

AUGUST CONNECTIONS



BACK2
SCHOOL

Message from Brother M.R.

As I begin to write this month's letter it comes just after the vote to take our first step towards building the family life center here at Lakewood. That along with a visit from a long time friend in the ministry Dr. Doug Elders has caused me to stop and look back at a life filled with building projects. I can still remember my first house I built in Colorado just after leaving the Marines. Then the second as I failed to dream big enough with the first one. Then the church in Crestone and then the parsonage, a log cabin just behind the church along the banks of a wonderful stream. Then the churches in Saguache, Moffat, and Villa Grove. Those were some crazy days in Colorado. Then there was Mt Pleasant in Missouri, we would build there twice but those days are not remembered for the ministry but for the blessing of meeting my wife. I have to actually think hard to remember much of the five years I would be there because at that time Katie and I were both full time students at Midwestern Seminary. Katie was also teaching English, working at the Baptist Book Store, and producing books on tape for the blind, while I was building a large number of longbows at that time and building houses in all my spare time. I did somehow finish two houses during that time. Hey, we were young and just married so that explains a lot.

Then we were off to Wyoming and as director of area missions I had 35 churches all needing a building project of some kind. We would build a mission house that housed 17 missionaries that served throughout the area. And every year we had the blessing of a new church building being built by a group of builders from Alabama under the leadership of Johnny Horton. Those were years filled with lots of travel but God was and still is moving in great ways among our churches in Wyoming. I know that this year there are plans to build at Boyd Ave Baptist church in Casper, and Faith Community in Gillette Wyoming. I have dreams of being a part of the Builders For Christ groups at one of those locations this summer myself.

God always knowing what is best, moved us from there to Norborne Missouri where we would serve for ten years. There our church would only undergo one major building project and trust me that was enough. The weather pounded us from day one to the end but with God's help through the Builders for Christ from Phenix City we overcame. I only built one house while I was there and it was our own. Katie and I built our house on five acres in the country. It really was a labor of love that took us right up until we moved here to completely finish. Now Katie will probably have different words for that project as she remembers the time I pulled up with 110 sheets of 12 foot long sheetrock saying something like hurry it is about to rain! It was about the second sheet we carried up the hill and through the house to go down the stairs to the basement that we both realized the idea of not putting in a walk out basement was a mistake. That was a lesson quickly learned and then re-enforced 110 times.

This is an exciting time in the life of the church family as the truth of the Bible is being lived out this very day. Proverbs 13:12 reads "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." The first motion to build this facility came in 1977. This is a multi generational vision for the members of Lakewood. The funds presently available were given by a great number of people who have gone home to be with the Lord without ever seeing it come true. Despite that truth they continued to give and pray for this day to come. One of the wonderful blessings of being called to this ministry was the fact that we have such a wonderful facility as I felt certain I wouldn't see another building project this time. Well I wasn't here long before I realized that that dream was not from the Lord, as the church had a heart that had been longing for a family life center for 37 years. My first meeting with the building committee confirmed that truth. The vote this past conference confirmed that their hearts were a direct reflection of the congregation as well.

So with all this experience what I can tell you for sure is it will not go like we plan because as long as satan lives he is going to fight us all the way. Unless the devil is dead we are going to face trials, difficulties and surprises no matter how hard we try to plan. We should prepare ourselves for that truth as well as the fact that we will find a way through every challenge, and in the end we will win if we don't give up. If God is for us we will certainly succeed, and He has not lead us this far to not bless us with the victory He has planned. I have been here many times and that's why it is suddenly hard to sleep at night. That's why I have spent a lot time lately remembering the victories of the past, to find the courage to face the present, knowing without a doubt that we can certainly do it!

Children are a gift from God

A huge thanks to all of those who have allowed us to use their pools for Wet Wednesdays during the summer. Wet Wednesdays will continue through August as we beat the heat, cool off, and have some fun after our devotion time on Wednesday nights from 5:45 – 7:15. Special thanks also go out to Mrs. Cabbi and the CDC for sharing the water slides with us on Wednesday nights!

