

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2020

VOL IX: ISSUE 1 LBCPC.ORG

Starting in January "Sunday Night Specials"

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January 5th:

Katie Hamilton performing Original Songs
& Marty Holley - Director of Missions

January 12th:

Deacon Ordination
followed by a reception

January 19:

The Beman Family

January 26th:

Movie Night - Case for Christ

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Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I can't help but believe that by the end of 2020 we are all going to be sick and tired of hearing about 20-20 Vision. I suspect you realize this truth because I have been putting up posters and promoting our 20-20 vision goals for several months and 2020 isn't here as I write you this note. I hope and pray that we will see most if not all those goals met early in the new year so we can get on to what God has for us next. Yes I am already up and running on what's next as this year represents the completion of my seventh year as your pastor on March 10th. The seventh year like the seventh day are special in God's plan for creation and our church so I have been planning this year to be my year of Jubilee. Now I do know the year of Jubilee only happened every 49 years but I don't expect to be here pastoring for 49 years so I am celebrating seven. In Deuteronomy chapter 15, God calls on the people to do something wonderful for their neighbor at the end of seven years and that is to release them from all debt. As I read the text this morning I could not help being mindful of the Lord's prayer where we are challenged to forgive our debtors and this is my dream for the end of my first seven years as your pastor that I might lead us all to cancel out our debts with one another. You see God wanted everyone to have a chance to start all over to be debt free and to know the joy of starting over. Three times in the text God promises to bless us if we do this one thing; cancel out any debt we might be holding against another. Forgiveness is the theme of the text it is the very essence of the text and it is the key to being blessed because it is all about being a blessing. Forgiveness can only come from the victim and then and there the truth of Romans 12:21 comes to life as we are not overcome by evil but we actually overcome evil with good. You see when evil comes it does so with a purpose as part of the plans of our enemy to overcome us. You see if we allow the evil that came upon us to cause us to do evil then we have been overcome by it. But if we obey God and forgive that debt of those who sinned against us we defeat sin and we literally overcome evil with good.

You see I have been pastoring here for nearly seven years now and in that time I am certain to have failed you in some way at some time, some place. Therefore it is right for me to apologize and ask for your forgiveness. Perhaps you have made a mistake some place along the way that affected me and my family so it is also right for me to assure you that I can't remember that for which I have forgiven and I hold no debt against you. I say these things because I see March the 10th, 2020 as a brand new day and a brand new beginning. I plan to launch out that day like I just arrived as your pastor and I plan to start all over like everything is new. Certainly the past seven years have been a blessing but we can't advance the kingdom in the future living in the past. We made some great gains and made some mistakes but through it all God got the glory. Now we must learn from the past and press on to discovering what's next for God's glory in and through this church. I really don't know what's next but I know God knows and when we look up and see Him at work we simply need to join Him and we will be successful in whatever we put our hand too. May the next seven years be even greater than the first and may we start this journey debt free and forgiven.



Ladies Bible Study Opportunity January 14th - March 17th 10am-12pm

JESUS

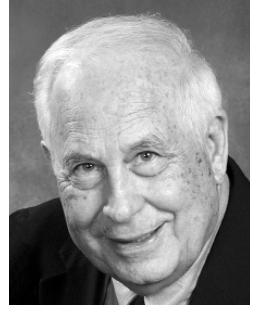
THE ONE AND ONLY

BETH MOORE



Please Sign Up or Call the church office if you plan to attend

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Not a one of us knows what will happen in our lives throughout the year we are just beginning. Twelve months from now our hopes and plans may be shattered, or they may be wondrously fulfilled beyond our wildest expectations. However, the Bible shows us how we can live victoriously every day, even in the face of the unknown. The crossing of Israel through the swollen waters of the Jordan River, recorded in the third chapter of Joshua, provides us with an object lesson in how we are to face this year. In verse 4 Joshua reminds the people that they “have not passed this way before,” that is, they were about to enter uncharted territory. That phrase graphically describes the adventure of daily living. No one knows what a day may bring. Each day is unexplored territory. No one has ever lived it before, and for that reason, life is a terrifying undertaking for many people.

