

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020

VOL X: ISSUE 12 LBCPC.ORG



*An Acapella Christmas*

*Featuring Joy Keown Bedillion*

*December 6th ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm*

COME LET US  
**ADORE**

**Alleluia Choir  
& Drama**

**Sunday  
December 13, 2020  
4:00 pm**



*Solo's & Ensembles*

*December 20th*

*4:00pm & 6:00pm*



*Christmas Eve Family Service*

*6:00pm & 7:30pm*



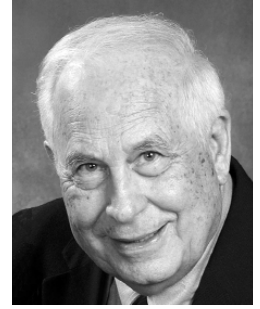
# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

• • • • •  
SENIOR PASTOR

**As I begin to write this letter I find it nearly impossible to believe that the year 2020 is in its last month of existence.** We have certainly passed through one of if not the most dramatic years in all of world history. I can remember the year 2000 and how so many felt like it would be the year we would never forget yet it really had little to set it apart from any other. I have always liked history and I enjoy it a lot more since I came to realize that history really is His (God's) story and that makes me wonder what God has planned for us next. I read a quote recently that said "God doesn't have any problems He just has a plan" and I can't help but wonder what His plan is to turn all the events of 2020 into something good for the Kingdom and His people. All things are working together for the good even though we might not see it from our perspective. Days such as these are the days we must remember when we can't see His hands, we must trust His heart. This after all is the Christmas season and perhaps there is no better illustration of this very truth than the coming of Jesus Christ. From the perspective of those in the community surrounding Joseph and Mary her baby was anything but a gift from God. To those who stood at the foot of the cross Jesus death was anything but a glorious victory. But when they couldn't see God's plan and they couldn't see God's hand they had to trust God's heart. We look back on the virgin birth with great joy and celebration but only because of our perspective. At the moment however it was a time of speculation and accusations. A time of misunderstandings as well as a time where everyone had more questions than answers. We celebrate the cross while they could see nothing in the cross but the end of their hopes and dreams. To them it felt like a brutal and total defeat. From reading His story it should not surprise us that 2020 leaves us with more questions than answers because anytime we try to understand God's plan from our perspective we realize His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are not our

ways. No, His ways are better so when you can't trace His hand we must trust His heart and realize that God is moving in our world like we have never seen Him move before. It is not a village nor a city trying to understand God this time around, God has the attention of the whole world. Some will say COVID caused this or that all around the world in 2020 but we know better. God has allowed this and behind everything that God does is love. The love of God for the people of this world has brought about this crazy year and somehow, some way God is working all this together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. Some way God is going to turn this around to defeat our enemies and advance the Kingdom. I can't see how but that's okay because I don't have God's perspective. From where I am I can't see it, and from where I am I can't feel it, and from where I am I can't see God's hand so I must trust His heart. Not one of God's promises has ever failed to come to pass and 2020 as crazy as it may have been will never change that. God has a plan and that plan is to bless us and not harm us so everything in 2020 must have happened for a reason and that reason is good. Perhaps 2021 will be the year we come to realize that very truth. If not then soon because who is God that He would lie to us. Christmas is coming and we will celebrate what the world failed to realize or understand. We celebrate only because of our chance to see it from God's perspective. I for one can't wait to see 2020 from God's perspective because from my perspective it was anything but a blessing. I can't see the good God has planned, nor can I see any way this could ever advance the Kingdom and be a blessing but that is what God says He is doing. I can only trust and believe in a God that is good. A God that keeps His promises. A God who loves me enough to send His only Son to save me. I must remember the true meaning and purpose of Christmas.

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



.....  
MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

None of us has witnessed a year like the year 2020, with the global impact of the pandemic that has held the world by the throat, leaving not one area of society unaffected. Americans will particularly remember this year, because in addition to the dreadful virus that has disrupted our lives, there is a spiritual pandemonium that began with a satanic hatred that had been simmering for almost four years. It finally erupted in widespread acts of fiery violence as a spirit of anarchy swept across the nation. Americans will remember 2020 as a year in which our union of states felt far more fragile than we could ever have imagined it to be. Throughout the year it has seemed that the country is out of control. The once-rich fabric that weaves us together is now thin, strained, and splitting, and the tragic thing is that the split runs straight through the heart of the church. Many local churches, entire denominations, and droves of pastors have compromised biblical principles and have been swept along by the tides of public opinion. Sociologists and other experts are telling us that the situation will not improve. They are using the term “new normal,” meaning that this is the way things are going to be, and we might as well get used to it.

