Bible says about prayer is addressed to groups meeting together to pray. The young church in Jerusalem "all joined together constantly in prayer," and when they were threatened with persecution, they raised "their voices together in prayer to God" for Him to show His power against their enemies (Acts 1:14; 4:23-31). It was in a congregational prayer meeting in Antioch that the church's missionary movement was launched (Acts 13:1-3). When Paul urged the churches to pray for him, he was asking the people to pray as congregations, not only as mere individuals.

Quoting the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:19, Jonathan Edwards called upon the churches of eighteenth-century New England, to look at congregational prayer as a kind of concert. Jesus said, "If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." The word translated "agree" is the word from which we get our word *symphony*. When the churches accepted Edwards' proposal that they pray in concerted agreement for revival, there was a great awakening that resulted in the salvation of millions of people.

I call upon the members of Lakewood Baptist Church, and all the churches of this area, to join in a concert of prayer in which we pray for the revival of our nation and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. On Wednesday nights I am beginning a teaching of "The Faith Factor." Over the next few weeks, we will study biblical teachings on the meaning of faith, how to live by faith, how to grow in faith, and how to experience faith in every daily situation. Each week we will apply those teachings in our prayer time, which will be the focus of the meetings. I challenge you to be a part of this exciting adventure.

“Sing unto the Lord”

Amen Choir – Monday, March 3rd to sing at Spring Harbor at 2 p.m.

Load the bus at 1 p.m. and return by 3:45. Dress will be fuchsia for the ladies, white for the men and black pants. This is Judith Degenaar’s 75th birthday and her husband is fixing cupcakes for everyone to be enjoyed after the concert.

Thursday, March 13th to sing at Frazier Methodist in Montgomery at 6:30 p.m. CST

Both buses will leave Lakewood at 4 p.m. We will wear our dress outfits. Frazier will provide food prior to the concert. We should return to Lakewood around 10:15 p.m. EST

Tuesday, March 25th to sing at Beallwood Baptist for Jubilee at 10:30 a.m. Please let Rita Nevels know if you are going to be there for lunch so we can make reservations. Dress will be fuchsia for the ladies, white for the men and black pants. We hope to sing “I Can Only Imagine” and “It Is Finished” featuring Chris Bankston and Mike Helton. They have some wonderful guests at 10:30 who I think you will enjoy.

Son’s of Jubal in Concert at the River Center, Thursday, March 6th at 7 p.m.

This is a free concert but a love offering will be taken. This group is made up of Minister’s of Music across the state of Georgia. I hope you will take advantage of this night of inspirational music.

Lakewood Baptist Golf Tournament April 18 -19 at the Meadow Links Golf Course in Fort Gaines, GA.

The cost of the tournament is **\$125 per person** and includes 2 rounds of golf, range balls, one night’s lodging at the Bagby State Park, buffet breakfast at the lodge and a buffet lunch at Michelle’s on Saturday where prizes will be awarded. This cost is based on 2 people to a room. Please sign up through the church office by the first Sunday in April. We have room for 24 entries.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE
Sunday @ 9:30 am in room S-201
Sunday @ 4:45 pm in room S-201
Thursday @ 6:30 pm in the
Fellowship Hall



In Memory:

Ralph Horne from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson for Food Closet

Ralph Horne from J. D. and Diane Whitehead for Circle of Influence

Melvin T. Hamilton from J. D. and Diane Whitehead for Circle of Influence.

A Special Thank You

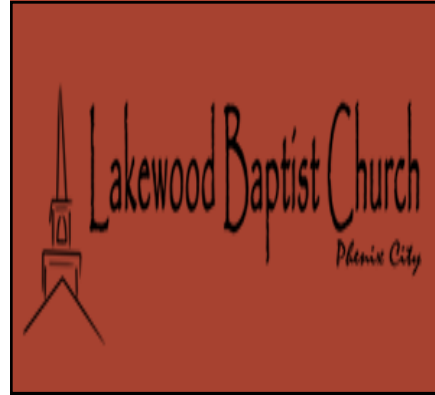
Thank you for all your prayers, calls, cards and visits. A special Thank You to Charles Keown and Rick Aderhold, they have truly been a gift from God.

Also to Becky Aderhold, Thanks for feeding us.

