

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



JULY CONNECTIONS

Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

As I begin to write this message the Rocky Mountains are in my near future as I leave in a few days for the Builders For Christ trip to Wyoming. My mind runs through the memories I have of the area surrounding Gillette as I spent a great deal of time there. Places like Devils Tower where we skydived on the weekends. I can't help but smile when I remember Katie and I wondering about our chances of seeing a buffalo when we visited Custer State Park. Trust me you can't keep from seeing them as they have figured out that walking down the road is a very good way to get around the park. I can remember trying to get a picture of the mountain goats when we visited Mt. Rushmore. It took me some time to get them away from the parking lot where they were enjoying snacks from the tourist. I can still remember talking to a rancher named Mark Largent from Kaycee about driving over to Gillette to do a bible study at the fire house in Faith community. It was a small group of ladies who longed for a church where there was none and he agreed to make the drive for a little while to help out. Friends, that was 14 years ago and we are on our way to build onto the church that sits just across the road from that fire house. This will be the third building project in those 14 years and yes that same rancher from Kaycee Wyoming is still driving over there to help them out. You see the things that the folks from Wyoming take for granted we could never begin to imagine. The drive from Kaycee to Faith community is only 135 miles! That would be the same thing as my pastoring a church in Florida, or east of Atlanta. Can you imagine the IRS auditor who looks over his travel miles! I am really excited to see those ladies who met with me so many years ago and dreamed of a church in Faith Community. Perhaps those memories along side of today's realities are exactly the reason why God takes us back so often in our lives. To show us just how far we have come, and just what has happened to our dreams so long ago. I know it encourages me to keep on dreaming, and it also makes me wish I had dreamed bigger dreams back then.

Life often times reminds me of climbing a mountain. It's difficult and sometimes dangerous, breathtaking and full of surprises. There you discover that you can climb up what you can't climb down, and soon you discover that you can't go back the way you came. You make some of the greatest discoveries in the most unlikely of places, and you just sit and wonder if you may be the only one to have ever known it. I can remember a wild strawberry patch I came upon one day near a spring in an opening in the aspens high in the Sangre DeCristo Mountains. A beautiful cinnamon colored black bear had shown me the place, I had seen him there once before earlier that week from the mountain across a narrow rocky canyon. I can remember wondering how he had gotten there as I had often tried to reach those aspens that set like an island in the middle of a sea of ragged stone. I did finally find the way and as I neared the clearing I could smell why the bear was there. Wild strawberries, they have little in common with the hybrid versions you get in the store. They are tiny little berries but what they lack in size they more than make up for in taste and aroma. I spent the day there wondering if the bear and I were the only ones to ever drink from the spring and feast on its berries. I have often found myself there when my mind drifts back to life's wonderful places. I'm so glad I kept trying until I found the way up that mountain.

Today I find myself struggling to climb a very different mountain. But just like the mountains of my youth they inspire me to climb higher and never stop dreaming, to look back and see how far I have come so that I will never stop believing there has to be a way. Knowing with all my heart that the discovery at the end of the journey will be as sweet and refreshing as that mountain spring and those wild strawberries. From time to time it really is good to look back. I know when I look back my life ahead suddenly looks a lot better.

**The pictures seen during the Builders for Christ Service
can be viewed on our website
LBCPC.org / hover over the Ministry tab
find Mission Trips and follow Builders for Christ page**

Charles Keown

I will sing to the Lord

Worship



Glorify the Lord with me,
Let us exalt his name together.

PSALMS 34:3

**Interested in Exalting His Name?
Check out these opportunities!**

**Youth Choir / Sunday afternoon @ 5:00 pm
Amen Choir - Monday morning @ 10:30 am
Alleluia Choir - Tuesday night @ 6:30 pm
Orchestra Rehearsal - Wednesday night @ 6:00 pm**

Patrick Thornton

Children are a gift from God

The month of June began with “Journey off the Path”, our 2015 Vacation Bible School in which the kids learned that obedience to God can lead them beyond the expected. Our key verse for the week was Isaiah 30:21-“And whenever you turn to the right or to the left, you ears will hear this command behind you: ‘This is the way. Walk in it.’” With a total enrollment of over 120 kids, VBS 2015 was a tremendous success, utilizing the time and talents of 74 volunteers who did everything from cooking the meals to registering the children. Worship rally leaders Shaun and Cassie Culligan had the kids on their feet and praising God every night while our kitchen team kept us nourished and energized with their delicious dinners. Julie Pelletier and Beth Hedges and their crafts teams kept little hands busy creating cool crafts, and Coach OJ, Josh Henderson and Cullen Favors and the games teams played awesome games in what was mostly favorable weather. A special thanks to everyone who had any part in providing this life-changing VBS to our kids and community-you have been a blessing to many!

