

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2019

VOL IX: ISSUE 8 LBCPC.ORG



BIG QUESTIONS

ABOUT GOD, THE BIBLE & LIFE

Join us Sunday Mornings for Answers

9am & 11am

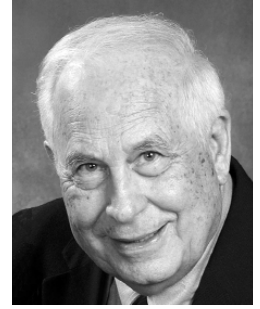


A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

Time has a way of changing a lot of things and my opinion of August is just one more thing that has changed dramatically over the years. August as a child meant back to school and the end of one of the greatest seasons of the year, Summer. Now if I have to have any surgery or event that might lay me up, I plan it for the summer when I don't want to do anything but stay in the air conditioning anyway. I guess the heat back then was different than it is today or maybe it remains the same and it is I that have changed. I know my view of August sure has changed and deep down inside I know the truth that time has changed my situation, which has changed my perspective from what it will mean in my life to what it will mean for the church. It is that very truth that has brought about the greatest change in my life from the days of my youth until the present. In the days of my youth I viewed everything from the perspective of how it might affect me and once we get all wrapped up in ourselves we certainly make a very small package. I would love to say it only took Christ in my life to change that reality but the truth is it also took time. New Christians are in fact newly born again believers and it takes time and a good long walk with Christ to really make those dramatic changes in life. It is hard to read about the life of Moses in a few minutes and realize just how many years it took him to become the hero of the faith we admire. Abraham needed 25 years to get ready for Isaac and Saul would march off to the mission field with Barnabas after 25 years in the church had changed him. Time, it really has the potential to bring about a lot of progress in each of us so why is it that not everyone is changed by it in the same way? Shouldn't we all be growing Spiritually day by day? If so shouldn't those of us who are older be blessed by that time in which we have had the opportunity to grow? To simply answer yes without some form of explanation would lead us to ignore the very reality of our human experience. The term "foolish old man" is often times a simple statement of fact and that should not be. All that potential in all those years could have and should have brought about a positive change but where there should have been progress there is only a turning inward and a return to their childish ways. Time you see changes everyone but not all change is progress. Unless God is in the time it seldom brings forth the fruit of the Spirit. So today as I think of August I just praise God for how He has used this time to change my perspective. Now I am free from the dread of it and have found that I actually appreciate it. I would love to say that this reality is based entirely on my Spiritual growth and more Godly view of the world around me. But I haven't had to go back to school in August in a very long time and my appreciation and acceptance of August may well be found in the fact that it no longer affects me as it did back then. You see going back to school is a lot like surgery, it is only minor when it is happening to someone else. Even if I am still needing to change a few things at least I have begun to ask myself these honest questions which certainly counts for something.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

The Bible teaches us to be always on the alert against the wiles of the devil, because he is relentless and ruthless. His intent is to steal, kill, and destroy, and he never takes a vacation. The book of Nehemiah, especially in the first six chapters, illustrates the enemy's intent and the response we should have. God had instructed Nehemiah to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem, and he focused on the task with total commitment. However, every time God's people say, "Let us arise and build," the forces of Satan say, "Let us arise and blast." While Nehemiah had a mind to work, the devil had a mind to wreck, and in various ways through various people, he sought to prevent the building of the wall.

Satan tried ridicule, mockery, and laughter to prevent the work (4:1-3). He tried discouragement (4:10). He tried threats (4:11). He tried to bring dissension among the workers (5:1). He tried to deprive them of resources (5:3). He tried to entice Nehemiah into an entangling alliance (6:1-4). He tried slander (6:5-8). He tried to fill Nehemiah with fear (6:9). He tried deception through false prophets (6:10-13; see 2 Cor. 11:13-14).

None of the enemy's attempts worked, because through the evidence of the word of God and the discernment of the Holy Spirit, Nehemiah recognized the wiles of the devil and resisted him, "firm in his faith." The result was true revival, and the entire wall was built around Jerusalem in only 52 days, and God received the glory.