We love you all,
John & Phyllis Spivey

Welcome New Members

Chassidy Burrell
Bill & Judy McCarley



STAY CONNECTED to your Church family by checking the **Prayer Requests page at LBCPC.org**.

If you use the online form to update present information or notify us of new prayer needs the page will be updated within the hour any day of the week.

Wednesday Menus

3/5

Baked Chicken in Gravy, Dressing Green Beans, Rolls Salad & Dessert

3/12

Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Greens Cornbread, Salad & Dessert

3/19

Chicken & Broccoli Casserole, Creamed Corn, Butter Beans Rolls, Salad & Dessert

3/26

Spaghetti Garlic Bread Salad & Dessert

Ministerial Staff:

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
brothermr@LBCPC.org

Charles Keown, Minister - Music & Senior Adults charles@LBCPC.org

Andrew Spires, Minister - Students and Singles andrew@LBCPC.org

Patrick Thornton, Minister - Children patrick@LBCPC.org

Jerry Horner- Minister of Discipleship & Outreach
jhorner@lbcpc.org

Office Staff:

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onezima@LBCPC.org

Carol Breault, Office Ministry Assistant
carol@LBCPC.org

Linda Keown, Music & Media Ministry Assistant linda@LBCPC.org

Child Development Center

Cabbi Black, Director
cabbi@LBCPC.org

Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
tammy@LBCPC.org

January Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
1/5/13	\$21,293.51	\$472.00	\$1,002.00	\$536.00	\$23,303.51
1/12/13	\$11,107.66	\$141.00	\$315.00	\$7,455.50	\$19,019.16
1/19/13	\$13,225.89	\$25.00	\$900.50	\$16,826.00	\$30,977.39
1/26/13	\$6,331.04	\$87.00	\$508.00	\$3,880.00	\$10,806.04

March 2014

Check out our website for up to the minute changes @ LBCPC.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 1st Plc @ 4 Youth Choir @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6	3 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Spring Harbor @ 2:00	4 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	5 VKBW @ 10:00 Awana/ Flyte/ Youth	6	7 Awana Lock-in 7am-8pm	8
9 Time Change 1st Plc @ 4 Youth Chr @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6	10 Amen Choir @ 10:30	11 10:00 am Sweet Spirits Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	12 Awana/ Flyte/ Youth 7:00 Deacon Meeting	13 Amen Choir-Frazier Memorial 3-10	14	15 Yard Sale for Belize Trip 8am-2pm
16 Men's-B'Fast @8:00 1st Plc @ 4 Youth Chr @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6	17 Amen Choir @ 10:30	18 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	19 Awana/ Flyte/ Youth Finance Team @ 7:00	20	21	22
23 1st Plc @ 4 Youth Chr @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6	24 Amen Choir @ 10:30	25 Jubilee @ Beallwood Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	26 Awana/ Flyte/ Youth CDC Meeting @ 7:00	27 JEG BW @ 7:00 Shelrea Funderburk	28	29 Feed the Homeless 11:00-2:00
30 F/R Lunch 1st Plc @ 4 Youth Chr @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6	31 Amen Choir @ 10:30					

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

* All times are Eastern.

Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
10:45 AM Blended Worship Service
10:45 AM Bible Fellowship
11:15 AM Kidz Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Bible Study
5:45 PM Awana / Flyte / Youth
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Thursdays

Our Food Bank and our Clothes Closet are open from 2:00 pm– 4:00 pm.



On Sunday, March 9, 2014,
Lester and Jessie Little celebrate their
68th Wedding Anniversary.
What a ride it has been since that
Saturday afternoon in Rossville, GA, 1946,
when these two decided to
tackle the world together.
Four children, seven grandchildren and two
great-grandchildren celebrate these two
remarkable people and their enduring love.

The Lakewood Team came in 2nd Place in the Bed Race!!! Way to Go!!!



Contact Information:

Lakewood Baptist Church

Website: LBCPC.org
4011 Lakewood Drive
Phenix City, AL 36867
Main Office: 334.298.6433
Fax: 334.298.4873
Hours: M-Th 8:30 - 4:30 F- 8:30 - 4:00

Child Development Center:

334.298.6461
Website: LBCPC.org/cdc
Hours: M- F 6:30 - 6:00

March
2014

Volume VI

Issue 2

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