

**January Connections  
2015**

*A Fresh*  
**START**

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A NEW BEGINNING WITH GOD

**Lakewood Baptist Church**

# Brother M. R.

## Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

As I began to write this note I am once again taken back by the way time has been flying since I arrived here at Lakewood. Let me share a few observations and see if you too are surprised by the fact that I am now working off of my third annual calendar. It's true, I came to preach the revival March 10<sup>th</sup> 2013 and my present calendar reads 2015. Just the other day we were talking about how it would soon be Christmas and as you read this Christmas has come and gone. I was speaking with a friend last week and he asked how it was down here in Alabama, and I shared that my days seem like hours here. A week only takes a day and a month seems less time than a year used to be. In my heart I still feel like we have just arrived at Lakewood but the reality is it has been nearly two years. If I had been asked when I arrived where I thought we would be in two years I can't imagine that my answer would be nearly as good as it actually is. The sweet spirit and unity that we have been blessed with has made the ministry here a real joy. You see time really does fly when you are having fun.

One of the realities that becomes more self evident each year is that a year is not very much time. Oh when I was a child and you told me I had to wait until the end of the week I felt and believed that that was a very long time. Then I can recall times like my last six months in the Marine Corps and how I thought that time would never come to an end. Then I recall Seminary and how I felt about having to spend 4 long years there. But just a few short weeks ago I celebrated the fact that my wife has stood by me for 20 years now. That has to be true because my daughter just turned 17 years old. Now I look ahead and say in ten years I will be turning 65 years old and I realize that I had better start getting ready as 10 years is not very far to go after the distance I have already come.

As I look back on my life and the many cycles it has gone through to arrive here I recall being a kid in school. I recall being a marine and living in the barracks of 29 Palms California. I recall the days of solitude in the mountains where I seldom knew or cared what day it was. Those years passed like a summers day. I remember the funny look the nurse gave me when I tried to pick up Elizabeth from the hospital just after she was born. I had no idea how to put in a car seat and I had it all wrong. I was clueless as to how much my world was about to change. From each of those days I have life long memories that always return when I stop to look back at where I have been. Some people like to call those the good old days, but I remember them a little differently. As a child I found myself born 200 years too late to really be the person I wanted to be. In the Marines I discovered a side of myself that I have never admired nor dreamed of being. All alone in the silence of God's creation I found my heart longing to share those experiences that are forever mine alone. Like the rivers that start in those very mountains my life ran head long from one state to another never realizing where I was going, or if I would know when I got there.

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2013 was a birthday I will always remember as I turned 53 years old that day. It was the first day of the joint revival with Central and Lakewood here in Phenix City. It does feel as though that was just a few days ago in my mind but my calendar tells me differently. As I wake up every morning I pinch myself to see that I am not dreaming. I go out of my way to drive by the church in my travels and imagine I have my lifelong friends and family in the car so I can see their faces as we clear the trees to see the facility. In my imagination it is always at night when the flood lights give such contrast to the magnificent buildings. I know they won't believe it because I don't. I have driven by the great churches all my ministry life and wondered about the men who get to park in the pastors parking spot. I really don't care about being close to the door as I like to walk around the place when I first arrive, but I just love parking in the pastors parking spot. I feel like at any time someone will come over and ask me why I'm there but they never do. You know as I look back on these days at Lakewood I know exactly what I will say. Friends, those were the good old days!

**V.I.P. WEEK JANUARY 4 - 11**

Check the schedule at [LBCPC.org](http://LBCPC.org) or call Linda @ 706-718-4240

## Shaping the future

A new year is upon us and some things never change. Many people make a New Year's resolution each year but what is a resolution anyway? The root word is resolve, defined as a promise, a decision, a firmness of thought and the fortitude to complete the task, yet most break these promises made to themselves or others very early in the new year. Aren't we glad that God doesn't lie or change His mind, and He always keeps His promises (Numbers 23:19)? He promises to forgive, show mercy, provide, hold our best interests, and lavish love on the unlovable. These truths are what keep me going each day and I trust they sustain you as well. As we land in 2015 let me ask you a question; what needs to change in your life and are you willing to make that change? Don't make promises to God you're not willing to keep (Ecclesiastes 5:5), instead resolve to serve more, love more, give more, show more mercy, and therefore be more like Him. These are commitments we can bite off a little at a time and before you know it they will change your life! Although I am constantly reminded of how poor a reflection of Christ I am, I never want to stop reflecting His love to others and I hope that is your heart as well. This new year will undoubtedly bring unforeseen challenges and heartaches, but it will also bring joy and happiness along with many opportunities to act more like the name we claim; Christian-little-Christ (Proverbs 27:19). This is my resolution this year; to be more like Him, and I hope you will join me and I guarantee you will have the best year of your lives.

