

Connections

LAKESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2017

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LBCPC.ORG



Sounds of the Season

December 3rd

Alleluia Choir Concert

December 10th

Solo/Ensemble Concert

December 17th

Instrumental Concert

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service



Welcome Home.



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

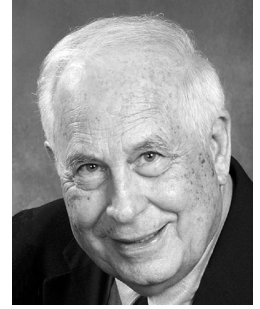
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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

December in July is the theme of this message. I do realize it now gets dark at 6PM and the weather is cooler outside because it is December, but I am still trying to get through June. I had a small event in July with my daughter's wedding and all my life was focused on having that building done on time and I got so far behind with the rest of my life that I still haven't caught up. I must have been running so fast that I can't remember where I have been. My logical mind can read the calendar and I do realize December is here but I just can't convince the rest of me that 2017 has already come and gone. I caught myself just last week introducing myself as the new Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church. March 10th will be the completion of my 5th year here at Lakewood. Once again my logical mind can read the reality that five years on the calendar have passed but I have no idea when it did because I just got here the other day. If that is the way time feels to me can you imagine what a year feels like to God? The Bible says, "With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day" (2 Peter 3:8) so I wonder if God ever looks up and says, "I can't believe another thousand years have already gone by". If so what would the 70 years or so of our earthly lives seem like in the reality of eternity. The most powerful illustration of this reality I have ever seen was along a walking trail in New Mexico. A sign at the beginning of the trail explained that the line painted along the trail represented a set period of time. I think it was something like 10 million years and the challenge of the sign was to watch for the break in the line that represented 70 years of time. At the end of the trail was a sign that asked if you found the break in the line? No was always the answer because the trail had fabulous views and the sights, smells and sounds of creation held your attention as you walked along the trail. After all who would sacrifice all the sights and beauty along the way to find such a small thing like a break in a yellow line that ran for miles. The point of the illustration was powerful in my own life because I often find my focus has been on the temporal things I am here after and not on the hereafter. I am so focused on the tiny break in the line that I forget the eternal things that really matter. It is already December and yet another year has passed us by and how much time did we spend on the eternal things that really matter? Now ask yourself this question and try to be honest. How much time and energy did we use up on the things that will only matter in this moment and this place that will represent such a tiny part of our eternal lives? After all, which is the real world in which we live; the one that last 70 years or so and then it is gone or the spiritual world that is now and forever throughout eternity where a thousand years is like a day? Only now do I think of such things and perhaps that is because I am closer to the end of this life than the beginning. But this much I do know, if this life gets to going any faster it will be over before I know, just like this year.



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



We don't know the exact date of the birth of Jesus, but we do know that His birth is the dividing point of history.

Napoleon Bonaparte lived a greedy and wicked life, filled with selfish ambition. But he spent the end of his life in lonely exile on the island of St. Helena. There he began a deep and earnest study of the Bible in comparison with the history and beliefs of other religions. This study led him to write a bold and stirring testimony to the lordship of Jesus Christ. Here is a small excerpt from that testimony: "I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and every other religion the distance of infinity. We can say to the authors of every other religion, You are neither gods nor the agents of Deity. You are but missionaries of falsehood, molded from the same clay with the rest of mortals."

When Napoleon wrote that Jesus is not a man, he meant that He is more than man, not merely a man. It is the uniqueness of Jesus Christ that makes Christianity different. Take Buddha out of Buddhism, and you can still have Buddhism. Take Confucius out of Confucianism, and you can still have Confucianism. Take Mohammed out of Islam, and you can still have Islam. All other religions try to live by the teachings of their founders, and the founders themselves are not necessary. But Christianity is not a creed, not a code, not a cause, not a church. It is Christ. You cannot take Christ out of Christianity and still have Christianity. Take the notes out of music and the numbers out of mathematics, and there is nothing left. Take Jesus Christ out of Christianity, and there is nothing left. The founders of other religions said, "Here is a sign to the way," but Jesus said, "I am the way." Others said, "Here is a philosophy that points to the truth," but Jesus said, "I am the truth." Others said, "Here is the way to find life," but Jesus said, "I am the life."