As we move into July, we will continue “Wet Wednesdays.” Each Wednesday K-6th graders will have a time of devotion, meeting in the children’s church room at 5:45, and then we will head to some type of “wet” activity. Please make sure you wear your swimsuits and bring a towel! Preschoolers are also welcome if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Also, if your child is not an accomplished swimmer, he needs to have a parent/guardian present throughout the activity.

To know Him and make Him known

If you have ever watched *Family Feud* you have surely heard some dumb answers. During the \$20,000 portion of a program recently, the two contestants were asked to name a holiday that featured a parade. One of them named Gay Pride Day and the other one named Halloween. Whatever happened to July 4th, which, by the way, was not the top answer? More than showing stupidity, this incident is a sad revelation of the attitudes of a generation that prefers public opinion to biblical teaching and revises American history to promote political correctness.

The relevance of the scriptures to our times is a constant amazement to me, and this includes the answer to the question of the relationship of the church and the state. Matthew 22:15-21 records the efforts of a political group called the Herodians to entrap Jesus in this very matter. Jesus knew that these people were hypocrites with an axe to grind and with no desire to find the truth. You will never learn the truth about the separation of church and state from some hypocritical axe-grinding politician, and neither will you find it from the ungodly, the humanist, the atheist, those who hate God and the Bible. The answer to the debate between church and state, as well as the answer to all other moral, social, political and economic questions, is in God's holy word.

The men who framed our constitution were men whose lives had been saturated in the Bible, and in the light of their biblical knowledge, they wrote the beautiful, concise and very plain words of the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." There is to be in the United States of America no state church, but on the other hand, the state is never to put a bridle upon the church, never to proscribe our right to worship God according to the dictates of our conscience, and never to abridge our freedom of speech.

However, never in their wildest dreams did they intend what we call the separation of church and state to mean the separation of God from the government. As a matter of fact, when they declared the independence of their new nation, they wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men . . . are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights." Our founding fathers said, "We're not even going to argue about the fact that God gives you rights and the government recognizes them." Therefore, we live in the heritage of a belief in God, and when Congress convenes to make our laws, they begin with prayer to God for His wisdom and direction. We have written on our money, "In God We Trust," and when we pledge allegiance to the flag, we say, "One nation under God." In 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of prayer and fasting in which he called for confession of sin and repentance. In that proclamation, he wrote, "It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God."

There have always been those who do not want God to have anything to do with the government and to rule in the affairs of men, and they want to throw off what they consider to be the yoke and bondage of God. The second Psalm speaks of such people: "Why do the heathen rage, and the people plot a vain thing" (that is, something they are not able to do)? "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds to pieces and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision" (Psalm 2:1-4). When somebody says he's going to separate God from government, God just laughs at him, because it cannot be done. The Bible says of the Lord Jesus, "The government will be upon His shoulder" (Isaiah 9:6). You cannot take God from government and expect to have a sane civilization anymore than you could take notes from a piano and expect to have music.

Do not listen to those who tell us that because of the separation of church and state Christians are not supposed to say anything. On the contrary, a part of "rendering unto Caesar that which belongs to Caesar" includes a forthright and clear declaration of biblical principles to our leaders. Nathan preached to King David and warned him about his sins. Elijah troubled Israel and rebuked King Ahab. Eleazar spoke to King Jehosophat, Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, Moses to Pharaoh, and we need to speak to our government. They need to hear a "thus says the Lord" on all issues, and God will hold us accountable if we are silent.

