

Lakewood Baptist Church



# Valentines Day

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

February Connections 2015

# Brother M. R.

## Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

As I begin this month's message I am challenged by the fact that February is already here. Now I have always believed that February was blessed by only one great truth. It's short! As a kid I never cared much for February as it stood in the way of my birthday in March. It was always the month that stood between me and just about everything I considered good. February is a lot like Nebraska or Kansas to me. Now I don't actually have anything against either of those states in particular but they have always stood between me and where I wanted to be. They are the places you have to go through to get where you want to be. Now February is the month you have to get through to get to the place you want to be if you love the outdoors like I do. You see February is not very good for fishing but March is great. Now I know that God is good and He certainly made Kansas and February for a very good reason, even though I can't figure it out. Perhaps I am alone in this attitude towards seasons and long featureless drives but I can't imagine why God made February. For all of you who were born in February please realize that if February didn't exist you would have been born in March and a whole lot of great things happen in March, especially here in Alabama. This March my older brother is coming down to spend a week and we are planning to go fishing. Now that is only going to come true if I can make it through February. Do you see the repeating theme? Now it has to be wrong in some way to look upon God's creation and wish to just get through it but I really do. Reflecting on this truth I think I really need to make up some great plan that happens every year dead in the middle of February. Something so fun that I start talking bad about January because it stands in my way to getting where I really want to be in February. You see my feelings towards February are manifested from my poor planning of how best to use the time allotted me. Therefore February lacks purpose and thus it lacks meaning and fails to excite me. I fear that the lesson God is trying to impress on me is quite common for a whole lot of people. Life is what they're trying to get through. Their life lacks purpose and the plans that excite them so each day is all about just getting through it. I have known a great many people who live for the weekends. The reality of this is that the work week is reduced to something they have to get through. I really am blessed to get to do what I love until Sunday when it all overflows. Now Monday mornings are still a little difficult because I have never enjoyed starting anything over. But here my life has a purpose, and the plans God has for me here are everything I need to run with perseverance the race laid out for me. Here I am never trying to just get through the days. Here I am finding the days to be passing like hours, the weeks feel more like days. February is coming but I bet it passes just as quickly, and soon and very soon March will be here. March the 10<sup>th</sup> will mark my 55<sup>th</sup> year since my birth, and the memory of two years ago that day that I preached my first message here at Lakewood. February is here and this year I have a plan to live life to the fullest this month because it sounds so much better than just trying to get through it. This is the day that the Lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad in it!

God Bless and Best Wishes!

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## Shaping the future

February, the month of love, the month we focus on purity of heart, mind, body, and soul. Today, many students (and adults) have bought into the lie that they have two separate lives, one sacred and one secular. A sacred life that is devoted to God on Wednesday's and Sunday's along with the occasional mission trip or service project. A sacred life that is influenced by the Word of God, centered around prayer, praise, and worship exercised at church. Conversely, a secular life that is lived within the influence of pop culture, media, performers, and friends. A secular life that is uniquely "off limits" to the influence of God in any way. Now, we would all say that we don't believe in this but students have become increasingly comfortable with this two-fold lifestyle. One life at school or among friends and another at church or home. Somehow we have believed a lie that God is o.k. with this, but nothing could be further from the truth. The absolute truth of the Word of God tells us that once we are found in Christ then our entire lives are now sacred. Why? Simple, we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, literally God living in us, so what we do, what we see, where we go, He goes! We all understand this but does it affect the way we live day to day? 1 Corinthians 6:19 reminds us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that we are no longer our own but we belong to Him. Many of us respect the temple (or church building) we worship in, but do we live our lives in respect of the Holy One who lives within us? Are we living in the knowledge that the very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead rests in us, and can empower us to live the victorious Christian life? This is why many of our students feel defeated in their spiritual lives, because they've divided themselves into two very distinct parts that are at war with each other. This month, we will focus our lessons around purity in ALL areas of life, one life lived before the one true God. We will join other churches in the community for True Love Waits which will focus on sexual abstinence before marriage through commitment to Christ. We will also travel to Snowbird for our MAKE WAR Purity weekend which will reinforce teaching and serve as the culmination of this month's focus. Remember, if we belong to Him, we are set apart, everything is sacred! May God draw us all to Him and may we experience an outpouring of His Spirit among our young adults.

