

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2018

VOL IX: ISSUE 1 LBCPC.ORG

NEW YEAR
NEW ME

STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



Welcome Home.



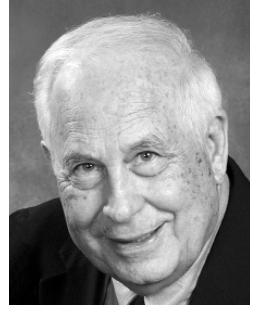
A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

With each New Year we have the opportunity to both look back at how far we have come and to look ahead at where we hope to be this time next year. So, as I look back I find it hard to believe just how far we have come in such a short time. The new Family Activity Center feels like it has always been there and now all that remains of that project is cleaning up the last of the construction loan which is well underway. This year alone we were able to pay more than \$60,000.00 towards that debt. This past year saw records in nearly every department of our church with VBS and the children's ministry breaking records on a weekly basis. We have seen the establishment of much needed classes in the Bible Fellowship and just this past week we saw a record number of 270 in attendance. Certainly, the New year will see us reach 300 as we have the wheels in motion to establish one more young married class. Another wonderful reality of the past year was our ability to start a new children's church for the contemporary worship time at 9 am that has helped that service grow to record numbers as well. As we look ahead we can see that service reaching numbers equal to the second service as we strive to use our limited space as many times as possible to reach more people. This past year we saw the Operation Christmas Child workers pack and load more than 10,000 shoeboxes through Lakewood alone. That is the first time we have broken 10,000 and yet it came and went almost unnoticed among all the other firsts. As you walk about the buildings you can't help but notice how bright it seems as we have already replaced over 400 of our florescent lights with LED lighting and we will continue until all the lights are replaced. It is such a blessing to have Beau Reimink now serving full time as our building and grounds superintendent. With his organization and incredible work ethic things are really getting done. Over 6000 sq. feet of new ceilings and over 6000 sq. feet of flooring have already been installed and the replacement of the lower floor windows of the CDC building are ready to start. Work crews are on site manned mostly by volunteers working almost every day to improve the facilities. Paint crews and flooring and window crews are working alongside the cleanup crews as we strive to see the building improvements continue this next year. This month also marked the completion of a long term goal as we replaced the last two original furnace units meaning that all 42 heating units on sight are now updated and 41 of the 42 A/C units have been replaced. Only one 12 ton unit remains from the originals so one more major investment there and we will have accomplished that dream.

As I look ahead I can't help but ask myself what's next? With our visitor numbers at an all-time high, growth in every area of the church will certainly continue this year and I ask that you bear with us as we continue to experience the only good pain in the ministry, growing pains. We are striving to find solutions for classes needing more space already and the problem will only get worse as we continue to grow. But rest assured we are not caught off guard and we are well aware of the challenges and are planning and working every single day to find solutions. Without more buildings we are looking at every way possible to use our facilities more efficiently and more often to accommodate the needs. I tell you as I look ahead I feel like I am climbing a mountain and just as you do then we now need to stop looking at how far we have to go and just turn around and take a look at how far we have come. Now with that new perspective of just what we have done we can rest assured that what is ahead of us is possible. Working together for the sole purpose of Kingdom growth we will make a way to get this all done. I don't know about you but I am really excited for this time next year to get here so we can see how we did it!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

We're facing a brand new year, and we don't know what that year is going to bring. However, the Bible provides us with a clear object lesson from the history of Israel that teaches us what to do as we enter a new year. In Joshua 3:1-5, Joshua gives God's people instructions concerning how they are to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. It's a very simple plan. All they had to do was to wait until they saw the Levites pick up the Ark of the Covenant and start walking with it. Then they were to follow the Ark, making certain that they kept a space of about 2,000 cubits between them and the Ark. That's slightly more than the length of four and a half football fields, and the reason for that distance was that the Ark must be far enough ahead so all the hundreds of thousands of people could have a clear view of it at all times. Joshua explained, "You have not passed this way before," so they must keep their eyes on the Ark in order to follow the way that God planned.

That Old Testament Ark was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Ark of the New Covenant. Just as the Hebrews were about to enter a land they had never seen, we are entering a place where we have never been. The year 2019 is unexplored territory, and not a one of us has lived it before. Therefore, not a one of us knows what a day may bring. But we really don't need to know what's going to happen, or where we are going, or how we'll get there. All we need to do is to keep our eyes on the Ark and follow Him. Keeping our eyes on Jesus simply means that we trust Him and depend upon Him. We count on His ability, not our inability. Nothing was to obscure the Hebrews' vision of the Ark, and nothing is to come between us and Christ.

