

Lakewood Baptist Church
April Connections



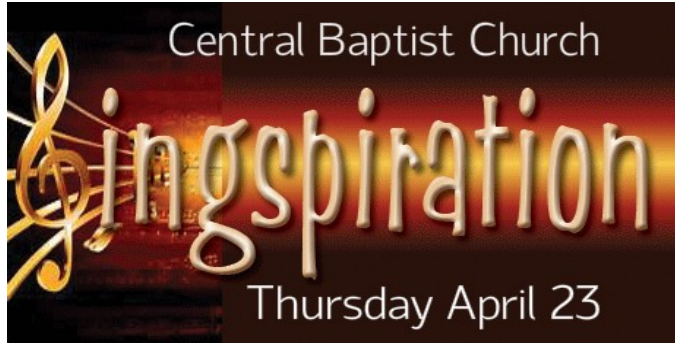
Celebrate with Us
April 5th
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Identical Services

Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

April showers bring May flowers is the story I was told as a child growing up in Kentucky. I would often hear this after my rant about it finally getting warm enough to be outside and now it was raining. Now I do realize that we need rain to keep things growing but what I don't understand is why grass growing is such a good thing. Now I once lived where it seldom if ever rained yet we had plenty of water and I must say that will spoil a guy. The San Luis Valley of Colorado is known as the land of cool sunshine because the sun shines there 360 days a year. It is also well known for the agriculture there that produces potatoes, carrots, green chilies and assorted other vegetables. This is the result of the valley being surrounded by high mountains. They shed all the moisture from getting to the valley and then send it down to the valley below through small mountain streams all around its perimeter. Abundant water without the rain. Now I can't help but believe that that is a glimpse of heaven for everyone who loves to be outdoors. Since arriving here I have been amazed by the rain as it falls straight down. We recently had a guest here from Norborne, Mo. where we once lived and he and I stood for some time watching it rain straight down while he was here. You see it rains a lot there as well but never straight down as the winds that accompany rains drive it horizontally across the ground. Moving from the dessert west to the Midwest and now the South it amazes me how differently the people see the rain. In the west you can get shot running water off of a man's land. While in Missouri you can get shot for running water on a man's land. Now all this rambling really does have a point if I can ever get to there from here. That point is that people are never satisfied with what they have. If they don't have rain they complain. If they get rain they complain. It all comes down to the fact that we feel somehow justified in believing that God has no idea what He is doing. Now I really don't like writing messages like this because I know that you know that I am talking to you about what I am doing. I really do believe God knows exactly what He is doing. I know that God is always doing good for me and I have no idea why I complain about what I know I must need because God is allowing it to come my way. Perhaps that is what my mother was trying to teach me so many years ago by saying "April showers bring May flowers". Contentment really is one of God's greatest gifts for all who believe in Him. However, few have claimed it because we're too busy complaining about our blessings. "This is the day the Lord has made (and it is raining outside) and I will rejoice and be glad in it". That sure beats the alternative of being disappointed. April showers mean lots of May flowers so thank God for the rain. You keep reminding me of that truth, and I will keep praying for a drought and another chance to experience 360 days of sunshine in a single year. Just imagine a life where the grass doesn't need mowing and see if you don't start to come around to my way of thinking.



I will sing to the Lord



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Children are a gift from God

All of our Awana/Flyte kids had a wonderful time at the annual lock-in, which was held on Friday, March 20. After eating a hot dog supper at the church, the older kids went to Lakewood Elementary and played dodge ball and kickball, and then they headed on to the movies to see "Night at the Museum" or "Big Hero 6." The younger kids stayed at the church and made neon play dough and played games. A great big thanks to all the leaders who worked the lock-in and provided our kids with a great night of fun and Christian fellowship!

As of this deadline, the annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. We plan to hide 2000+ eggs for our kids to hunt, weather permitting. Thanks to all who have donated candy for the egg hunt, and I will update you next month on the details of our "eggstravaganza"!

The children's choir will be presenting the musical "I Am a Promise" on Sunday night, April 12, at 6:00 p.m. We invite you all to come out and hear this musical full of timeless classics that kids love to sing.

To know Him and make Him known

As I write these words, I am in Laos, a country in Southeast Asia surrounded by China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar (Burma). When you come to this country, you don't just come to another geographical location and a different culture, but you step back to another age, many years behind the twenty-first century. Ruled by a communist government, Laos is one of the most corrupt and impoverished countries in the world. It has one of the lowest annual incomes in the world, with its citizens earning an average of less than \$1.25 a day. Only slightly more than one per cent of the population is Christian, and there is strong opposition to Christianity from the atheistic government and the Buddhist majority. They need the gospel, and that's the only reason I am here. Today was one of the most strenuous days I have experienced in a long time, as I taught for six hours, not counting breaks, in a building with no air conditioning and the outside temperature close to 100 degrees. I don't mind telling you that I was wiped out at the end of the day.

