

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018

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A Child is Born

ISAIAH 9:6A



Welcome Home.

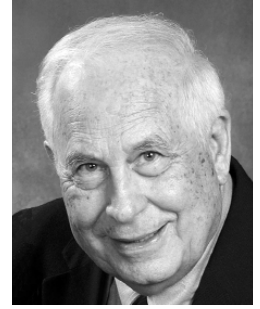


A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

As I began to write this note I found myself unable to believe what I knew to be absolutely true. This will be my 6th Christmas here at Lakewood even though I still feel like the new pastor. I still introduce myself as the new pastor of Lakewood and the funny looks I get when people ask how long I have been here and I say nearly 6 years. Just this week I was laughing about the fact that 2020 is coming soon as though a year is no time at all these days. It wasn't that way in my childhood, I can promise you that. As a child I remember days going on and on while a week was forever. The last hour of school each day seemed to drag on and on and that reality even became worse on Fridays. The slowest day in history may well have been the last day before Christmas break. As a child the week before Christmas lasted several months or so it seemed to me. In reality I do realize that time is not moving any faster than it did then so I often wonder what has changed. I have been told all my life that time just goes faster the older you get and I just laughed it off until now as I am experiencing that same truth in my own life as I get older. Once again I have to ask the question, why? Just this week I had the chance to see what had changed but it didn't happen to me. Katie put a date on her calendar that was better than any Christmas she has known for some time. It was the arrival date of our 1st grandchild. Now I must admit that I have had a lot of mixed feelings about the whole thing as I never saw myself as a grandfather and I really had a hard time seeing my little girl becoming a mom but Katie shared in none of that. She is all in on being a grandmother and I mean all in. Suddenly something strange and beautiful started to take place in Katie's life that I had never seen before. She was like a little kid waiting for Christmas and the days leading up to the delivery date began to go slower and slower. She wanted that due date to arrive so bad she could taste it and that anticipation had taken her back to the child she used to be. That excitement for life and the wonder of it all is what has changed us and our perspective of time. Life has robbed us of a lot of the joy we once had as children and I wish that were not true. As a child I would get so excited about some toy or bike that in reality came to nothing and today I walk each day with God who has promised to bless me with eternal things and for some reason I can't seem to get excited. I am not overwhelmed with anticipation even though I know I should be. Perhaps the lesson I need to learn from it all is that when we begin to take for granted those little things as though they don't really matter we sacrifice more than we might imagine. The loss of that childhood enthusiasm and the appreciation of the simple things rob us of the very life more abundant Christ planned for us to know. Perhaps God knew what He was saying when He said that children are a great reward and our grandchildren are a crown. I know in my own life I have seen our grandchild bring out the little girl that is now my wife and I can't help but thank God for that. It is my prayer for you that this year Christmas might be just like the ones you used to know as a child. Full of promise and anticipation!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

The greatest event in human history was when God through a virgin came into this world. However, many people, even so-called Bible scholars, deny the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin. "It's a biological impossibility," they declare. Actually, they aren't the first to question the possibility that a virgin could give birth. That's exactly what Mary did when the angel Gabriel announced the news to her, and the angel assured her that "nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:34-37). That was sufficient explanation for Mary, and it should be for everyone else.

Those who discard the virgin birth are taking the cornerstone out of all our faith. When they say that they have difficulty believing the virgin birth, they are actually saying that they have difficulty believing in God. Why does anyone have difficulty believing that a child could come into this world without an earthly father, when God made the first woman and the first man out of nothing? Anyone who believes Genesis 1:1 should have no difficulty believing in the rest of the miracles.

Those who deny the virgin birth also deny the veracity and authority of the word of God, because the Bible plainly teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).

But not only do they have problems with the trustworthiness of the Bible, they have problems with the character of Mary. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, then Mary was a harlot, and she conceived outside of wedlock.

Those who have problems with the virgin birth will also have difficulty with the character of Jesus. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, then He was a descendant of Adam, just like you and I are, and in Adam, all die. Jesus was a sinner by nature and a sinner by practice if he was not born of a virgin.

And without apology or hesitation, I'll tell you this. I have a problem with the character of those who don't believe in the virgin birth. Why? The Bible says in 1 John 5:10, "The one who does not believe God has made Him a liar."

Why is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ so important? Because there is no hope of heaven apart from the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both the deity of Christ and the humanity of Christ are wrapped up in His virgin birth. "A child is born, a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus came as He did, born of a virgin, to be what He was--sinless. He was what He was, sinless, to do what He did--die for our sins as a sinless substitute. He did what He did that we might be what we are--sons and daughters of God by faith in what He did upon the cross.

It comes down to this: no virgin birth, no sinless Christ. No sinless Christ, no atonement. No atonement, no forgiveness. No forgiveness, no hope of heaven. No hope of heaven, you die and go to hell. Take away the virgin birth and the whole house of Christianity collapses like a house of cards. Thank God for the virgin birth!



