

# Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2018

VOL VIII: ISSUE 1

LBCPC.ORG

*Wishing You*  
A VERY HAPPY  
**NEW YEAR**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU & YOUR FAMILY



*Welcome Home.*



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

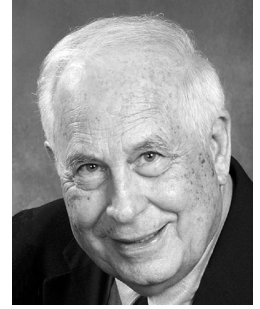
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*SENIOR PASTOR, LBC*

**As I try to write this letter I find myself in a struggle of sorts between what I know and what I believe.** You see, my mind has just reported to me that it has looked at the calendar and the year 2017 is all but over but my heart and my soul are both convinced that I am out of my mind because they would not have missed a year when the building was getting finished and my daughter was getting married. Reality is hard to accept some times but the building is finished and my little buddy Elizabeth is married so I guess it did happen. Big events are like that as they keep you so busy that you fail to stop from time to time to smell the roses and you can't see the forest because of all the trees. Perhaps 2017 will be one of those years that is best appreciated from a distance. A year that was so big that you really need to just stand back to appreciate all that God did this last year. This past year was a lot like a mountain that had stood before us always in view but seeming to be so far away. A journey we had planned for many years and had dreamed of that seemed to never be real until we reached out and took hold of it. It was a struggle that required a great deal of effort and often I questioned if we would actually get through it. Then July 15th it happened, my little girl came to me to be given away and the decorations were all complete in the new building. We had arrived at that place that had only been a dream for the past 20 years. That place we knew was coming but really believed to be much farther away than it actually was. Now I look back and the past six months have given me enough time to get the distance needed to see just how far we have come. The reality of the distance convinces even my heart that yes my mind is right and my heart is wrong as it certainly would have taken a lot of time and effort to get here. So perhaps the greatest challenge for the new year will be to keep moving forward when our hearts are longing to stay in the past. But I believe this is not the time to be hesitant nor to be caught looking back at what we have done. No this is a season of harvest and with that harvest will come the responsibility to equip and grow the congregation to make a greater impact on our community for Christ. Now is what really matters and answering the question of why God has waited until now to build this building and unite this congregation is critical to finding our place and purpose in His plan. It is this since of purpose that will continue to unit and excite us to have the quality of life that makes each day a joy and delight. The days of harvest are hard work but the rewards are many and I can't wait to write this note next year because I am convinced I just won't believe how far we will have come and all the things God will have done. Let us never forget this one great truth. 2017 was a great year in the history of Lakewood Baptist Church but the best is yet to come. The future is brighter than the past and the present is one step closer to seeing the Lord face to face. History is really going some place because after all it is His Story and His Story is one of Love, filled with hope, based on a promise, with a very happy ending. Happy New Year!



# *A Message from* **Dr. Jerry Horner**

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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



**Many people face the new year with fear, but the Bible shows us that such fear is unnecessary.** Hebrews 13:5-6 tells us: “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What man shall do to me?’ From this and several other passages, I want to give you four wonderful truths that, if you root them deep within your heart, will enable you to live this coming year without fear.

First, remember **God’s bountiful provision.** In contrast to covetousness, which literally means “to have more,” contentment is not getting what you want, but wanting what you already have. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 says, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” If you’ve got clothes on your back, something to eat, and Jesus Christ in your heart, you’re rich!

Many people fear because they think their needs or the needs of someone they love are not going to be met. Or they may fear that the things they think are meeting their needs are going to be taken away from them. They have never learned that “my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ” (Phil. 4:19).

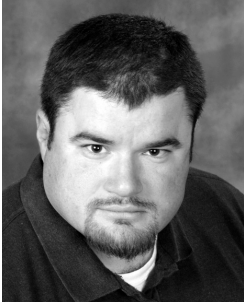
Then be aware of **God’s comforting presence.** I don’t know what’s going to happen this year, but I do know that whatever I face, God will never leave me. Many people are afraid that they will have to face something they don’t understand, and that they are going to have to face it alone. But God promises that He will never forsake you, which literally means that He will never abandon you. He will never give up on you. Learn to practice the presence of the Lord to the extent that when the devil knocks at your heart’s door, you can simply say, “Jesus, please answer the door.”