## Patrick Thornton

### Children are a gift from God

Beginning Sunday, January 18, the Sunday morning church schedule will change. The early worship service will begin at 9:00 a.m., all Sunday School classes will begin at 10:00 a.m., and the late worship service will begin at 11:00 a.m. As with any schedule change, unanticipated conflicts may arise. Therefore, we will begin by keeping our Children's Church at the 11:00 worship hour. A nursery and childcare for birth - 4 year olds will be available during the 9:00 worship hour. Elementary age children will attend the 9:00 a.m. service with their parents. We will evaluate our numbers after the first month, and if we find that we need to make a change for the service in which we have Children's Church we will do so at that time. It is possible in the future to offer Children's Church at both services, but we would need new volunteers to staff this addition. If you would be interested in helping staff a new Children's Church rotation, please see Patrick Thornton.

What a wonderful Christmas season we have just finished at Lakewood! Christmas is my favorite time of year, and I have loved all of the special music, the excitement of the kids, and the beautiful decorations seen throughout the church. The generous spirit of our congregation was reflected by all the giving to Operation Christmas Child, by the giving to those in need in our community, and by the warm smiles and hugs when we were gathered together as a church family. I read this on a sign the other day - "Jesus is the reason for every season." I pray that in every season of the year and in every season of life that we place Jesus and our relationship to Him as our foremost priority.

Fifty kids participated in Parent's Night Out, and we had a great time making crafts, eating pizza and playing games. The children's choir told 'the sweetest story' during their performance of "The Christmas Cupcake." They did an outstanding job and will begin a new musical to be presented in the spring when children's choir resumes on Sunday, January 11.

Parents, make sure to be watching the church calendar in the coming months. The Children's Ministry Leadership Team is meeting this month to plan the new year, and our next big event is the annual Awana Lock-In.

## To know Him and make Him known

Many people are entering the new year with fear and anxiety instead of expectation of great things. God wants us to be free from all worry, and He gives us the formula for fearlessness. Hebrews 13:5-6 exhorts us to live our lives without covetousness and to be content in His promise never to leave or forsake us. Because of that promise, we can say with full confidence, "The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?" There are four thoughts in these verses that will enable us to face this new year without fear.

First, there is the contentment of God's provision. Our lifestyle is to be characterized by contentment with things that we have instead of coveting what we don't have. Discontentment is a disease that takes away your joy and peace. Contentment is not getting what you want, but wanting what you already have. Contentment will make a poor person rich, while discontentment will make a rich person poor. The word translated "covetousness" literally means "to have more." Someone once asked John D. Rockefeller how much money it would take to satisfy a person. His answer was, "Just a little more." Jesus taught in Luke 12:15 that material things can never bring contentment, simply because they can never satisfy the deepest needs of the heart. Ecclesiastes 5:10 tells us that the person who loves silver will never be satisfied with silver. Either he can't get enough of it, or when he gets it he finds that it doesn't meet his need. The word "content" means "self-contained," indicating that contentment doesn't depend on outward circumstances. Paul wrote from a Roman prison that he had learned to be content in all situations, whether in plenty or in poverty (Phil. 4:11). His secret was that he could "do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13), which literally means, "through Christ who is pouring His life into me." If the source of your satisfaction and security is in Christ, you can face the new year without fear.

Next, there is the companionship of God's presence. Sometimes we are fearful because we think we are facing something we don't understand, and we'll have to face it alone. But God promises never to "leave" nor "forsake" you. Actually, there are five negatives in that promise. Literally God says, "I will never, no, not ever, no never leave you nor forsake you." Worry is a form of heathenism. It's acting as though God doesn't exist, or if He does, He doesn't care. But God's word to us is that He will never desert us and that His presence will see us through.

Then there is the confidence of His promise. A promise is no better than the one who makes it, and this is the promise of Almighty God. The pronoun "He" is most emphatic, underscoring the fact that this is a promise that God Himself gave, not just an angel or a prophet or an apostle. When you say, "I don't have the strength for next year," the omnipotent God answers, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you." When you say, "I'm afraid of going through another year alone," the omnipresent God says, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you." When you say, "I don't know what to do," the omniscient God says, "I'll never leave you nor forsake you." This is the word of a faithful God.

Finally, there is the comfort of His protection. Because of God's promise, we can say with all boldness, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Put verses 5 and 6 together: "He Himself has said . . . so we may boldly say." Whatever heartaches or difficulties you may face, you can have the assurance of God's help. You may not know what the year 2015 will bring, but you can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper."

**A new Bible Study Series** begins Sunday mornings January 18 during the Bible Fellowship hour. The same sessions will be offered on Monday evenings at 6:30. This course will be **THE KINGDOM MANIFESTO, a study of The Sermon on the Mount**. A manifesto is "a written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer." In other words, when someone publishes a manifesto, he lays it all out in plain, open language for people to grasp, ponder and understand. The Sermon on the Mount is the manifesto of Jesus Christ concerning citizenship in the Kingdom of God. It is His most concise, definitive teaching about the principles of Kingdom living and what it really means to be His disciple. Here He presents the meaning, the purpose, and the fulfillment of the law of the Kingdom. He describes the dynamics and discipline of righteousness, the priorities of the Kingdom, characteristics of Kingdom citizens, and relationships of Kingdom citizens. He shows us how to be happy, how to pray, how to give and how to receive, how to believe, and how to live a stress-free life. In this study you will be enlightened, shocked, challenged, and ultimately you will grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.