God Bless

# Patrick Thornton

## Children are a gift from God

Our children's choir is hard at work on the new musical, "I Am a Promise." The preschool choir, for 3 and 4 year olds, and the elementary choir, for grades K through 6, both meet on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. Carole Thornton and Lindsey Tidwell lead the elementary choir, and Diane Bush and Lauren Ny lead the preschool choir. All children in these age groups are invited to join the choir and get involved as practice for the new musical begins!

The Children's Ministry Leadership Team is busy working on the schedule of activities for the coming year. Our next big event, the Awana Lock-In, is always a tremendous hit with the kids. We will be sending home details as soon as the planning is completed.

Although it is hard to believe with all of this cold weather we've been having, summer is just around the corner. And that, my friends, means that the countdown to VBS is already beginning. Our annual VBS will be held at the beginning of June. If you would like to volunteer this year, please see me and I will get you plugged into the most exciting week of the year for our children's ministry.



## To know Him and make Him known

There was a time when the United States paid honor to George Washington, the man generally recognized as the “Father of our Country,” by observing February 22, his birthday, as a holiday. However, that special recognition has devolved into a generic “Presidents Day,” observed on the third Monday of February, and Washington no longer stands alone as the most significant of our founders. That’s not surprising, since our nation for many years has been drifting away from the moral and spiritual characteristics of its founding. Washington exemplified those values by his profound Christian commitment. The well-known painting of him kneeling in prayer in the snow during the terrible winter of 1777 at Valley Forge is based on fact, having been witnessed by a Quaker farmer who told the story. The war to gain independence was in doubt as the Continental Army struggled for existence, lacking the barest essentials for survival, and soldiers were dying of exposure and starvation. One day the farmer was walking in the woods near Washington’s headquarters, when he heard the sound of an impassioned human voice. Quietly following the sound, he happened upon General Washington, alone and on his knees in the snow, pouring out his heart to God in intercessory prayer, with tears running down his cheeks. In great excitement, the farmer ran home and declared to his wife his conviction that Washington would not only prevail, but would “work out a great salvation for America.”

Not many people know that George Washington was a devout man of prayer, and he kept a prayer journal, written in his own hand. In 1891 this journal was sold at an auction and later published in a book called *George Washington: The Christian*, by William Johnson. You can find those prayers on line, and I encourage you to read them, as I have. If you do, you will discover the great influence the Bible had on Washington and how much he was humbly aware of his dependence on the Lord for his every breath.

In a day when historians are rewriting the beginnings of our nation to eradicate all references to its Christian foundation, we need to teach our children the truth. George Washington’s stature was of the biblical kind. In the Old Testament, God always judges leaders in moral, not political or administrative, terms. Kings might conquer vast territories and build impressive buildings, but if they were morally and spiritually corrupt, the Bible describes them as men who “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” Let’s teach our children that Washington was not only a man of great accomplishment, but that he was also a man who personified the moral and spiritual excellence that we desire to see in their lives and in the characters of our governmental leaders.



## I will sing to the Lord

February will be a great month of music in both of our services! February 15 Erin Wilson will be back home with us to sing a piece she wrote herself in the 11:00 Worship hour. She and Jes will sing together and Jes will do a piece with the choir also. We miss Erin and will surely miss Jes as he leaves to serve in the United States Coast Guard next week.



February 15 at the 6:00 service Jes will be giving a concert of some of the pieces that many of you have been requesting before he leaves, as well as playing the violin. Afterward there is a **CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP** so plan now to bring finger foods and desserts.

**Bulletin Board**

There are events and notices posted there as well as notes of appreciation from our members.

**Notes of Appreciation** were received from

Bob Barr Band  
 Family of Polly Newton  
 Will & Linda Cawthorne  
 Eastern Plains Team

**Welcome New Members**

Jennifer Quattlebaum  
 Sam Beman  
 Sarah Whaley

**Sympathy to**

Family of Polly Newton

**Wednesday Menus**

**February 4**

Taco Salad  
 Spanish Rice  
 Mexican Corn  
 Dessert

**February 11**

Pork Loin  
 Baked Potatoes  
 Broccoli Cauliflower & Carrots  
 Rolls Salad Dessert

**February 18**

Chicken & Broccoli Casserole  
 Butter Peas  
 Rice Yeast Rolls  
 Salad Dessert

**February 25**

Hamburger Steak  
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
 Turnips Greens  
 Salad & Dessert