Joshua gave the secret of daily victorious living in verse 3, when he commanded the people to keep their eyes on the Ark of the Covenant and follow it. They had been in possession of the Ark all through the years of bitter wilderness wanderings, but there had been no victory. But on this day, something had changed, and that was the position of the Ark. Before, it had been in their midst, but now it was at their head. The Ark had always gone with the people, but now they were to go with the Ark. God commanded them not to move until they saw the Ark. They were to keep it in sight all the time and follow it.

The Old Testament Ark was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Ark of the New Covenant. You may possess Him, but what position does He hold in your life? It’s one thing to accept the Lordship of Christ as an article of faith, but quite another thing to accept it as the dominant, practical force in your life. Does Christ control your actions, attitudes, and affections in all of life’s circumstances?

In Joshua 3:3-4 God told Israel to keep the Ark in front of them at a distance of about four and a half football fields, “that you may know the way by which you must go.” In other words, the Ark was to be clearly visible to them at all times, and nothing was to come between it and the people. If they lost view of the Ark, there would be total confusion, and every Israelite, without knowing it, would end up following the person in front of him. That very thing is happening today among God’s people who have allowed other attractions block their view of Christ.

We are beginning a journey into unknown territory, but we really don’t need to know where we’re headed or how we’ll get there. We only need to follow the Ark. Keeping our eyes on Jesus means we depend upon Him. We count on His ability, not our inability, realizing that the power of God negates the problems of man. Keeping our eyes on Jesus also means that we focus our attention on Him and not on the hindrances. When God called Abraham, He told him nothing about the location. If He had revealed to Abraham the final destination, Abraham would have done all the research available to him concerning the country, the route, the climate, the culture, the accommodations, the economy, and everything else that might make him feel secure. But since God alone knew the destination, Abraham had to keep his eyes on God.

God may not give you all the details of this year, but you can be certain that He already has those details planned, and He will lead you every step of the way as you follow the Ark.



A Message from Andrew Spires



January is our “all-in” month for missions, when a commitment and deposit are due to go and serve the Lord this summer. As I was praying for God’s people to respond to the call to missions, I began to think about how much missions has changed over the years. So many churches are now seeing the desperate need to be involved in local, stateside, and global missions. Whereas, in years past, only an offering was taken once or twice a year and sent to the convention to provide the resources for missionaries to do the work. This was the limit of most churches involvement with evangelism and service outside their four walls. Now, don’t get me wrong, I have no issue with collecting a bi-annual offering for missionaries and sending it to the denomination to administrate, but an honest reflection and examination of the Word of God clearly shows that we are ALL to be disciples who are making other disciples (Matt. 28:19). For most churches, it was only their most zealous members who took the initiative to seek out and go on a foreign or stateside mission trip. Today, missions are a normative part of most thriving churches, and have even become the driving force behind the scenes of the church. This God-honoring desire to be more outwardly focused (over inward focused) is becoming more and more prevalent today. Still, with all the advances in missions there’s a delineation that needs to be addressed, that is the difference between service and evangelism. These two done right, can complement each other, but done wrong, it is also possible to have a mission effort that in no way advances the Gospel. Look around our country at the many philanthropic organizations that mobilize at times of disaster and need. Many of these organizations have roots in Christianity, but have drifted from their original purpose of advancing the Gospel. In fact, many of the people who serve in these organizations are not Christians at all, but simply like to serve their fellow man. I happened to be flying back into town last year after the tornadoes hit that ravaged our area. At the same time, one such organization was flying folks in to serve in our community during that time of disaster. As I eavesdropped on their conversation, these middle-aged adults seemed more interested in the local bar scene than in serving others!?! So, you definitely don’t have to be a Christian to serve other people. I have been leading mission trips all over creation for the last 20+ years, and over that time span, I’ve realized people often go for various reasons; some good, and some not so good. Some go because they want a ‘missi-vacation’, they want to experience another part of the world, they like the real-ness aspect of missions, and if you can sprinkle a little Jesus on top of it, it makes them feel good. Others, especially the younger crowd, can go for the photo-op. They like to take their selfies with impoverished kids in picturesque places, so others can see all the “good” they are doing, and it makes them feel good. Then there’s the service-minded person, who is task oriented and likes to serve other people. They like to accomplish a work, using their God-given talents to serve someone with their field of expertise, in the hopes that it opens a door for the Gospel to spread, which makes them feel good. Finally, (and far fewer in number) there are the people who go on a mission trip to actually tell people about Jesus. Their purpose as soon as their feet hit the ground is to evangelize, and the success of their trip is measured by converts and/or the number of seeds planted. I say all this because it is easy to be cause-oriented over being Christ-oriented, and there’s a BIG difference in a service trip and a mission trip. It’s always easier to get behind a cause, to raise funds, and meet a need. Why? Because once you’ve completed the task, you can call it finished, you feel good, and you move on. Evangelism is much more difficult, once you tell someone about Christ, and they become a believer, the hard work of discipleship has just begun. For this reason, every mission trip we are involved in must be tied to a local church. Otherwise, we’ve just introduced them to Christ, and left them to figure out the rest alone. While there are a few converts who may survive alone, most of the time, that fruit will die on the vine if not fostered. Another key component of every one of our mission trips is that they must entail both service and evangelism. James 2:14-19 states that our faith is proved out by our deeds/works, and that they are inseparable. How can we tell someone about Jesus, meet their spiritual needs, and then not meet their physical needs too? The opposite is also true, how can we serve someone’s physical needs but never address their spiritual condition? These two are inextricably tied together, but our utmost goal must be to lead people to repentance and belief in Christ, otherwise our efforts won’t last or truly make a difference. Jesus modeled this out for us. Jesus showed us His commitment to the message and His compassion for people in the miraculous feeding of the five-thousand. Did you know it is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels? Jesus showed His care and concern by first explaining the Truth about God, and then He performed a miracle to quench their physical hunger. We have numerous N.T. commands and examples (Acts 2:42-47, 2 Cor. 8:1-15, Col. 3:12,17, Philippians 2:1-3, James 1:27, etc.) of helping those in need, especially within our fellowship of believers, but also to all those in need. We should show the difference Christ has made in our lives in word and in deed.