**Charles Keown**

**I will sing to the Lord**

*Rehearsals resume in January!*

*Youth Choir Sundays @ 5:00*

*Amen Choir Mondays @ 10:30*

*Alleluia Choir Tuesdays @ 6:30*



Katie  
Hamilton's  
Testimonial  
Concert  
Sunday Jan 4  
6:00 pm

**BUSTRIP JAN 24**



**Bible Fellowship 10:00**

**Early  
Service  
9:00**

**TIME**

**Second  
Service  
11:00**

for  
**Change**

**January 18, 2015**

**Bulletin Board**

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

A note of Appreciation was received from  
The family of  
Shirley Yancey

**Welcome New Members**

Jerry Bourgeois  
Charles Yancey  
Ronnie Allen

**Sympathy to**

The family of  
Evelyn Smith  
and  
Will Cawthorne  
& Family in the loss  
of his grandmother,  
Agnes Phipps

**Wednesday Menus**

**January 7**

Chicken & Dumplings  
Fried Corn  
Turnips & Cornbread  
Salad & Dessert

**January 14**

Scrambled Eggs, Bacon  
Biscuits & Sausage Gravy  
Grits, Coffee  
Milk & Juice

**January 21**

Baked & Fried Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Peas & Butterbeans  
Biscuits

**January 28**

Beef Tips over  
Rice & Gravy  
Collards & Cornbread  
Salad & Dessert

**~ In Memory of ~**

Shirley Yancey for Food Closet from Clara Jean Watson  
Montie and Clide Miller for Lottie Moon from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson  
Faye Farrar for Challenge to Build from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson  
Jimmy Ray for Challenge to Build from Carole Ray  
Alice and Ray Quintana for Food Bank from Carole Ray

Evelyn Smith for Challenge to Build from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson  
Evelyn Smith for Amen Choir from Carole Ray

**~ In Honor of ~**

Cathy Greene for Alabama Baptist Children's Home from Faith/Sunshine Class  
Jean Faulkner for Alabama Baptist Children's Home from Faith/Sunshine Class  
Billy and Cathy Greene for Circles of Influence from J. P. and Esther Benton  
Charles Keown for Amen Choir from Frances Sinquefield

**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

November Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
11/2/14	\$27,039.66	\$695.00	\$895.02	\$1624.74	\$30,254.42
11/9/14	\$12,442.00	\$395.00	\$678.00	\$495.98	\$14,010.98
11/16/14	\$11,618.70	\$245.00	\$604.00	\$88.22	\$12,555.92
11/23/14	\$5,077.97	\$155.00	\$487.75	\$23.00	\$5,743.72
11/30/14	\$11,939.99	\$10,376.21	\$796.00	\$92.76	\$23,204.96

# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed	2	3
4 Lord's Supper 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 PM Concert by Katie Hamilton	5 Amen Choir @ 10:30	6 VKBW @ 10:00 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	7	8	9	10 Pancake Breakfast 9:00-10:30am
-----VIP Week-----						
11 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6 PM Deacon Ordination -----VIP-----	12 Amen Choir @ 10:30	13 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	14 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	15	16	17
18 CDC & Sanctity of Life Sunday 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Chr @ 6 PM Chrch Conf	19 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	20 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	21 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	22 JEGBW@ 7:00	23	24 Langdale Theatre
25 1st Pl. @ 4:00 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch. @ 6	26 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	27 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	28 CDC Meeting @ 7:00	29	30	31 Feed the Homeless 11-2

## Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

### SUNDAYS

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service  
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship Classes  
10:45 AM Blended Worship Service  
10:45 AM Bible Fellowship Classes  
11:15 AM Kidz Worship  
6:00 PM Evening Worship

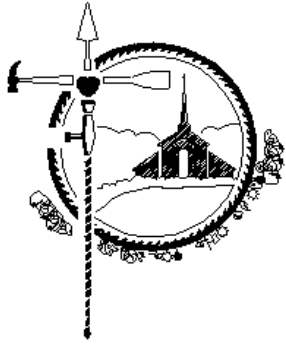
### WEDNESDAYS

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



**Save the Date - June 23rd - June 30th  
Builders for Christ (2015)**  
will be traveling to Gillette, Wyoming  
to help build an addition to an existing church.  
If you are interested in participating  
call Pat Phillips 706.587.9906  
or pbphillips83@gmail.com



**SANCTITY OF LIFE  
SUNDAY  
JANUARY 18, 2015**



Our annual Baby Bottle Boomerang begins on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic. You may pick up your bottle that day. Take it home and fill it with check, cash or coins and return them to the church on Sunday, January 18, as we celebrate Sanctity of Life Sunday. This is Lakewood's way of literally saving lives! Your giving will help Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic to prosper, grow, and influence our society for the lives of unborn children and the eternal life offered by Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Pancake  
Breakfast*



The Youth will be hosting  
a **Pancake Breakfast**  
Saturday, January 10th  
from 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Cost is \$5 or a donation

*Pancake  
Breakfast*



**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

**January  
2015**

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