If God has called you to a work, you can be certain that the devil will try to keep you from doing it. You need to recognize his whispers:

"Let's just get together and talk about this. Don't get in such a hurry. There's plenty of time."

"You've got your reputation to consider. People are gossiping about you. You need to stop."

"I really care about you, and I'm only trying to help you."

"It will never work. The odds are against you. It's too big a job."

"You've already done enough. Let somebody else work for a change. They don't appreciate you anyway."

"You aren't worthy enough, and your prayers are not really accomplishing anything."

"It's too late: nothing can be changed."

If you haven't had encounters like this with the devil, is it because you are on the sidelines and are no threat to his agenda? But for those of you who are moving forward with God's vision, be on the alert. The enemy will come from every angle, with every resource, that he might divert you. He will come through well-meaning friends and outright enemies. He will search for your most vulnerable areas, sending his darts into your vital organs. He will wait for just the right time. He will kick you when you're down, tired, and disappointed, or when you are so happy and successful that you're not spiritually alert. He knows his job and he's got schemes for every occasion. He's been at this a long time.

Your response should be the same as that of Nehemiah—discernment and resistance. These are days for us to be supernatural instead of superficial. These are days for God's people to get a message for God and say, "Let us arise and build, and all the tricks of hell will not stop us." God wants to rebuild a wall through you—in your home, your church, your city, this nation. He is longing to send revival right where you are, rebuilding a vital wall. If you listen, He will give you clear instructions. You must pray, get His plan, survey the ruined walls, gather the people, resist the enemy at every turn, and build the environment for revival.



A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

The other night I was watching a TV show, when out of the blue, the characters started talking about homelessness. The show moved on, but I kept thinking about the homeless in our community. I began to wonder why it is so hard to solve the homelessness situation that is rampant in the bi-city area. As I thought further, I wondered why it was so difficult to get people to come out and serve the homeless in our community. This is not a new problem, the bible is full of references to those in desperate need throughout time. In Matthew 26:6-13, Jesus is anointed prior to His crucifixion by a woman with an expensive jar of perfume, and His disciples are indignant about the wastefulness because the perfume was of great cost and could've been sold, and the money given to the poor. Jesus made the statement; "The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have Me." Some have used this passage as an excuse not to meet the needs of the poor. Some say were are encouraging them not to work by giving them food and clothing. The truth is, the homeless will still be homeless even if we don't help them. They will still be hungry if we don't feed them. Many would work, but either they lack education and skills, or no one will take a chance on them due to their appearance and problems. However, for the Christian, the choice to help the less fortunate is not up to us. The bible is full of commands to meet the needs of the poor. In Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus famously exclaims; "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Other such examples are found in the book of Acts as the early church takes up regular collections for the needy, as well as; James 1:27, Mark 9:41, and Matthew 10:42. Biblically it's clear that God recognizes, records, and rewards those who meet the needs of the poor and powerless. As Jesus said, we will always have the poor among us, but let's remember not to grow weary in well-doing (Galatians 6:9), for we never know when a selfless act may result in an eternity-changing, divine appointment when someone crosses from death to life. We do much here at Lakewood with the Food and Clothes closets, and in feeding the homeless with Highland/Rosehill twice a month. Please don't get me wrong, I am soooooo thankful for those who are ever vigilant to donate supplies and funds for our food, clothing, and homeless ministries here at Lakewood. However, in truth I see what we can accomplish with so few, doing so much, that it makes me think; what could we do if a majority of the church were to jump all-in too? As I was thinking about all these things I had a bit of an epiphany; the reason we don't like seeing the homeless in our community, why we're so quick to dismiss and avoid them is because they are us, at our base level. Remove our jobs, our homes, our showers, our fine clothes, and our availability to food and necessities, and what do you have? A filthy beggar! But here's the good news; Jesus is in the filthy beggar business. He loves us just as we are, and like the Prodigal Son (who looked a lot like a homeless person when he came home) He welcomes us home, clothes us, puts shoes on our feet, secures our place in Him, and provides for our needs. While addiction and mental illness are real issues that need spiritual and physical answers, let us never forget that Jesus loves widows, orphans, the poor, and the homeless. May we all learn to love as He loves, and may we give our very best for His glory.