My hope is to take as many people, of all generations, on missions, because I know and have seen the difference it makes in a believer’s life. No one is too young or too old to go and serve the Lord, there is always some way to be used by Him for His glory. Please examine your heart, if you weren’t planning on going this year, tell God you’re willing and ask Him to make a way. If you’re already planning to go, make sure your intentions and goals line up with His. If you’re unable to go, for whatever reason, please prayerfully consider going in the future, and support others who are going this year. God wants to put each of us on display for Him in our everyday life, both here, there, and around the world. God bless,
drew

A Message from David Stephens



CHILDREN, LBC

I am honored and my family and I cannot wait to land for real in Alabama. To begin with, I'm a very open transparent person. My door is open. My heart is to serve families and people in need. A little bit about me for introduction. I grew up in Dunlap, Illinois which is a small farming community outside of Peoria, Illinois. My father moved to this part of the country to help a college friend start a church. It was a small conservative church. I accepted salvation in junior high. My relationship with Jesus began after returning from church camp the summer before 7th grade, and I was baptized the following summer. I graduated from high-school in 1999. We were the Eagles. I played the trumpet in band, but I was a better athlete. My junior year we came in 3rd at our state Cross Country meet. I attended Illinois State University where I met my wife. We met in our last semester in January, started dating in February, engaged in August, and married the following March. That was over 15 years ago. In 2006 when our daughter was born, I became a stay at home dad and I went back to school to work on my masters at Liberty University part time. 4 yrs later, God continued to direct my education, and I transferred into the Seminary at Liberty to complete my degree. After finishing school, I interned at Mission Community Church in Gilbert, AZ where I had two amazing men who mentored me in counseling, recovery, prayer, and family ministry. God then led us to Passages Christian Fellowship, where I was the Director of Children's ministry bi-vocational for 3 years. I am super excited about what God has in store for me and my family at Lakewood. No Joke, when we got back to Arizona, Lesley's first comment was the desire to just put the kids in the car and start driving east. So, with that being said to know me, you have to know about my crew and the most important member of my crew is my wife.