However, those of us who believe in the sovereignty of God and that the Bible is His infallible and authoritative word are of a different persuasion. We believe that “He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things,” and that “in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:25-28). God is in control, and His requirements and His truth are unchanging. And, best of all for these times, His promises are steadfastly enduring. Consider, for example, Isaiah 40, one of the loveliest chapters in the Bible. In one moment, it speaks softly and tenderly. “Comfort my people,” it says. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem” and tell her that her suffering is at an end (vv. 1-2). The Lord is coming out of the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord will be revealed. In another moment, it casts a majestic vision of the surpassing greatness of God, who created all things and rules

equally over the princes of the earth and the stars of the heavens. The people are grass, it says, “but the word of our God endures forever” (v. 8). God has measured the waters of the earth in the hollow of his hand. He has weighed the mountains as though they were dust. Set before the everlasting God, the Creator of the unspeakable vastness and beauty and complexity of the universe, even the nations themselves are “as nothing” and “less than nothing” (v. 17). Pandemics come and go. Battles are fought and forgotten. Political powers pass in a blink, and nations rise and fall like the grass beneath the withering sun. The Word of God is the anchor that guards us from fear and worry.

Do you know what worry is? Worry is a mild form of atheism. It’s acting like God doesn’t exist. Things look a lot different when we view them from God’s perspective. Nothing takes Him by surprise, for He knows the end of things from the beginning of things, including the events of this year. There is no panic in heaven, only plans, and God promises that He will act in response to the prayers of His people. See, for example, 2 Chronicles 7:14. In the old days when steamships were crossing the ocean, a leaky old ship was caught in the middle of a rough and stormy sea. The passengers were fearful for their lives, not knowing if they were going to sink or not. So they delegated one of them to go in to see the captain. “Captain,” he asked, “are we safe?” He said, “Well, I’ll put it to you this way. The boilers on this ship are very weak and may explode at any moment. Also, the ship is very old, and she’s taking on water.” He went on to say, “To be very honest with you, we may have an explosion, or we may sink.” We may go up, or we may go down, but at any rate, we are going on.” And that’s the way we are as we near the conclusion of this eventful year. Jesus may come, we may go up. We may die, and go down and then up, but at any rate we are going on. We’re facing a brand new year, and in the next issue I’ll share some biblical principles that will encourage us as we begin the year 2021.



# *Community Prayer Tree For December*

Please join us  
for a special  
program every  
Monday night  
starting

November 30th

@ 7:00pm

Light Refreshments

Rain cancels event



All are  
welcome  
to add  
their  
prayer requests  
to the tree  
and/or come  
and pray

*Sponsored by the Women's Ministry of Lakewood Baptist Church*

*4011 Lakewood Drive \* Phenix City AL \* 36867*



# A Message from Andrew Spires

.....  
MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

**We have begun the process of prepping and planning for missions in 2021, after being unable to travel this year due to Covid restrictions.** In truth, we have no idea whether 2021 will be any different than 2020, but we want to make every effort to be ready to go and spread the Gospel as God wills. This month we host our largest fundraiser of the year, the Christmas tree lot for missions. This year, we have moved our tree lot down to the FAC parking lot, please help us spread the word as every tree sold helps to send a student or young adult on missions next year. On January 10th, at 5pm in the FAC, we will present our missions outlook for 2021. We are currently praying for God to raise up His servants for His plans to minister to His people. If you have any interest in serving next year please make every effort to attend this meeting. Meeting attendance does not

commit you to go on any trip, it is merely informational. Finally, a special thank you to everyone who supported a student who attended Genesis Weekend in Hamilton the end of November. Also, thank you to those who donated drinks and snacks for the weekend. Our weekend theme was; "Living As Exiles", how to live a Christ-like life in an increasingly godless and hostile world, and over thirty of us had an awesome weekend of corporate worship, small groups, recreation, and growing together as a group. As 2020 comes to an end, and we are unsure of what 2021 holds, ask God for the grace to live the Christ-like life in spite of your circumstance and surroundings. God bless,  
Andrew

# A Message from David Stephens



.....  
CHILDREN'S MINISTER

I have to give an amazing shout out to the AWANA team and all those who supported our Operations Christmas Child event. This was my first ever experience with OCC. I am blown away by this team and what we were able to do. God showed off, and because of this great work thousands of people will be touched by the Gospel. Seeing the smiling faces of our children packing a box, then taking it to lay at the foot of the cross, to then rush back around to pack another. We were done in record time with a record number of boxes done by half the amount of kids. What a story to tell. I am excited to do it again even bigger next year!!