You don't have to cross an ocean to have a part in fulfilling the Great Commission. You can be just what Christ wants you to be right where you are. In John 7:38 Jesus said that whoever believes in Him will have rivers of living water flowing out of his heart. In the next verse, John explains that the Lord was talking about the Holy Spirit. There is one prerequisite for a river. There must be a riverbed. Jesus is saying that if you provide the riverbed, He will provide the river. The analogy speaks of service, overflowing your life and blessing others. There is no reference in the Bible to the blessing of the Holy Spirit that is not connected with its practical outflowing for the good of others. The Christian is not a reservoir in which he holds his spiritual experiences. He is a riverbed through which and over the Spirit of God flows to testify to others.

Some people simply want to have their own thirst quenched, and they are not interested in the Holy Spirit using them to reach out to others. Jesus indicates that the purpose of the filling of the Holy Spirit is not just to quench your thirst and to give you love, joy and peace. That certainly happens, but the purpose of the fullness of the Spirit is that rivers of living water can flow out of you. So the motive for being filled with the Spirit is not your own personal enjoyment, but divine employment that God may use your life through which He can bless others. If all you want is your own thirst quenched and to experience love, joy and peace for yourself, and you are not interested at all in becoming a riverbed through which the Holy Spirit can flow through to touch the lives of others, you cannot know the Spirit's fullness in your life.

For the past several days, a Niagara of water has been gushing out of me, and the amazing thing is that there is always a fresh supply.



Shaping the future

This month's article is a combination of two messages to our students on Wednesday nights. I hope you find it encouraging. As we near Easter, we start to focus on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross. When we look at the cross we see an instrument intended to inflict suffering and shame which was molded into a symbol of love. Never before has any other instrument of torture and fear been flipped on its head to become indicative of faith, and a symbol of an entire religion.

It is at this time that we pause to reflect on a question; **what did Jesus die for?**

Jesus died for...

- Sinners, like me
- Justification- making a way back to the Father (lost in the Garden)
- Restore eternity for humanity (lost in the Garden)
- Restore relationship between God and man (lost in the Garden)
- Show us God's character (love, mercy, and grace)

Jesus didn't die for...

- Christians to be comfortable in their sin
- Christians to daily take advantage of His mercy and grace
- Christians to live for today (no eternal focus)
- Christians to spend most of our time on ourselves (fame, fortune, materialism)
- Christians to be judgmental of others and not reflect His love

We know the history of the nation of Israel, how often they wavered in their faith and lacked in their relationship with God. They ran hard after God as long as they were victorious or there was a charismatic leader like Moses, Joshua, David, or Josiah. However, when things got tough or life was quiet they actively walked away, even running after other gods.

Question: what does your faith say about the cross?

- Do you live "comfortably" in your sin? Unconfessed and unrepentant?
- Are you daily taking advantage of God's grace, living without concern of His commands?
- Is your life consumed with popularity, the latest trends, money, and materialism?
- Is life all about you? Do you truly have concern for the lost? The less fortunate?
- What's in your character? Does your character more closely resemble that of Christ or the nation of Israel's?

It could be that you've begun to seek *acceptance* instead of *authenticity*. To find out if this is you let's answer the following question:

What's your aim in life?

Acceptance asks- how far can I go and still feel comfortable that I'm a Christian. How close to the line can I get.

Authenticity asks- how holy can I be.

One fact of life is that you will achieve what you're aiming for! Acceptance has the best of intentions but stops far short of being authentic, it misses the mark. Most Christians have a desire to be used by God but never actually step out in faith. We claim we want more of God, but don't want to be more like God. The mountain to climb is just too high so you give up and so you stay at a safe comfortable place.

Warning signs:

Acceptance leads to apathy and laziness, because it's too much effort to act differently or passionately pursue God.

Acceptance leads to an emotional faith. We begin to seek only the spiritual highs and can't handle the spiritual lows. We don't hear God anymore, the Spirit isn't an active force in our lives.

Acceptance leads to compromise. It would be nice to be free from sin, but I'm not willing to pay the price.

