

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2019

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*Welcome Home.*



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

July brings with it warmer weather which down here in Alabama means hot weather. It also brings with it mission trips and vacations and weekly attempts on our part to find enough workers to fill in all the gaps in the wall, so to speak. It is a month that in many ways reminds me of the great state of Kansas. It is often something you just have to get through to get where you want to be. But just like Kansas July has a lot to offer if you just slow down and look for the reason God created it in the first place.

Have you ever stopped and ask yourself why God made summer so hot and winter so cold when He could have made every day the same? The fact that I obviously have shows once again that your suspicion that I may be just a little different has been confirmed once again and I agree. So please follow along and ask yourself why? Why are there seasons like Spring and Summer, Winter and Fall? Because God is a God of seasons and all of creation has at its core reason for existence the purpose of helping us to better understand His invisible qualities, His nature and eternal power. (Rom. 1:19&20) In our understanding and appreciation of creation we come to know and understand the creator of all things, God Himself. God made Kansas and Summer and He said it was good. Yes, I am trying as hard as I can to just get through it and in so doing I am missing out on why God wanted me to see and experience it in the first place. I have often found myself longing for something so badly in my future that I was wishing away the days I had before me. I am often times so focused on the destination that I can't or don't enjoy the journey that takes me there. I see the days between those destinations as days to be gotten through and in so doing I fail to look for and find the blessings God has for me along the way. I have seldom found what I wasn't looking for and the journey of my life has been marked for the most part by only the destinations I was able to accomplish. I fear that I am not alone and many of us share this same reality when we travel through life believing it will be so great once we get where we are going that we fail to appreciate and look for the blessing right where we are. Answer just this one question for me today. Did you wake up today expecting a blessing and have you been anxiously awaiting and looking for it all day? Or did you wake up today and set your sails to get through it so you can get to the place you want to be in the near future? Did you get up wishing your life away or wishing this day could go on forever? After all God did say I know the plans I have for you and His plan was to bless you. So surely you woke up expecting Him to do just what He said? If not, why not? Because we don't look for what we don't expect to find and we don't expect to find it in Kansas or in July.

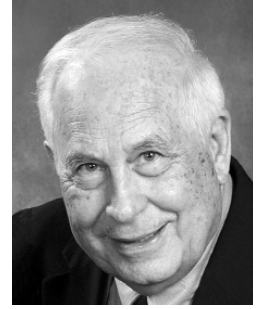
I understand as I am right here with you so please don't allow the 20/20 Vision campaign to become a dream so sweet that we fail to enjoy the journey and blessings along the way. I presented this truth in the letter I sent to each home and repeat it here that the toughest part of long term planning is fighting the urge to get to all those places today. One by one we address each goal and day by day we will look for all the blessings we never dreamed of along the way. All the days between today and the day we accomplish every goal is promised to be a blessing and He who promised is faithful. Now I need to get back to trying to get through July.

On July 8 at 6:30 p.m., Dr. Horner will begin a class entitled  
"The Spirit and the Church: the Message of Acts."

The study will show how the Holy Spirit empowered early witnesses to overcome spiritual and cultural barriers to spread the gospel in fulfilling the Great Commission and how the book of Acts is a biblical blueprint for the life and ministry of the church today.



# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

In 1776 the founding fathers of our nation gathered in Philadelphia to write an audacious declaration destined to change the course of history. They proposed an experiment dedicated to the possibility of a society governed by ordinary citizens that would give full expression to the ideals of liberty, justice, and opportunity for everyone. The document they wrote can rightly be called the birth certificate of the United States of America. Its declaration that all men are created equal and that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed contradicted at least 5,000 years of human history. Equality and consent of the governed were radical, new, powerful, and revolutionary ideas. The legacy of those founding fathers is a nation blessed with a freedom that few nations have ever known.