God bless,
drew



Lakewood Baptist Church is joining forces with the Columbus Memory Center in the fight against Alzheimer's disease!

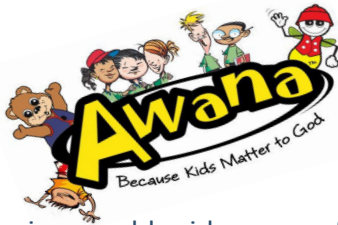
Over the next few weeks our church will be offering free Memory Number® testing for everyone over 65! Drop by the church office Monday through Thursday anytime from 8:30 until 4:00 or Friday morning from 8:30 until 11:30. Each test is self-administered and lasts from 15 to 30 minutes. The Memory Number® is the world's first vital sign for brain health. It measures thinking, reasoning, and memory. Everyone 65 and older is encouraged to take this free test to monitor their brain's health. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

Congratulations Merge Campers for your bravery to travel and experience God with others away from home. This is the greatest learning experience which also prepares you for Mission adventures as you grow into the Youth Ministry. With a total of 29 boarding our bus, we were so excited about the journey. Thank you to Erin Jane for the fantastic coordination of the campers and the fund raising, to all who offered financial and spiritual support for this group, to Mr. Fred for the transportation, and we thank God for leading us in this direction. Because of this adventure and the great leadership provided, these kidz are another step closer to walking in the steps of Jesus. Plans for this camp start early in the year, so prepare yourselves for the journey in 2020.



God is changing lives of children and youth through the AWANA ministry. As the Children's Minister, I am passionate about the Awana commitment to proclaim the gospel and to engage kids in lifelong discipleship. I want to share with you how this ministry works so you can see the incredible need we have to increase our volunteer assistance.

Awana is a world-wide nonprofit ministry focused on providing Bible-based evangelism and discipleship solutions. As the global leader in child and youth discipleship, Awana gives children the opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus, no matter their background. The 2019-2020 program will open with some changes that I believe will bring unity throughout the ministry. All groups will meet in the Sanctuary a brief assembly very much like the Worship Rally in VBS. Our program consists of rotations. . . Assembly, Recreation/Game time, Book Time/Circle Time. Groups are assembled by age groups with a Leader and several helpers:

Cubbies: age 3-4 years
Sparks: age Kindergarten *Sparks:* age 1st—2nd grade
Truth in Training: age 3-4th grade *FLYTE:* age 5-6th grade

Our Awana and FLYTE attendance has doubled in the past two years and with this tremendous growth, the need for more volunteers is imminent. The program can only be successful with enough adults supporting the kidz. Each week requires a minimum of 35 workers. Youth are encouraged to participate as they are available. Anyone can help with a regular commitment for the nine month program, or come and help as they can. We particularly need a KINDERGARTEN LEADER and 5-6 helpers, as this is a group who have not yet learned to read on their own. Many other volunteers are needed for all other groups. During a 15 minute session, the kidz work to memorize scripture from their handbooks. The volunteers work with small groups to reach their goals.

The commitment is only 75 minutes on Wednesday nights from 5:45—7:00 pm.

Have you been looking for a place to serve in His ministry? I am praying that it is YOU! Our Children's Ministry is praying for many volunteers to become faithful servants to God through working with our kidz at Lakewood. A quick phone call or text can answer any questions you might have. I am praying for you. It's a great feeling to know you are the answer to someone's prayer! Give me a call so we can see where you may serve.

Save the Date . . . Awana Training for volunteers will be held *Saturday, August 17th* from 8:00—1:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church. Volunteers are encouraged to attend. Please call me so we can get you registered. We will receive complimentary resources for our Club with ten or more attendees.

Save the Date . . . August 21st is our launch of the upcoming AWANA/FLYTE 2019-2020 program. Join us for our annual WET FEST FAMILY DAY, as we gather on the front lawn from 5:45—7:00. This is a family event, so please plan to remain with your children and enjoy the festivities.

God bless.