Not a single Israelite was exempt from crossing through the flooded Jordan. There was no bridge over the water, so each one had to pass through the flood. Can you imagine their trepidation as they hurried across, looking up at the towering mountain of water poised above them? But as long as they followed the Ark, they were safe. Jesus never promised us that He is a bridge over troubled waters, but He is a path through them. So right in the middle of your Jordan, with whatever threatening floods this year may bring, you'll find the Ark. I assure you that the waters will never crash down upon the Ark, and as long as you are following Him, you are safe. God will guide you through the uncharted days of 2019, but more than that, "the Lord will do wonders among you" (Josh. 3:5). God has designed a pathway for you to walk through every day of this new year, and if you keep your eyes on Him and follow the Ark, He will guard you by His almighty power and take you safely to your appointed destination.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

The new year is upon us with all its possibilities and unknowns. We know how 2018 went for us, but we never know what the future holds. However, we can choose to honor God and put Him first in the new year. One of the ways we can do this is to obey God with a missional mindset. A missional mindset is all encompassing, it means you arrange your life, your passions, and your resources to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For some of us we need to revisit the command found in **Matthew 28:19-20**; **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** So much truth is contained in these verses. First, we are to be disciples who are making other disciples. The Christian walk and life is not a selfish life, but a multiplying life. We aren't to be repositories of biblical knowledge sitting on the bench, but instead we are to be alive, infectious, and abounding in love, service, and missions, because of our obedience to God. Ask yourselves a simple question; who will be in heaven because of you? Let's agree to open our mouths for the sake of the Gospel in this new year. Let's love each other, let's love the outside world, the lost and dying enough to tell them about Jesus. Second, we need to teach. To teach we need to have been taught, and we need to study the playbook. Commit yourself to be in fellowship with other believers, studying God's Word together in corporate worship and in small groups this new year. Commit to personal study of His Word. Then commit to take that knowledge and teach others, teach them to obey God, by showing them your obedience to God. Third, remember it's not by your power. God has called you to a task that is bigger than yourself, and far beyond your abilities. However, He is with you, He has given you His Spirit. Remember, you have the immense power of God residing in you leading you in life and godliness. The Spirit will lead and guide you, He will put you on display for Christ, if you will submit your will to His. Now, let's put some practical legs to these thoughts. We'll be having our initial missions meeting on **Sunday, January 6th at 6pm in the FAC**. This will be an organizational meeting for the different mission opportunities we have in 2019. My prayer is this, that more people than ever will obey God's command to go and serve on mission in this new year. That God will call people who have never stepped out in faith before and gone on a mission trip, to go all in. That God will call those who have been before but the passion for missions has been on the back burner for a while now, and that He will re-light that passion and send them once again. That God will call those who can't physically go, to look for local areas of missions where they can love, serve, and open their mouths for Christ, and also to enable others to go through their obedience in giving. Remember **Romans 10:14-15**; **"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"** These words were written by Paul as he earnestly yearns for his own people, the Israelites, to call on the name of the Lord and be saved even while He is mainly sent to the Gentiles. The application is clear, we need to be a people on mission. This mission is a high calling, an immense blessing, and the greatest thing you can do with your life as a believer. Whether you're a senior adult, a married couple, a single adult, a student, or even a child, come and join us on mission in 2019. God bless,
Drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo

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CHILDREN, LBC



Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

What a wonderful Christmas season we have had at Lakewood! All of the music, festivities, decorations, warm, happy spirits and love, give us so much to be thankful for. Thanks be to God for his gift to us.....Jesus.

Twenty one kids attended our Parents Night Out. The Family Activity Center was filled with joy and laughter as the kids played games with Coach OJ. There was much delight when they saw the gym filled with a rather large blow up slide and a bouncy house It was hard to tell if the kids enjoyed the craft time or game time more. I'm here to say that they were excited about the whole event! We are truly blessed with our faithful servants who volunteered to keep these children safe and entertained. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave precious holiday time to this ministry, helping make it a fun experience. Since the incorporation of music into the AWANA/FLYTE program, it is easy to see how hard the leaders and kidz work with such a short amount of practice time each week. Last Sunday night the kidz sang praises to Jesus and it was clear to see their enjoyment in the songs and was exciting to see that the kidz knew all of the words. Another enjoyable part of last Sunday night was seeing our kidz participate in the orphanage drama. What an excellent presentation and teaching of how everyone is special to God. His love endures forever.