The life of King Josiah is laid out for us in *2 Chronicles 34-35*. Here we see a boy who becomes king, a teenager who fosters his own relationship with God, a young adult who banishes false gods from the land, and finally a man who restores the temple finds the book of the Law and leads the nation in repentance and revival only to die before age 40 in battle. A beautiful passage is written about Josiah in both *2 Kings 22:2* and *2Chronicles 34:2*; **"He (Josiah) did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or the left."** *2Kings 23:25* goes even further; **"Neither before or after Josiah was there a king who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength..."**. I ask again, what does your faith say about the cross? If it's acceptance do what Josiah did and turn wholeheartedly back to Him and live an authentic faith.

Bulletin Board

There are events and notices posted there as well as notes of appreciation from our members.

Welcome New Members

Barry & Rhonda Jones

Sympathy to

Jerry Barbaree & Julie Graham in the loss of their Sister and Grandmother, Juliaette Smith

The family of Linda Rollo

Wednesday Night Supper Menus

April 1

Hamburger Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Turnip Greens
Cornbread
Rolls Salad Dessert

April 8

Chicken & Dumplings
Le Sueur English Peas
Glazed Carrots
Rolls Salad Dessert

April 15

Pork Loin
Peas & Butterbeans
Squash Casserole
Rolls Salad Dessert

April 22

Beef Tips
Over Rice & Gravy
Collards & Cornbread
Salad Dessert

April 29

Baked & Fried Chicken
Chicken Dressing
Green Beans
Salad Dessert

~ In Memory of ~

Polly Newton for the Amen Choir from First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga.

Joe and Martha Schrimsher for Bibles for Belize from Bill and Margaret Wilson.

~ In Honor of ~

Annie Horner for her birthday for Challenge to Build from Ken and Janice Noble

M. R. Hamilton for his birthday for Challenge to Build from Ken and Janice Noble

Lakewood Baptist Church Ministerial Staff:

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
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Charles Keown, Music & Senior Adults
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Linda Keown, Music Assistant & Media
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Child Development Center:

Cabbi Black, Director
cabbi@LBCPC.org

Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
tammy@LBCPC.org

Feb. Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
2/1/15	\$24,770.04	\$2,934.00	\$733.00	\$1,384.00	\$29,861.04
2/8/15	\$10,567.75	\$390.00	\$780.00	\$3,374.75	\$15,112.50
2/15/15	\$15,303.10	\$1,178.00	\$1,110.00	\$190.33	\$17,781.43
2/22/15	\$5,333.27	\$285.00	\$859.00	\$2,649.39	\$9,126.66

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 VK Baptist Women @ 10:00	2	3	4
5 Easter Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	6 Amen Choir @ 10:30	7 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	8 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	9	10 Game Night 5:30 - 8:30 Pizza & Salad Donations accepted	11 Parents Night Out 5:00-10:00 \$10 per child
-----VIP Week-----						
12 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 VIP -----	13 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	14 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	15 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	16	17	18 Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Car Wash, Pancake Breakfast 8:00-2:00
19 Lord's Supper Yth Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 Church Conf.	20 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	21 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	22 CDC Meeting @ 7:00	23 JEGBW@ 7:00 Singspiration @ Central Baptist	24	25 Feed the Homeless 11-2
26 Yth Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 Orchestra / Alleluia Choir Concert- PM	27 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	28 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	29	30		

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Get R.E.A.L.
5:45 PM A.W.A.N.A. / FLYTE
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM L.O.A.F.

**CAR
WASH**

Giant Missions Fundraiser Day

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

April 18th

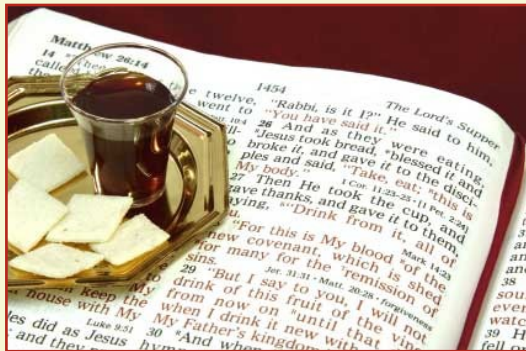
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

**BAKE
SALE**

Front Lawn

**YARD
SALE**

See Drew's article for details



**We will be observing
the Lord's Supper on
April 19th in both services**



**Alleluia Choir & Orchestra
Sunday Night
Spring Concert
April 26th**

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: Mon - Thur 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Child Development Center

Website: LBCPC.org/cdc

334.298.6461

Hours: M - F 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

**April
2015**

Volume VI

Issue 2

CONNECTIONS
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