Promotion Sunday for the children's department is Sunday, August 3. Our 4 year olds will be moving upstairs to the elementary division into the kindergarten class, taught by Mr. H.T., Mrs. Dot, and Mrs. Robin. After Bible Fellowship, they are taken to Children's Church, where they can be picked up after the late worship service. Welcome kindergartners to the elementary division!

We have a great group of kids here at Lakewood and we need some motivated volunteers to step up and help out! As the new school year approaches, there is a need for teachers in the 1st and 2nd grade Bible Fellowship class, as well as in our preschool division with the 2 year old class. Please see Patrick Thornton if you can serve this year in Bible Fellowship with our children.

“I will sing to the Lord”

Charles Keown

Music & Senior Adults

In August we will welcome back **Kathyjo (Spivey) Gordon** to sing in the morning Worship Service on the 10th with the **Men's Quartet**. On the 17th we once again welcome back **Chris Helms** to play the special on alto sax. Chris is Assistant Band Director at Smiths Station. On the 31st the **Men's Chorus** will be called upon once again due to popular demand. Watch for rehearsal times.

The Amen Choir will have a special rehearsal **August 4th with Gayle Smith**, Choral Director at CVCC and the conductor of the Alabama Singing Women.

Orchestra

I would like to thank **Brianna Drinkard** and **Andrew Sellers** for their faithfulness to the orchestra each and every week. Brianna will be leaving us August 10th to begin studies at the University of South Alabama and Andrew will be attending Auburn University. I am reminded of the scripture, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh, blessed be the name of the Lord.” We will be praying for them as they go and welcome them back anytime they can come home. For sure, we hope to see them again in December for the Instrumental Christmas Program.

John Rhodes

has left Lakewood to begin a year long ministry on the road. He has been a blessing to our church and our youth ministry for the past several years. He will be doing what God has equipped him to do, which is to lead praise and worship. Our prayers will be with him and I know many of you like me, will be supporting him financially. He is one of us and will be missed.

The Alleluia Choir

Our **End of Summer Concert** is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday Night, September, 7th**. I want to thank you and the orchestra for your faithfulness through the summer months. I have not noticed what is commonly called a summer slump.

I will be attending a music conference in the middle of August and hope to be ready to begin Christmas music September 9th. Several years ago I decided that every Sunday should be like Easter or Christmas so I quit focusing so much on special programs at special times of the year and began focusing on making each Sunday service a special program. It takes a faithful group of musicians to do that and Lakewood is blessed to have those people. I hope more of you will consider the ministry of the Alleluia Choir and Orchestra this fall. It looks full now, but we have room for more.

This month our children will be returning to school. They are there to receive instruction, not just information that will increase their storehouse of intellectual knowledge, but preparation for pursuing a successful career. In order to receive that instruction, they must be teachable. If a boy drops out of school when he is fourteen years old, because he says, "They can't teach me anything," he's probably right. However, the fault is not with the teachers; it's with the student who is not open to their teaching.

It's the same way with learning from the Lord. Success is not how much money you have. Success is not how famous you are. Success is not how much political clout you have. Success is not how great your athletic prowess is. Success is not how many friends you have. Success is not how many arguments you win. Success is not how many possessions you have acquired. Success is simply the progressive realization of the will of God for your life.

It's clear that God has a will and a plan for every life (see Acts 9:6; Ephesians 2:10; Psalm 37:23; 32:8; Isaiah 58:11; Proverbs 3:6). It's also clear that the prerequisites for knowing God's will are a willingness to hear what God is saying and a willingness to obey what He is saying (see John 7:23). Psalm 25:9 tells us that the Lord will guide and teach the meek. The word "meek" means one who is yielded to the Lord and submissive to His teaching.

I imagine a man pushing an automobile up to a service station. The car has two flat tires, the headlights are broken out, the radiator leaks and it's empty, and there is no oil in the crankcase. The gas tank is rusted out and has a hole in the bottom of it. The windshield is broken, the doors are caved in, and the fenders are flopping. The man pushes the wreck to the service station, and the attendant comes out in amazement and asks, "What can I do for you?" The man says, "Fill it up." To which the attendant responds, "What for?"