My wife Lesley is my best friend. She helps me, supports me, is the mother of our four amazing kids. When I have dreams of ministry grandeur she helps me to be realistic. She challenges me. She helps me to be a better Christian, a better leader, a better father, friend and son. My wife is a truth teller. We have a ball doing premarital counseling together. She will tell young couples the reality of being married and call them out to cut the garbage, step up, get a job, stop the emotional rollercoaster, then I come in as the care listener counselor. These couples don't know what hit them, but when we get through with them they are ready to be married. Lesley is a gifted teacher, leader, and singer. My wife and I are a team, and our heart is to serve this community with our best. Lesley is my better half, and I know that when you all get to know her, you will see the gem that she is.

Lesley and I are parents to four amazing children. Our oldest is Rebekah. She is 13, and she loves to read, sing, and can run with all the boys. Rebekah is a prayer warrior beyond her years. She is the one who will notice the person in the room who is alone and go up and talk to them. Her heart for helping people is genuine and she already has a developing calling into mission related service. She is a gifted singer, and has been singing in the Phoenix Girls Chorus for the past 3 years. She also likes team sports. Rebekah is a growing talent in writing, she has a vivid imagination and enjoys putting it into words. She is a natural leader, and serves with passion in every setting she gets involved with.

Micah is 11. This kid is our techie child. He loves video games, and is learning how to 'code'. Micah is more introverted, and he enjoys individual sports. I'm getting him into running, which he is liking. Micah is good at math, and editing videos on the computer. He has ideas and has started his own YouTube channel with his brothers. He likes to make videos. Micah likes to build things and he likes doing crafts. He started his own 'poop scooping' business in our neighborhood. Micah also loves to cook, and enjoys spending time in the kitchen.

Caleb is 9. Caleb is our child who has the ability to care for the heart of people. He sees the need and is able to show compassion beyond his age. Other kids are attracted to him, he has no idea the influence he has on the people around him. Caleb is very good with animals, and his work ethic is amazing. He loves working with his hands, and he has spent some time working on a ranch with horses. Caleb is constantly moving and can be a bit messy at times. Caleb being our middle child likes to joke around a lot. He likes to box and enjoys getting his energy out on the heavy bag we have set up in our garage. He is good at math, and loves building things. Caleb also likes drawing, and acting for his brother's Youtube channel.

Eli is 7. He loves everything regarding school and learning. Eli is good at sports, he loves riding his bike, and competing with his brothers. Eli is also a bit of a techie and is beginning to get into computer programming at his level with his brother Micah. Eli quickly learns math concepts and is good at memorization. Eli will make me lose my already gray hair, as he is our daredevil. He loves to climb anything. Eli likes to draw, and he creates his own comic books. Eli also loves making the Youtube videos with his brothers.

Our crew is super excited about Alabama. All of my children love spending time in the Bible. When we do our bible lessons, it is the best time of the day. As a father, one of the most precious times I get to experience is when, I come home from work and my kids are excited about what they learned from bible time.

I cannot forget about Tyson. He is 2 yrs old now. He is our rescue dog. We think he is a german shepherd/rhodesian ridgeback mix. He is super high energy, and is all about the tennis ball. He is a talker, and his bark is loud.

Our home is loud. We all work hard, but we have a lot of fun doing it. Our heart is that our home as busy as it may seem to be, is a place of warmth to all who enter. A place where God is known as soon as you enter. A place where people can be comforted and encouraged.

I am excited for the challenges that lie ahead as I move my family into this new adventure. Lakewood and the team here have been super gracious to Lesley and I. Our families are excited for us, and even with the separation they are anxious for us to step into the calling that God has for us. These past couple of weeks I have challenged my children to be praying for their future friends in Alabama. I am excited to know you, and for you to know me. I am excited to dream big with the children ministry team, and work hard to serve Lakewood Children's ministry. I'm excited to get together with kids leadership, and strategies about how we can take what is done here to another level.

Another thing about me, I have a life verse. My life verse is Micah 6:8. 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God. To act justly takes on the idea to do the just thing the right thing. It takes on the concept of missions to the less fortunate in our world. To love mercy, takes on being the embodiment of charity to others, loving others as Christ did and caring for people in their mess. Walking humbly with God takes on the notion of coming alongside our brothers and sister in Christ in community with God as our guide. This is what the Lord requires of us. When we do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly we will see people in a new light, we will be sensitive to the needs of all that are around us. We will desire to go, or support those that go on missions. We will not be isolated. Our groups will work well together under the authority of God and his word. You will probably see this verse as a tag line on any email from me.