As the New Year is upon us, we are back to our regular schedule of activities. Awana/Flyte resumes Wednesday, January 9th at 5:45. Kidz, take a look to see where you are in your handbooks. In order to finish by the end of the year, you should be approximately half way through your book at this point. The program is based on rewards. Remember, you earn points for various things that may be exchanged for prizes from the Awana Store. We will all work hard together to help you reach your goals. The Awana Store is a great opportunity for the kidz to make prize selections in exchange for points they have earned. These prizes range from the smallest amount of points, to lots of points, offering prizes for all points earned. Anyone who would like to help with the prizes, may do so through donation of items or monetary offerings. The Children's Ministry Leadership Team is meeting this month to make plans for the new year, so be sure to read upcoming Connections newsletters and watch the church bulletins. Our next big event is the annual Awana Lock-In! Please sign up early as you feel led to volunteer at this event. It is one of the favorites of the kidz and they look forward to the sleep over all year.

Happy New Year and may God Bless you.

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Melvin Scroggins:

Amen Choir:

Ben Welman, Lila and Maggie
Terry and Clara Grimes
Fran Loftin
Howard and Dorothy Underwood
Bill and Gail Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Michael May
Bible Fellowship Class of Lakewood
Hammontree Tennis Team, B'ham
Bill and Judy McCarley
Ronnie and June Rice
Class of Central High School 1953
Margie Jackson
United Cities Gas Co., Diplomats Club
Women of Faith Bible Fellowship Class, Lakewood
Lyn Jones
Billy and Annette Phelps
Cecil and Dorothy Robinson
Ken and Janice Noble

Lottie Moon:

Sherry Scroggins
Donnie and Tammy Smith

Challenge to Build:

Myra Currier
Brenda Slappey
J.D. and Diane Whitehead
Fred and Margaret Van Horn

Food Closet:

Billy and Cathy Greene

Homebound:

Clara Jean Watson

Window Repair:

Terry and Clara Grimes

In Memory of Larry Bush:

Fran Loftin for the Food Closet
Clara Jean Watson for the Budget

In Memory of Wallace Brown:

Fran Loftin for Budget
Clara Jean Watson for Homebound Ministry

In Memory of:

Montie and Clide Miller for Lottie Moon from Clara Jean Watson
Glenn Anderson for Budget from Clara Jean Watson
Slade Bush for Budget from Clara Jean Watson
Buddy Jackson for Budget from Clara Jean Watson
Kristi Jones for Budget from Clara Jean Watson
Preston Tillery for Homebound Ministry from Clara Jean Watson
Katie Watson for Lottie Moon from Clara Jean Watson
Nancy Hollon for Budget from Fran Loftin

In Honor of:

Betty Burrows for Homebound from Clara Jean Watson
Cathy Greene, Ruth Drinkard and Vickie Greene for
Challenge to Build from Joyful Servants Bible Fellowship Class

Lakewood Happenings

January 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		New Year's Day Office Closed	No AWANA 7:00pm Church Council Meets			
		1	2	3	4	5
Lord's Supper	10:30am Amen Choir		10:30am VK/WMU 7:00pm Special Finance Meeting Deacon Meeting AWANA/FLYTE Resumes		5:30 Game Night Soup	11:00am H H Ministry FTH
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
6:00pm Church Conference	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW		10:45am Y&YA FTH
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir			SWO College Retreat	SWO College Retreat
SWO College Retreat	27	28	29	30	31	

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/4	\$19,388.60	\$825.00	\$8,023.43	\$2,456.49	\$30,693.52
11/11	\$17,694.81	\$345.00	\$1,500.36	\$2,094.74	\$21,634.91
11/18	\$10,357.01	\$598.67	\$1,357.93	\$1,874.92	\$14,188.53
11/25	\$19,782.61	\$100.00	\$582.40	\$2,839.12	\$23,304.13

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:15am Kidz 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

JANUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

1/2

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

1/9

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

1/16

HAM & TURKEY
DELI SANDWICHES
POTATO SALAD
DESSERT

1/23

TACO SALAD
DESSERT

1/30

VEGETABLE BEEF
SOUP
CORNBREAD
SALAD & DESSERT

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

**WE ARE IN NEED OF
WORKERS IN OUR
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**
CONTACT GINA
GINA@LBCPC.ORG

January Greeters
GAIL BRANTLEY
ROY MCHARGUE

**Check
Bulletin
Board**
**FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS, NEWS**
**ALSO OUR WEBSITE:
lbcpc.org**

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