**~ In Memory of ~**

Evelyn Smith for Amen Choir from:

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Tice  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Stainsby  
 Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Jackson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pittman  
 Thomas Birmingham  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Hamby  
 Frances Sinuefield

Evelyn Smith for Challenge to Build from Fran Loftin  
 Rodney Carroll for Challenge to Build from Shirley Carroll  
 Mary Blalock for Lottie Moon from Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Stainsby  
 Stewart and Catherine McCollister for Challenge to Build from Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Benton  
 Julian, Sr., and Jenny Benton for Challenge to Build from Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Benton  
 Ray and Alice Quintana for Challenge to Build from Fran Loftin

**~ In Honor of ~**

Their children from J.P. & Esther Benton  
 Charles & Linda Keown for the Music Ministry from Mr. & Mrs. Frank Spivey

**Lakewood Baptist Church Ministerial Staff:**

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor  
 brothermr@LBCPC.org  
 Charles Keown, Music & Senior Adults  
 charles@LBCPC.org  
 Andrew Spires, Students and Singles  
 andrew@LBCPC.org  
 Patrick Thornton, Children  
 patrick@LBCPC.org  
 Jerry Horner, Discipleship & Outreach  
 hornerjerry@hotmail.com

**Office Staff:**

Onezima Everritt, Finance Assistant  
 onezima@LBCPC.org  
 Carol Breault, Office Assistant  
 carol@LBCPC.org  
 Linda Keown, Music Assistant & Media  
 linda@LBCPC.org

**Child Development Center:**

Cabbi Black, Director  
 cabbi@LBCPC.org  
 Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant  
 tammy@LBCPC.org

December Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
12/7/14	\$25,497.49	\$2,921.25	\$1,133.75	\$643.50	\$30,195.99
12/14/14	\$9,505.37	\$1,490.00	\$346.08	\$75.00	\$11,416.45
12/21/14	\$9,304.62	\$13,094.00	\$735.00	\$2,883.38	\$26,017.00
12/28/14	\$6,370.97	\$1,870.00	\$515.00	\$596.00	\$9,351.97



# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	2 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	3 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	4 VKBW @ 10:00	5	6  Youth / Singles Ski Trip	7
8 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6  -----Ski Trip-----	9 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	10 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	11 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	12	13 Parents Night Out Fundraiser	14
15 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 Concert @ 6 Church Social @ 7	16 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	17 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	18 Youth- True Love Waits 6-8:30 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	19	20  -----SWO Purity Weekend-	21
22 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Kidz Ch @ 6  SWOPW----	23 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	24	25 CDC Meeting @ 7:00	26 JEGBW@ 7:00	27	28 VIP Bed Race @ 11 Feed the Homeless 11-2

## Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

### SUNDAYS

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 AM Bible Fellowship Classes  
11:00 AM Blended Worship Service  
11:15 AM Kidz Worship  
6:00 PM Evening Worship

### WEDNESDAYS

5:00 PM Family Night Supper  
5:45 PM Youth Get R.E.A.L.  
5:45 PM A.W.A.N.A. / FLYTE  
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study  
7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

### THURSDAYS

2:00 PM Clothes Closet  
2:00 PM L.O.A.F.

\* All times are Eastern

**Bible Fellowship 10:00**

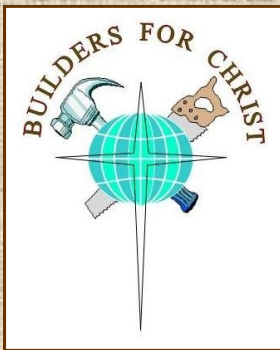
**Early  
Service  
9:00**

**TIME**

**Second  
Service  
11:00**

for  
**Change**

**Started  
January 18, 2015**



**Builders for Christ Meeting  
February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
Lakewood Fellowship Hall  
Those interested should be present  
and prepared to pay a \$175.00 deposit.  
Also bring ID for the airline reservation.**

**Come indulge in an abundance of  
Sweet Treats at ADK's Annual  
Sweet Retreat**

**Tuesday, February 17th  
5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Lakewood Baptist Church**



**All Proceeds benefit  
ADK's local scholarship fund  
for a future educator**

**Tickets \$5  
Purchase in advance  
or at the door  
Eat in or Carry out**

## **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: Mon - Thur 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Fri 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**

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