Gina Fusillo

(321)-759-6065 gina@lbcpc.org

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:
Robert Holland for the Food Closet from Pat Holland

Benny Cole
for the Homebound Ministry from Pat Holland
for the Food Closet from JD & Diane Whitehead
for the Builders for Christ from Billy & Cathy Greene

Steve Hawkins
JD & Diane Whitehead for Food Closet
Jerry & Sheila Barbaree for Food Closet

Harry Medley for the Budget from Glenda Medley

Circles of Influence Spotlight



mercymed Insider
of columbus

July 2019

SHOWING MERCY



"I've been coming here to MercyMed now since they opened. My wife and I have been married going on 24 years. Unfortunately I am unemployed and I don't have any insurance. The good folks here at MercyMed are showing me the name of their business: 'mercy.'

I've always been thankful for Dr. Grant Scarborough and his staff. Very knowledgeable. Very helpful. In fact they even go out on a limb: If you can't afford the medication they find places that will actually furnish you the medication.

I'm blessed. Praise the Lord. They are great folks. I love them. And I would do anything in the world for them." -- Brent

MISSION FOCUSED

Stories like Brent's are possible because of the MercyMed Family. We are a big family, and committed to carrying out the mission of MercyMed: We exist to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and demonstrate His love by providing affordable, quality healthcare for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the underserved. The family is made up of:

- Medical Assistants on their feet with patients all day
- Nurses tirelessly caring for those in poor health
- Doctors who went to med school to share the love of Christ through healthcare
- Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners spending a little extra time in the exam room to pray for patients
- Counselors encouraging those who are burdened
- Front Desk Staff : the Directors of First Impressions
- Volunteers ranging from Dentists to Heart Surgeons to prescription assistance advocates for patients like Brent
- YOU! Thank YOU for being part of the family

Your support means the world to us. Gifts from you help make Brent's story, and many like his, a reality.

Our fiscal year ends September 30, so we invite you to make a donation now to help fuel our mission with momentum into the new fiscal year starting October 1.

Thank you for supporting us!



Members of the family: Marienne, Raven, Brooke, Morgan, Dr. G, McKenna, Tony, Brad

Lakewood Happenings

AUGUST 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					10:00am Breakfast Club	11:00am H/H Ministry FTH
				1	2	3
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class F/H	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU		5:30pm Game night Hot Dogs/Chips/ Dessert	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class F/H	10:30am Building & Grounds Meet 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting		6:30pm Amen Choir Evangel Temple	9:00am Men's Breakfast & Workday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
PM Amen Choir to Ft. Valley	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class F/H		6:00pm Wet Fest Family Day 7:00pm Finance Meeting			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
6:00pm Church Wide Fellowship for Andrew's Anniversary	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class F/H	6:30pm AlleluiaChoir		7:00pm JEG/BW F/H		10:45am Y&SA FTH
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
6/2	\$14,612.13	\$180.00	\$3,320.48	\$1,791.00	\$19,903.61
6/9	\$17,174.44	\$693.59	\$4,163.16	\$669.01	\$22,700.20
6/16	\$16,782.84	\$198.67	\$1,402.73	\$1,403.86	\$19,788.10
6/23	\$19,087.64	\$145.00	\$1,974.32	\$652.08	\$21,859.04
6/30	\$12,179.68	\$280.00	\$2,123.30	\$823.03	\$15,406.01

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:00am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm Wet Wednesday
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- Youth Worship
- Praise Team Rehearsal

Only \$5 per adult meal,
\$2.50 per child meal with a maximum
\$15 per family!

Let's Eat!

Dinner is
served from
5:00-6:00pm

AUGUST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

8/7

BAKED CHICKEN
RICE & GRAVY
SQUASH
CASSEROLE
ROLLS, SALAD &
DESSERT

8/14

HAMBURGER
STEAK, PEAS
& BUTTERBEANS,
BROCCOLI, ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

8/21

HAM, STUFFING,
SWEET POTATO
CASSEROLE, GREEN
BEANS, ROLLS,
SALAD & DESSERT

8/28

SMOTHERED
PORK CHOPS
MASHED
POTATOES &
GRAVY, GLAZED
CARROTS, ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

BILL & SARAH HAYS
FRANK & JACKIE DOW

August Greeters

TAMMY SMITH
SHEILA BARBAREE

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS, NEWS
ALSO OUR WEBSITE:
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