One all-important line of the declaration states that the equality of people is based on the fact "that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." The members of that Continental Congress wisely understood that our freedoms are a gift of God, not a grant from the government. I truly believe that those great men did not conceive of a time when the citizens of the new nation would question that conviction. In his farewell address, George Washington stated very clearly that a godless people cannot remain a free people. Yet, many national voices are trying to convince us that political freedom means freedom from religion. They tell us that references to God and faith have no place in political discussions. Their view of history is that the founding fathers were secular politicians who put God off limits in matters of government. Anybody who can read on a second grade level knows that such teaching is a big lie. To a man the framers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution anchored their convictions about liberty in a firm belief in the authority of the Creator.

Our founding fathers also believed that political freedom could not exist without moral freedom. True freedom is not freedom to do anything and everything. True freedom cannot endure without self-control. Our second president, John Adams, said, "It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue." Adams also wrote, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

The father of our constitution, James Madison, wrote: "We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." Madison and the other founders believed that the laws of God lead to moral freedom. Contrary to what a lot of contemporary voices would have you believe, God's laws are not walls that confine, but fences that protect. True freedom comes from living within the reality of God's physical and moral design. Ignoring God's limits is not freedom; it is self-destruction.

More than 200 years ago the noted historian Alexander Fraser Tytler gave a chilling warning that democracies fall, not from outside conquest, but from internal decay. Here is what he wrote: "The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been about 200 years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependency; from dependency back to bondage." Think about it.



# A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

## BELIZE 2019





# A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC

God is so good! Our children's ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, just as Brother M.R. reflects in his 2020 Vision Statement. With the relentless effort from the 86 volunteers we were blessed by for VBS, we rallied with an all time high attendance record on the first evening! What a group. . . 119 kidz and 86 workers in His house hearing His word and loving on one another, just as God likes it. The results were only possible because the workers really dug in deep, making sure our goal was met. Thank you for all who participated. It is a huge group effort and for that I thank each and every one of you for every single thing you did, small or large, you made a huge difference in our VBS.

WHAT HAPPENED? I cannot believe the year is half over. We have already finished AWANA, Vacation Bible School, are about to send about 30 kidz to MERGE Camp at Shocco Springs for the second year, we are in the midst of Wet Wednesdays, and AWANA and FLYTE start just around the corner.

Wet Wednesdays are a highlight of the summer months. With the blessings of the CDC, we are able to enjoy the huge water slide on the back lawn on alternating Wednesdays. The other weeks, we are blessed with members who offer their residential pools for our enjoyment. We gather in the Adult Building, first door on the right on the second floor (entering from the front of the building). Please meet us there so we can go as a group to the pool or water slide. Wet Wednesdays are from 5:45—7:00. Water slide dates are July 3, 17, 31 and Pool dates are July 10, 24, August 7, 14. All children who are not swimmers must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian to participate in Wet Wednesdays. Please bring towels and appropriate shoes.

Coming up in the ministry:

Merge Campers . . . July 15—18

Wet Fest Family Day 5:45 pm—7:00 pm (front lawn of church) . . .August 21

Awana and Flyte resume 5:45—7:00 pm . . .September 4

Fall Festival 4:00—6:00 pm . . . October 27

Parents Night Out 6:00—9:00 pm. . . December 6

Nursing Home Ministry 5:45—7:00 pm . . . December 11 and 18

Winter Break . . . No Awana or Flyte December 25 and January 1st

We seek God's guidance as we pray that He sends us an abundance of workmen so we may fulfill the needs of every child in this ministry, as we reach out to the community to find those who are lost and share God's word and love with them. Please contact Gina Fusillo with any questions you might have about volunteering in the children's ministry.

God Bless,

Gina

Lakewood Patriotic Celebration  
Sunday, July 14th @ 6pm in the FAC  
John Giles will be our Grill Master preparing Boston Butts  
Hot Dogs & Chips for the children  
We need you to bring the Fixins

# Lakewood Medley

## In Memory of:

Steve Hawkins for Builders for Christ:

Billy and Cathy Greene

Steve & Margie Argo

Jackie and Family Rex

Phillips Homes, Inc.