The book of Hebrews begins with the incredible announcement that Jesus Christ is God's last word to humanity (Heb. 1:1). Up to this time God had been speaking to human beings gradually, through nature, through conscience, through history, through the law, through the prophets. But now He has spoken in His Son. All the shadows of the Old Testament find their substance in Jesus, and all the voices of the prophets blend together in praise to Him. God spoke in other ways, but now He reaches the climax and says, "All that I have to say to this world is Jesus Christ." That's His final word. When you've said Jesus, you've said it all.

John 1:1 calls Jesus the Word of God. A word, logos, is the expression of a thought or an idea. Jesus is the expression of God. In Jesus God is speaking to us in a language we can understand. When you hear Jesus, you hear God. In Revelation 22:13, Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. To us today, He would say, "I am the A and the Z." When you want to say anything in print, you use 26 letters in the English alphabet, or 24 letters in the Greek alphabet. The entire Bible is made up of only 26 letters! What is true of the written word is true of the living Word. Jesus is God's Word in fullness and in finality.



**There are boxes in both lobbies
and the FAC to put your**

donated toys,

ages 0-12, unwrapped

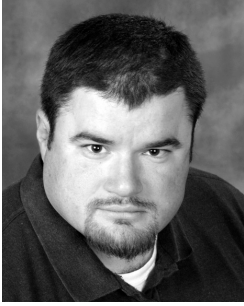
for the

Valley Rescue Toy Drive

Which is held on Saturday,

December 9th

Get them here soon!



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Almost everyone loves Christmas, the songs, the smells, the trees, and the lights all leading up to Christmas day. For our student and young adult ministries this is a busy time of year with our Christmas tree lot for international missions and our Valley Rescue Toy Drive. So far we've gotten off to a great start and sold more trees faster than in either of the previous two years! However, there is still time for you to get yours as we have around 90 trees left at the lot. You can also donate a tree to a needy family if you prefer, or help by spreading the word to your co-workers, friends, and through your social media. We plan to be open through December 16th provided we don't sell out before then. Thank you to all who preordered a tree or have already come and purchased one. The profit from each tree we sell will help send a student to serve on missions overseas in 2018.

Also at this time of year we think about those who are less fortunate, especially the children. In November and December we take a break from our normal Feed the Homeless outreach and focus on collecting new, unwrapped toys for children who wouldn't receive a gift without your generosity. You may have already noticed the large wrapped collection bins in the sanctuary, and downstairs lobbies, as well as in the FAC. Thanks to the efforts of one of our students, Ashley Woodburn, Glenwood School is also collecting toys as well for VRM that will be sent through Lakewood. You have until Friday, December 8th to drop off a new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl ages 0-12 in one of the collection boxes. On Saturday, December 9th our students and young adults will be serving most of the day at VRM passing out the gifts we collected and many more from around the community. Finally, let me end with the same challenge that was always given by my pastor growing up. Bro. David Howle used to challenge his congregation at Christmastime to give a gift back to the Lord equal to the largest single gift you buy for yourself or any other person! This can be a tough challenge to take up, because it's always a good thing to bless others through giving them something special, but spending that amount twice can be tough! However, the point of this challenge was not a guilt trip, it wasn't to bolster the church budget at the end of the year, or to make you brake the bank further, instead it was a way of redirecting our focus off the commercialism of gift giving and receiving and return it to the REAL Gift Giver, Jesus Christ. After all, isn't Christmas when we celebrate His birthday? Shouldn't He receive our very best? God bless & Merry Christmas!

Drew



A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC

Our Awana Clubbers were busy on packing night! We are delighted to say that our goal of 300 boxes was exceeded. Busy little Awana hands were guided by adult leaders as they joyfully filled 326 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. The Fall Festival Hot Dog and Bake Sale raised \$1,000.00 for the OCC boxes. It is a blessing to see God's hand at work in our Children's Ministry at Lakewood. Words of appreciate are extended to Patrick and Carole Thornton who worked very hard securing the items and leading this task to completion, and to all of our faithful Awana Leaders, kidz and helpers.