Sometimes people pray, "Lord, fill me and show me what you want me to do." God sees that they are not teachable and that they are unwilling to obey, and says, "What for?" You will never know the will of God until you commit yourself to do it before you know it. That means signing a blank contract at the bottom. It includes your family. It includes your career. It includes your finances. It includes your ambitions and all your interests. If you say, "First show me and then I'll decide," you might as well forget it.

When you present yourself to the Lord as teachable and willing to obey, you will know "what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). Therefore, if you want to know the will of God first, I'll tell you about it. It's good, perfect and acceptable. That's all you need to know, and you don't have to be afraid of the will of God. The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.



WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

Youth & Younger Single Adults

Well, it's back to school time once again and it seems as if the summer has flown by. I want to take just a moment to recap what our students and young adults were involved over the past couple of months. We started the summer with many of our students and mission team members volunteering at VBS here at Lakewood. Watching them love on children and teach them about the love of Christ is always a joy for me. This was also crucial training for those who would leave for Belize the following week. The mission team performed wonderfully as a group. Even though we were split into three unique service teams (medical, construction, & children's) we all functioned in unity and with a combined purpose of being the hands and feet of Christ to the Belizeans. We had the opportunity to lead countless numbers of children to Christ and we pray for continued success as the local village pastors follow up with each one.

Over the summer we enjoyed our regular weekly Wednesday night worship followed on Friday's by our Breakfast Club meetings. This is where we meet at a local restaurant for breakfast and bible study and then go swimming at a church member's pool. Our students and adults also helped prepare care & hygiene kits that were passed out at our monthly service project called Feed the Homeless. These are always a big hit amongst those who have so little and honestly we never have enough to meet all the needs. On Sunday nights we offered a parents-only class called "Great Expectations" that focused on assisting parents to become the spiritual leaders in their homes and to help them better relate to their students. Finally, we capped off the summer with a summer-mission camp to Mission Arlington in Texas. This was a stretching week for our students as they knocked on doors to invite people to church and VBS each day. We participated in "apartment churches" where the pastor or teacher actually lives in the community where the church located following the New Testament church model. We moved furniture, help people move from house to house, and spent time together in worship. In our week-long VBS, at our two assigned apartment locations, we had the opportunity to lead over 20 children to Christ, and on Wednesday night, during our own group's worship time, the Spirit led two of our own students to receive Christ as Savior & make Him Lord of their lives. We look forward to baptizing them in the coming weeks. We also had some fun this summer too as we attended an Atlanta Braves and Texas Rangers game, as well as spending a day at Six Flags. All in all it was a busy summer and I know I'm wore out!

As fall approaches we look forward to the community-wide Disciple Now in September and the Fall Singles Retreat knowing that God will do great things in and through us. Thank you for all your continued support as we could not do what we do without you. Thank you for being obedient and used by God to serve others and thereby following Christ's example. I'd ask you to continue to pray for John Rhodes as he has left for his one year commitment with Life Action Ministries to lead worship at revivals all around the country. I believe this will be a wonderful experience for John as he will take the next step in using the talents and abilities God has placed within him, and though we see him off with a sad heart we are so appreciative of his 4+ years of service to our church and students. I look forward to great things when he returns to us next year. Please continue also to pray for our students as they return to school and they are placed back into the biggest mission field of their young lives. Pray that they would be lights shining in the darkness, and that they will reflect Christ's love to everyone they meet. Pray for protection from this world's enticements and that they will stand strong in the face of a culture that is running hard the opposite direction. That they would lead and not follow, and that they pull others up and not be pulled down. May God continue to bless and strengthen our students and young adults.