Have confidence in **God’s assuring promise.** A promise is no better than the one who makes it. The emphasis in Hebrews 13:5 is that it is the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God Himself who has promised never to leave you. This is not the promise of an angel or a prophet or an apostle, but the word of a God who cannot lie. There may be times this year when you say, “God, I just don’t have the strength.” The omnipotent God will answer, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” There may be times when you say, “God, I’m afraid of what is going to happen.” The omnipresent God says, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” There may be times when you say, “God, I don’t know what to do.” The omniscient God will respond, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” God Himself has said it!

Rest in **God’s comforting protection.** Hebrews 13:6 declares that because of God’s promise, “We may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” That is our bold response to the promise of God. The word “what” covers anything that might happen to you this year, and the words “He Himself has said” give you comfort and courage to face whatever comes. Therefore, every day you can boldly say, “I don’t know what’s going to happen today, but I know that God is my helper and I don’t have to fear anything.”







# *A Message from* **Andrew Spires**

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*STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC*

**A new year often points us towards a time of reflection; a look back at the year that has just past with its successes and failures, and towards new hope in the year yet to come.** As Christians, a new year should also bring reflection of a different sort. As a believer in Christ we know that we exist purely for the glory of God and to display the love of Jesus Christ to others through the explanation of the Gospel message. Each one of us are called to be witnesses for Christ in our daily lives, to model out the Christ-centered life so that others will notice there's something different about us. However, it must go beyond that. As ambassadors of the Gospel we are chosen to open our mouths and tell others about Jesus. While these are things we all know, they can be much harder to live out, as it's much easier to go with the flow of society and fit in. Even further it's always easier and more comfortable to stay silent and be more concerned about our own eternal security than that of others. It's easy to become repositories of biblical knowledge, yet never put that wisdom into action and experience it's life-changing work. As you reflect on 2017, ask yourself two pointed questions; who did you lead to Christ this past year (who will be in heaven because of your witness), and what difference did you make for the sake of the kingdom of God this past year? If you're having a hard time answering either or both of these questions then commit that 2018 will be different. Don't just utter a prayer; "God help me to do better this year!", instead make a solemn commitment to Christ that your life in 2018 will shine for Him as an accurate display of Christ's love towards others, and that you will model out the Christian life in humility and seek personal holiness empowered by the Holy Spirit. Then put legs to that commitment and place yourselves into uncomfortable places that stretch you for the sake of the Gospel. Go on missions, help the less fortunate, find your place of ministry that God is calling you to, give of your time, talent, and treasure like never before. After all, if God is not getting glory from your life, then what's stealing His glory? Whatever it is, rid it from your life, so that the Spirit of God has total freedom to move in and through you. Listen, none of us are called to a life of comfort in Christ, actually it's the total opposite, we're promised a life that will be hard, yet eternally rewarding. I urge you to take up this challenge and watch as God does an amazing work in you as you serve others. Remember what the wise ole' preacher once said; "Set yourself on fire for Jesus Christ, and people will come watch you burn!" May all our lives burn brightly for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 2018!

God bless, and Happy New Year!

Drew



# A Message from Gina Fusillo



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*CHILDREN, LBC*

**So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.** 1 Corinthians 13:13. With our Christmas celebration behind us for yet another year, we shall forever carry His love. The kidz once again visited the nursing home, taking with them, God's greatest gift.....the gift of love. Through caroling, smiling and lots of hugs, our kidz made a difference to the residents. It may seem like a small gift, but to those who have no loved ones, it is huge. The preschoolers were paired with FLYTE members as they caroled through the hallways. Our annual Birthday Party for Jesus was also a great celebration, filled with love, laughter, and praises for Baby Jesus. We had about 25 kids for Parents Night Out. Lots of fun was had by all throughout the night as they made Christmas projects and enjoyed games with Coach "O" in the Family Activity Center. What a great arena for a fun gathering. Our Awana kidz sang in December on a concert night, and much to our delight, they were happy to entertain us. The leaders worked hard with limited practice time to make their hopes for participation a reality. Thanks to all participants and volunteers who made all of these events possible.