Lakewood Baptist Church

Steve Hawkins for Amen Choir:

Terry and Clara Grimes

Evelyn Hardy for Amen Choir:

Fred and Margaret Van Horn

C. Thomas and Brenda Wright

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Norris

Mike Hardy's Sunday School Class, North Shelby Baptist Church Chelsea, AL

## OASIS '19

A refreshing event for senior adults & their friends

Friday, July 12th - First Baptist Church - Tallassee , AL

Leave Church @ 12:00

Cost is \$30 which includes Event,

Lunch at Ole Times Country Buffet, and Bus

Your Host and Worship Leader is Frank Jones

Special Guests include:

Paid In Full - Gospel Trio

Debbie Childers - Comedian

Bob Smith - Tenor Soloist

## Ladies Ministry is having Christmas in July

Join us for our

3rd Annual Cookie/Candy Swap/Dinner

Benefiting Operation Christmas Child

Thursday, July 18th @ 6:30pm

Bring your favorite cookie or candy & the recipe to share

We will also be collecting items for OCC boxes and postage for boxes. (\$9 each)

Sign up sheet available in your bible fellowship class

or by calling the church office.

# Lakewood Happenings

## July 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Church Council Meet	Independence Day Office closed	10:00am Breakfast Club	11:00am H/H Ministry FTH
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Lord's Supper	6:30pm Dr.Horner Class upstairs South Building		7:00pm Deacon Meeting		12:00pm Oasis'19" FBC-Tallasse	10:00am Women's Craft Class in FAC
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6:00pm Church-wide Patriotic Fellowship in FAC	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class upstairs South Building	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting	6:30pm Cookie & Candy Swap / OCC Postage	10:00am Breakfast Club	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
6:00pm Church Conference	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class upstairs South Building	6:30pm Alleluia Choir			10:00am Breakfast Club 4:30pm Red Door Theatre	10:45am Y&SA FTH
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr.Horner Class upstairs South Building	6:30pm AlleluiaChoir				
28	29	30	31			

## May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
5/5	\$22,230.75	\$325.00	\$9,632.16	\$2,610.33	\$34,798.24
5/12	\$16,022.98	\$710.00	\$2,286.54	\$723.83	\$19,743.35
5/19	\$14,300.63	\$178.67	\$5,752.39	\$1,874.83	\$22,106.52
5/26	\$21,428.73	\$170.00	\$4,217.74	\$1,347.11	\$22,233.00

### 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 Wet Wednesday
- 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

## JULY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 7/3

TACO SALAD  
DESSERT

### 7/10

PORK LOIN  
BAKED POTATO  
GREEN BEANS  
ROLLS, SALAD  
& DESSERT

### 7/17

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

### 7/24

FRIED CHICKEN  
MAC & CHEESE  
SWEET PEAS  
ROLLS, SALAD &  
DESSERT

### 7/31

SPAGHETTI  
SALAD  
GARLIC BREAD  
DESSERT

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

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

PATTEE CARROLL  
SYLVIA HUGGINS

### July Greeters

MERITA NORRIS  
SARA BUSH

### Check Bulletin Board

FOR  
THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS, NEWS  
ALSO OUR WEBSITE: [lb-cpc.org](http://lb-cpc.org)

#### MINISTERIAL STAFF

**MR Hamilton**  
PASTOR  
[BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG)

**Charles Keown**  
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
[CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG)

**Andrew Spires**  
STUDENTS & SINGLES  
[ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG)

**Patrick Thornton**  
FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES  
[PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG)

**Gina Fusillo**  
CHILDREN  
[GINA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:GINA@LBCPC.ORG)

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE  
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867  
O: 334.298.6433  
F: 334.298.4873  
FAC: 334.298.6460  
LBCPC.ORG  
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

**Jerry Horner**  
DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH  
[HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM)

OFFICE STAFF  
**Onezima Everitt**  
FINANCE ASSISTANT  
[ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG)

**Carol Breault**  
OFFICE ASSISTANT  
[CAROL@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CAROL@LBCPC.ORG)

**Linda Keown**  
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA  
[LINDA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:LINDA@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Cabbi Evans**  
DIRECTOR  
[CABBI@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CABBI@LBCPC.ORG)

**Tammy Stephens**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.  
[TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
O: 334.298.6461  
LBCPC.ORG/CDC  
HOURS: M-F 6:30AM-6:00PM

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