In Memory of:

Voncile Miller for the Budget from J.D. & Diane Whitehead

Elias Martin for the Budget for J. D. & Diane Whitehead

Ray Quintana:

Janet Turner for Youth Ministry

Melvin & Sherry Scroggins for the Homebound Ministry

Clara Jean Watson for the Food Closet

Carole Ray for the Homebound Ministry

Nancy Stainsby for the Homebound Ministry

Ed Lunsford for the Food Closet from Clara Jean Watson

Jimmy Ray

for the Amen Choir from Carole Ray

for the Food Closet from Bill & Merita Norris

Jody Kelly for Homebound Ministry from Nancy Stainsby

In Honor of:

O. D. Hamrick in honor of his birthday from Melvin & Sherry Scroggins

Andrew Spires for John Rhodes Ministry from Brenda Slappey

J. D. McAllister for the Food Closet from Bill & Margaret Wilson

Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Horner for the Amen Choir from Desmond & Dot Beck

The Flower & Decorating Committee plan to use Nativities (Mary, Joseph & Baby Jesus) to decorate the church windows and niches for Christmas. The figures need to be at least 12 inches tall or taller.

If you have a set of these and would be willing for us to use them please let Margaret Wilson know ASAP.

334.297.8014. We need 12 sets.

Thank you very much!



Wednesday Menus

8/6

Spaghetti,
Whole Kernel Corn,
Garlic Bread,
Salad & Dessert

8/13

Smothered
Pork Chops, Rice,
Green Beans, Rolls,
Salad & Dessert

8/20

Beef & Macaroni,
English Peas,
Glazed Carrots, Rolls,
Salad & Dessert

8/27

Meat Loaf,
Mashed Potatoes,
Lima Beans, Rolls,
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 - Discipleship & Outreach hornerjerry@hotmail.com

Office Staff:

Onezima Everritt, Finance Ministry Assistant 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

June Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
6/1/14	\$23,572.80	\$376.00	\$4,891.00	\$544.71	\$29,384.51
6/8/14	\$11,607.77	\$355.00	\$6,050.80	\$1,095.40	\$19,108.97
6/15/14	\$8,632.80	\$112.00	\$1,346.69	\$919.49	\$11,010.98
6/22/14	\$8,321.58	\$126.00	\$438.00	\$325.00	\$9,210.58
6/29/14	\$9,896.91	\$31.00	\$535.00	\$1,171.00	\$9,984.91

August 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Breakfast Club @ 10:00	2
3 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Youth Ch @ 5	4 Amen Choir @ 10:30	5 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	6 VKBW @ 10:00	8 CDC Open House	8	9
10 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Youth Ch @ 5	11 Amen Choir @ 10:30	12 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	13 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	14	15	16
17 1st Pl. @ 4:00	18 Amen Choir @ 10:30	19	20 Finance Meeting @7:00	21	22	23 Feed the Homeless 11-2
24 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Youth Ch @ 5	25 Amen Choir @ 10:30	26 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 Trip to Warm Springs @ 11:00	27 CDC Meeting @7:00	28 JEGBW@7:00	29	30
31 Youth Ch @ 5						

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

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 Wet Wednesday / Flyte
Youth Get Real
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Thursday

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM LOAF

* All times are Eastern.

You are invited to a Bridal Tea honoring
Brittani Maxwell

Sunday, August 3rd, 2014
1:30 - 3:30pm

Lakewood Baptist Church / Fellowship Hall

Men & Women Welcome

Given by: John Bessant's Bible Fellowship Class

Make lifestyle changes that can help you spend
the rest of your life healthy and fit!



New Class - August 3rd

First Place Bible Study is a weight loss program that leads us to Christ first spiritually, physically, and emotionally. The class lasts 6 weeks and the workbook is \$16.

A new class will be starting August 3rd until September 14th from 4:00 - 5:30.

We meet in Homer Gray's Bible Fellowship class in the top floor of the Senior Adult building. We will not meet on August 31st.

Bus Trip to Warm Springs

Tuesday, August 26th - Leave the church at 11:00am
The Bullock House and we will have a little time for shopping
To reserve your spot contact Lorene Parker @ 706.570.1207

SAVE THE DATE!

All V.I.P. volunteers are invited to an Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday October 7th at 6:30 pm at Morningside Baptist Church. Every volunteer from every participating Church will gather for a wonderful meal and testimonies from VIP families. Door prizes will also be given away. Turn your reservation for this free event to linda@LBCPC.org or call Linda @ 706.718.4240.

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 am - 4:30 pm
F - 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

August
2014

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Issue 2

CONNECTIONS
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