A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Who doesn't like Christmastime? It seems like it's everyone's favorite holiday. Some of my fondest childhood memories come at Christmas, and I'll share one with you. When I was young, Christmastime meant that as soon as I was out of school for Christmas break I would head to Pine Mountain and my grandparents' house. One of the great traditions my grandmother had was to go hunt for a Christmas tree. However, we didn't go to a tree lot, no, we went out into the woods and cut down a tree. Looking back, I'm not sure how legal it was, because I have no idea whose property we were on, or whether we had their permission, but we always seemed to find the perfect tree. I can remember one year in particular. We searched and searched for the right tree and after many hours wondering in the woods, we found it, and it was more than twice the size of me. We cut it down and tied it to the top of my grandmothers late 60's era Impala, which I promise you was a sight to see! After getting it home, my grandmother and I spent most of the afternoon spray painting it white with the now infamous and noxious 'snow-in-a-can'. My grandmother's house was an older home with high ceilings and we drug that monster (now) white tree inside. She brought out light strands of the biggest blue bulbs I had ever seen and we decorated it, top to bottom. I remember being amazed at how beautiful the tree turned out and how much all of our effort paid off. I remember thinking how creative my grandmother was, taking something normal and mundane and turning into a work of art. But I also remember thinking, at the time, that my grandmother was just being cheap, not buying a tree from a lot like everyone else. My grandmother didn't have much money, and she was always blessing others with what little she had, but when I look back she wasn't being cheap, she was teaching me a lesson in hard work and perseverance that I'll never forget. Her life epitomized these characteristics (and many more) and unfortunately I didn't truly recognize that until she was gone. These days, some of you may think we're a little crazy for selling Christmas trees for missions each year. You might ask why we go to all the trouble? Setting up the lot, putting up the trees, laying them down when it's too windy, and keeping watch over them. Well, the short answer is, the Gospel is worth it! If we can sell a tree and brighten a family's holiday season and at the same time raise funds to spread the Gospel around the world, that's a win-win to me. If selling a Christmas tree can help send a student on missions and spark a passion for the Gospel that will last for a lifetime, it's definitely worth it. Even further, if working a tree lot introduces a student to hard work for the first time, maybe this is the memory they share with others 30 years from now. All I know is that Jesus is worth our all, our very best, and after all, a little hard work and perseverance never hurt anyone! Thank you all for your continued support of missions. Merry Christmas!

God bless,
Drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

Every good and perfect gift is from above.



DECEMBER 12th and 19th

Kidz take their joyful noises and voices to the nursing home for our annual caroling trip, giving hope and love to the hearts of those in need.

DECEMBER 16th

Kidz will sing during Sunday Evening Worship

DECEMBER 19th Last AWANA/FLYTE meeting this year. Resumes **JANUARY 9th**



True blessings come from serving others.

May the joy of the season rest upon the reason. The pictures present the full affect of this joyous season and our gifts to others. We are all servants of God and are created by design to serve God and to help others. I would like to thank all of our loyal and faithful servants for serving in our Children's Ministry this year. Thank you for your support of the fundraisers that made AWANA's goal of 350 Operation Christmas Child boxes a reality.

Merry Christmas from the Children's Ministry.

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Natalie Hollon for Youth Ministries by Janet Turner

Wallace Brown
for Challenge to Build by Melvin and Sherry Scroggins
for Budget by James W. Brown, Jr.

Larry Bush for Challenge to Build by Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Bill Phillips for Music Ministry from Cory and Kaylene Prather

Melvin Scroggins
For Budget from Glenda Medley
For Homebound Ministry from Nancy Stainsby



Christmas @ Lakewood

December 2nd - Alleluia Choir

5:00pm & 7:00pm

December 9th - The Kemptex's @ Summerville

6:00pm

December 16th - Kidz Christmas

6:00pm

December 23rd - Instrumental Christmas

6:30pm

Lakewood Happenings

December 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						2:00pm Jean Tedder 90th Birthday Party 1
5:00 & 7:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert 2	10:30am Amen Choir 3	4	10:30am VK/WMU 5	6:00pm Widow & Widower's Banquet in FAC 6	6:00pm Parent's Night Out 7	9:00am Valley Rescue Toy Give Away 11:00am H H Ministry FTH 8
6:00pm Kempster's @ Summerville Christmas Tree Lot Closes 9	10:30am Amen Choir- 10	11	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 12	7:30pm YA Bible Study 13	Y&SA Campout 14	Y&SA Campout 15
6:00pm Kidz Christmas 16	10:30am Amen Choir- 17	18	7:00pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm Student & Youth Christmas Party 19	7:30pm YA Bible Study 20	Office Closed 21	22
6:30pm Instrumental Chriatmas 23	6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Office Closed 24	Christmas Office Closed 25	No AWANA/ FLYTE 26	27	7:00pm Young Adult Game Night 28	29
30	New Year's Eve Office Closed 31					

October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/7	\$23,080.42	\$942.00	\$1,206.82	\$1,858.33	\$27,087.57
10/14	\$14,144.43	\$513.67	\$930.37	\$1,055.83	\$16,644.30
10/21	\$18,042.99	\$45.00	\$651.35	\$786.50	\$19,525.84
10/28	\$10,792.92	\$135.00	\$4,089.97	\$388.83	\$15,406.72

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	AWANA/FLYTE
6:00pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
	Adult Prayer & Bible Study
6:30pm	Youth Worship
7:00pm	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

DECEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

12/5

BAKED PORK
LOIN, RICE
PEAS, ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

12/12

BEEF TIPS OVER
RICE, GREEN
BEANS, ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

12/19

BAKED SPAGHETTI,
GARLIC BREAD,
SALAD & DESSERT

12/26

CHRISTMAS
BREAK

1/2

SCRAMBLED
EGGS, BACON,
BISCUITS &
SAUSAGE GRAVY
GRITS,
CINNAMON ROLLS
& JUICE

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

FAYE KIRKLAND
CAROLYN KIRKLAND

December Greeters

GAIL BRANTLEY
ROY McHARGUE

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS, NEWS

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