God has certainly blessed us with new babies. Our Baby Dedication last month was not for one or two, but FIVE beautiful baby girls. The parents of these children came forward making a commitment before the Lord to submit their child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways. As a congregation, we also have a commitment to help these children learn about God.

December brings about an abundance of joy and happiness with the Christmas season upon us. JESUS is the REASON for the SEASON! Our Awana celebration is in two parts this year. Because our Awana attendance has grown to over 70 kidz each week, one group will celebrate the birth of Jesus at their birthday party for Jesus, while the second group visits the Nursing Home singing praises to God for his glory. The following week the party and visit will be repeated, changing the groups so everyone participates in both events. The kidz are currently working on their music and hope to participate in the December 10th concert. **AWANA/FLYTE breaks for the holidays with the last December meeting on December 13th. Wednesday meetings will resume on January 3rd.**

With the new year around the corner, our Children's Ministry Team will make plans in January for 2018 events. Is there anything you would like to see included in our Children's Department?

Please pray that God will send volunteers for our ministry. There is so much more we can do, but we need more people to make it happen. A talented person(s) is needed to organize and direct a Spring Musical or Drama with the kidz. We also are in need of a preschool Sunday School teacher. If you are able to research summer camps, you are also needed. Please contact Gina Fusillo if you feel led to serve in any capacity in the Children's Ministry.

**Merry Christmas from all of our Kidz to all of you.
May God Bless you during this wonderful Christmas season.**





Husbands:

Need a great gift idea for your wife for Christmas?

How about a Women's Retreat

@ the Mountain Top Resort

Warm Springs, GA

April 13-15, 2018

Cost is \$150

Contact Church Office for details

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Mildred Benton

Challenge to Build:

Ann Tomlinson

Wanda and Shelley Amos

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson

Gail Brantley

Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Benton

Billy and Cathy Greene

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Johnson

CB&T

Mr. & Mrs. Carey East

J. D. and Diane Whitehead

Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Terry and Clara Grimes for Budget

Fran Loftin for Operation Christmas Child

Otto Scarborough

for Operation Christmas Child from Fran Loftin

for Challenge to Build from J. D. and Diane Whitehead

Eugene Knox for Budget from Fran Loftin

Bill Wilson for Challenge to Build from J. D. and Diane Whitehead

Mavis Kilcrease for Bereavement from Jimmy and Susan Graham

Fred Van Horn for Bus Ministry from Gail Brantley
Beckett Mae Pelletier on her Baby Dedication from
the Cox Family



Lakewood Happenings

December 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					6:00pm Parents Night Out	
					1	2
6:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert	10:30am Amen Choir	5:30pm Alleluia Choir Christmas Party F/H	10:30am VK/WMU			11:00am Helping Hands Ministry 9:00am VRM Toy Drive
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6:00pm Solo/Ensemble Concert	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
6:00pm Instrumental Christmas	9:30am Ladies Decorate for Christmas	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	6:00pm Singles & Young Adult Christmas Party NO FLYTE or AWANA		Office Closed	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	Merry Christmas Office Closed	Office Closed	No FLYTE or AWANA or Youth Worship			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
New Year's Eve						
31						

October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/1	\$21,076.82	\$673.28	\$1,370.00	\$3,083.05	\$26,203.15
10/8	\$13,597.91	\$1,555.00	\$637.60	\$3,971.00	\$19,761.51
10/15	\$12,897.68	\$150.00	\$620.00	\$4,261.20	\$17,928.88
10/22	\$9,463.00	\$130.00	\$662.00	\$1,782.00	\$12,037.00
10/29	\$11,670.72	\$658.38	\$5,920.00	\$606.35	\$18,855.45

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm FLYTE, AWANA
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
- Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal
- Youth Worship

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

December WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

12/6

BEEF STEW W/
VEGETABLES
RICE
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

12/13

TACO SALAD
& DESSERT

12/20

CHRISTMAS
BREAK

12/27

CHRISTMAS
BREAK

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

Welcome
New Members

**Clementine &
Stephanie Clark**

Randy & Jill Clark

Check
Bulletin
Board

**FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
&
OTHER NOTES
OF INTEREST**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton

PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

Patrick Thornton

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES
PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG

Gina Fusillo

CHILDREN
GINA@LBCPC.ORG

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LBCPC.ORG
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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