This event has ushered in a Christmas season like none other! Let's be available and prepared for the work God has to do in our lives, our homes, our ministries, and our church in this season.

Children's ministry is now going to begin our 11AM Worship service. Starting December 6 we will now have Kids Worship at our 9AM & 11AM service.

I am in need of helpers for these kids worship teams. Don't worry you don't have to sing, or change diapers on this team. Although, if you like to change diapers and sing with kids I can find a place for you to serve. Our team is A LOT of fun, and my goal is to help you serve in wherever God is leading you.



Because of your generosity and prayer our kids turned these piles of shoebox packing fun into a Gospel presentation for the masses.



# Lakewood Happenings

## December 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
4:00pm & 6:00pm "An Acapella Christmas" 6	7:00pm Prayer Tree Service 7	8	7:00pm Deacons Meet 9	10	11	12
4:00pm or 6:00pm Christmas Musical/Drama "Come Let Us Adore" 13	7:00pm Prayer Tree Service 14	15	6:00pm Y&YA Christmas Party 7:00pm Finance Team meets 16	17	18	19
4:00pm or 6:00pm Christmas Solo's & Duets 20	7:00pm Prayer Tree Service 21	22	Office Closed 23	Christmas Eve Office Closed 6:00pm or 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service 24	Christmas Office closed 25	26
27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve Office Closed 31		

## October Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
10/4	\$25,014.20	\$25.00	\$2,847.96	\$1,240.00	\$29,127.16
10/11	\$14,748.22	\$50.00	\$5,133.54	\$526.00	\$20,457.76
10/18	\$56,331.70		\$3,947.96	\$1,123.39	\$61,403.05
10/25	\$14,528.86	\$100.00	\$4,453.40	\$264.00	\$19,346.26

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

#### SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship

10:00am Bible Fellowship

11:00am Blended Worship

#### WEDNESDAY

5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE

6:00pm Prayer Meeting

7:00pm Youth Worship



In Memory

J.P. & Esther Benton for Food Closet  
from Terry and Clara Grimes

Pat Thornton  
for Food Closet from Donnie & Tammy Smith  
for OCC Awana from Jimmy & Susan Graham

Bobby Walls  
for Food Closet from Donnie & Tammy Smith  
for budget from Eddie & Judy Ezell  
for Amen Choir from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

Lewis Worth for Amen Choir  
from Fred & Margaret Van Horn

Ann Ware for Lottie Moon from Myra Currier

Susan Tucker for Budget from Eddie & Judy Ezell

Loretta Montgomery for Student Missions  
from Billy & Cathy Greene

George Maxwell for Amen Choir  
from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

Ruth Campbell for Amen Choir  
from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

Jean Russell:  
For Amen Choir:  
Jimmy & Susan Graham  
Glenda Medley  
Myra Currier  
Philip & Ivy Harris  
Bert & Lisa Woodburn  
Billy & Cathy Greene  
Gail Brantley  
Brenda Slappey  
Barron & Jan Scott  
Rex & Judy Carter  
Cecil & Dorothy Robinson  
Gary, Kathy and Emily Hollon

Benevolence from Jimmy & Susan Graham  
Food Closet from Terry & Clara Grimes  
Budget from J. D. & Diane Whitehead  
Homebound from Stephen & Nancy Stainsby  
OCC Awana from Pat Holland

In Honor

Roy & Betty McHargue from Terry & Clara Grimes

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

FROM THE  
CHURCH STAFF

**FOR CHURCH NEWS  
OR ?S**

Visit [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org)

MINISTERIAL STAFF

• **MR Hamilton**  
• PASTOR  
• BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

• **Charles Keown**  
• MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
• CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

• **Andrew Spires**  
• STUDENTS & SINGLES  
• ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

• **David Stephens**  
• CHILDREN  
• DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

• **Jerry Horner**  
• DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH  
• JHORNER@LBCPC.ORG

OFFICE STAFF

**Onezima Everitt**  
FINANCE ASSISTANT  
ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG

**Carol Breault**  
OFFICE ASSISTANT  
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

**Linda Keown**  
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA  
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE  
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867  
O: 334.298.6433  
F: 334.298.4873  
FAC: 334.298.6460  
LBCPC.org  
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

CONNECTIONS (USPS #463270) is a monthly publication by Lakewood Baptist Church. Periodicals paid at Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER: Send all address corrections to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867