Our AWANA/FLYTE club is growing by leaps and bounds. Would you believe our record high attendance was the week before Christmas with 81 kidz present! Praise God for supplying us with what we need to support this amazing group of kidz and leaders. AWANA/FLYTE resumes on JANUARY 10th at 5:45 pm. Pop in on a Wednesday night and see what this ministry is up to.

Our Children's Ministry Team will begin planning the upcoming year this month. We are pursuing camp opportunities for the kidz this summer and will be looking at options for fundraisers to help the kidz along the way with this venture.

There are so many areas in our ministry for volunteers. Please pray about this ministry in that God will send those who are needed to help establish new opportunities for our kidz and to fill the needs of those opportunities that are already in place. If you feel led to help in the children's ministry, please contact me. Below are a few of the immediate needs for leadership and/or volunteers.

Leader/Director . . . . . Spring Drama or Musical  
Bible Fellowship Leader . . . . . Toddlers  
Bible Fellowship Leader . . . . . Two Year Olds  
Leader and volunteers . . . . . Summer camp arrangements

Make this New Year a prosperous year with your service to our Lord and Savior.  
Happy New Year.

Gina





**January 12th @ 5:30pm**

## Lakewood Medley

**In Memory of:**

Ricky Simmons for Budget from Glenda Medley

Jennifer Sullivan for Amen Choir from Dorothy A. Robinson

Mildred Benton for Lottie Moon from Jerry and Sheila Barbaree

Otto Scarborough for Lottie Moon from Jerry and Sheila Barbaree

Mavis Kilcrease for Lottie Moon from Jerry and Sheila Barbaree

**Margaret Adams for Amen Choir:**

Brenda Slappey

Dorothy A. Robinson

John and Diane Hadley

**In Honor of:**

Cathy Greene for Lottie Moon from Joyful Servants SS Class

Vickie Green for Lottie Moon from Joyful Servants SS Class

Ruth Drinkard for Lottie Moon from Joyful Servants SS Class

Rex and Judy Carter for Amen Choir from Dorothy A. Robinson

# Lakewood Happenings

## January 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	Happy New Year Office & CDC Closed	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU 7:00pm Church Council Meets			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Lord's Supper	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC	5:45pm AWANA/ FLYTE resumes 7:00pm Deacon's Meet		5:30pm Game Night	11:00am Helping Hands Ministry
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC	7:00pm Finance Team Meets			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC	7:00pm CDC Team Meets	7:00pm JEG/BW		10:45am Youth & Singles Feed the Homeless
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC				
28	29	30	31			

## November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/5	\$19,192.43	\$1,485.00	\$2,806.17	\$2,033.24	\$25,516.84
11/12	\$24,475.09	\$905.00	\$800.68	\$250.25	\$26,431.02
11/19	\$8,996.22	\$40.00	\$1,356.53	\$100.00	\$10,492.75
11/26	\$7,245.10	\$283.33	\$227.00	\$361.50	\$8,116.93

### 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
- 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

## JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

**1/3**

VEGETABLE  
SOUP  
CORNBREAD  
SALAD & DESERT

**1/10**

PORK LOIN  
BAKED  
POTATOES  
BROCOLLI  
ROLLS  
SALAD &  
DESSERT

**1/17**

BAKED  
SPAGHETTI  
GARLIC BREAD  
SALAD & DESSERT

**1/24**

FRIED CHICKEN  
YELLOW RICE  
LIMA BEANS  
BISCUITS  
SALAD & DESSERT

**1/31**

BEEF TIPS OVER  
RICE  
BLACKEYED PEAS  
CORNBREAD  
SALAD & DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

*Welcome*  
*New Members*  
**Jerry & Linda**  
**Scarborough**

**Richard**  
**Langacher**

*Check*  
*Bulletin*  
*Board*

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

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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