I cannot help it. I get amped up when I think about what God is doing, and what he is about to do in the life of our church. It's a new decade. We are at a time when the church needs to rise up and develop leaders that are able to withstand the devil's assaults. This begins with our children, as they are the next generation of leaders. Why shouldn't these leaders be men and women on fire for God, and able to defend the Gospel? In all sincerity my heart is to serve the families of our church as best as I can, to serve you the volunteer, to be your advocate, your support in our church and surrounding community.

Yes, we are all excited, and we serve a big God whose desire for our good is endless. There will be challenges, but we were made for this, for this time, and for this people.

In Memory of:

Esther Benton:

Cecil and Dorothy Robinson for Amen Choir
Ken and Janice Noble for Challenge to Build
Jerry and Sheila Barbaree for Challenge to Build
Margaret Wilson for Food Bank
Jack and Pam Tinkler for Food Bank

Howard Underwood from Donnie and Tammy Smith for Circles of Influence

Wilbur Kilcrease from Janet Turner for Homebound Ministry

Vincent M. Currier from Myra Currier for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

In Honor of:

J. P. Benton from Terry and Clara Grimes for Circle of Influence
Charles Keown from Cecil and Dorothy Robinson for Amen Choir
Dr. Jerry Horner from Margaret Wilson for Medical Expenses
Bill Tidwell from Terry and Clara Grimes for Food Closet
Margaret Wilson and Flower and Decorating Committee from Brenda Slappey for Lottie Moon
Carolyn Pruski from Margaret Wilson for Food Bank
Janet Ormond from Women of Faith Sunday School Class for Lottie Moon

From Cathy Greene's Sunday School Class - In Honor of:

Cathy Greene
Pattee Carroll
Ruth Drinkard
Margaret Wilson
Vicki Green

Fill a bottle, save a life!



Return Bottles January 19th

Sanctity of Life Sunday



Baby Bottle Boomerang

Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic offers women of our community pregnancy testing, confirmation ultrasounds when medically necessary and pregnancy education.

Sound Choices also offers free birthing classes to prepare for labor and delivery and parenting classes to prepare for a new baby. The parenting classes offer rewards of baby items and help in getting the new baby's needs met. Abortion Recovery Support is offered as a safe place for women to address their individual experience with abortion, & find the support they need. This service is for women who need to talk to someone in a loving & non-judgmental environment. All these services are free of charge, confidential, and available to anyone.

Please take a baby bottle and fill it up with change (and possibly cash or check) to offer hope to someone in need any of these services.

Lakewood Happenings

January 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			Happy New Year Office Closed			
			1	2	3	4
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting AWANA resumes	6:00pm Men's Coffee & Conversation	5:30pm Game Night	11:00am HHMinistry FTH
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lord's Supper 6:00pm Deacon Ordination	10:30am Amen Choir	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sanctity of Life Sunday Baby Bottles Due	10:30am Amen Choir	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/ BW		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10:30am Amen Choir	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Church Council Meeting			
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
11/3	\$20,911.09	\$855.00	\$4,204.11	\$175.83	\$26,146.03
11/10	\$19,218.75	\$433.59	\$7,297.57	\$4,885.01	\$31,834.92
11/17	\$16,725.77	\$523.67	\$3,310.30	\$74.08	\$20,633.82
11/24	\$14,597.21	\$185.00	\$2,519.18	\$3,972.10	\$21,273.49

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:00am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

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

1/1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

1/8

HAMBURGER
 STEAK
 RICE & GRAVY
 GREENS
 ROLLS, SALAD
 DESSERT

1/15

BEEF VEGETABLE
 SOUP
 CORNBREAD
 SALAD & DESSERT

1/22

GRILLED PORK
 CHOP
 BAKED POTATO
 GREEN BEANS
 ROLLS, SALAD
 & DESSERT

1/29

FRIED CHICKEN
 MACARONI &
 CHEESE
 BROCCOLI SALAD
 ROLLS, SALAD &
 DESSERT

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

WELCOME
 NEW MEMBERS

TOMIKO & NAOMI
 MASUOKA

January Greeters

GAIL BRANTLEY
 ROY MCHARGUE

Check
 Bulletin
 Board

FOR
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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