Martin Niemoller was a pastor in Nazi Germany who was imprisoned because of his preaching. He later wrote these words: "First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a communist; then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a socialist; then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out, because I was not a trade unionist; then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out, because I was not a Jew; then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me." It's time for God's people to speak out, to open the Bible as they did in the foundation of this nation, and to declare boldly, "Thus says the Lord?" When you vote, don't vote party, person, policy; vote principle. Say to the candidates, "If you live and govern by biblical principles, I'll stand behind you. If you don't, you'll not have my vote." It's not a matter of parties; it's not a matter of policies; it's not a matter of personality; it's a matter of divine principle.

Shaping the future

Well, it's finally here, our Belize mission trip is upon us and we can't wait to serve the Belizeans July 12th-18th. We have been praying and planning for this trip since November of last year and it is always surreal as our leave date approaches. Our mission team of twenty-six will join with over twenty from other churches to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Belize. In the past, our children's and medical teams have been based out of a local school where we set up VBS and a medical clinic. Since we are going in July, and schools are already out, we decided to change it up. This year, we will go from place to place and do village ministry. Our first couple of days will be spent at the mission complex which is a clearing in the jungle alongside a road with a couple of covered pavilions, a well, and a couple of outhouses. Our plan is to bring local kids to our VBS by school bus, one village in the morning and one in the afternoon. Our medical team will also set up at the mission complex and immediately begin to see the adults and children who are in desperate need of medical attention. Our construction team will finish work on the renovation of a local church near the mission complex, and hopefully be able to paint on Tuesday so that the church dedication scheduled for Wednesday evening can proceed as planned. After the first couple of days, we plan to move from village to village doing a one-day VBS program and medical clinic. This will be difficult as many villages don't have any central space or building for us to use, and are located on dirt roads not always conducive for a large bus. Please pray that God ordains our steps, that He gives us good weather (even though it's the rainy season), and that we are effective in all three facets of ministry. Our group is a mixture of first-timers along with returners so we should have a lot of fun serving the Lord. Thank you to all who gave donations, filled up a change jar, went to a fundraiser, or prayed for us. We take you along with us to Belize and will make sure to report what God does in and through us when we get back. I don't know what we'll do for missions next year but go ahead and ask God if He wants you to be there, and see if He doesn't birth that desire in your spirit. We are all called to go and serve, all we must do is respond.

On a personal note, Paige and I want to thank the church body for your vote of affirmation in calling me on a full-time basis. I can't always say I know what God is up to, but He continues to teach me to trust in Him as my first resort and not my last. When I came here in 2009 I didn't know the roads that we would walk, and those paths have been far from smooth, but I can promise you that God has and will continue to be at work. I stand amazed every day that He could use a wretch like me to serve Him and others and my heart is simply to follow His will. As always with God, life rarely goes as we plan it, but looking back I always see His hand and rejoice that He has given me the opportunity to practice what I preach. I believe God has great things in store for our students and young adults here at Lakewood and I ask you to be in constant prayer for them and me.



VIP
Week
July 12-19
Sign up
now to
touch a
family's heart

Notes of Appreciation

Mark, Shannon & Russ
Scruggs

Gary Newsome

Sympathy to

Gary Newsome in the
loss of his brother.

Check out our website
for up to the
minute changes @
www.LBCPC.org

**Pictures from the
Builders for Christ Trip
can be viewed on our
website @ lbpc.org
hover on the
Ministry tab
Click Builders for Christ**

**Wednesday Night
Supper Menus**

July 1

Hot Dogs, Chili, Slaw
Corn on the Cob
Apple Pie

July 8

Chicken Salad
Broccoli Salad
Potato Salad
Brownies

July 15

Ham
Sweet Potato Casserole
Peas & Butterbeans
Rolls, Salad & Dessert

July 22

Baked Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Salad & Dessert

July 29

Smothered Pork Chop
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Green Beans
Salad & Dessert

~ In Memory of ~

**Mark McGowan
for Budget from Columbus Museum
for Challenge to Build from Brenda Slappey**

Lucile Cason for Challenge to Build from Ken & Janice Noble

Christ Maurer for Belize Mission Trip from Fran Loftin

**Don Newsome
For Challenge to Build from Dorothy Atkins
For Challenge to Build from Ken and Janice Noble**

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Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
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April Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
5/3/15	\$19,769.85	\$5,275.00	\$2,892.00	\$1,181.55	\$29,118.40
5/10/15	\$15,541.17	\$2,280.00	\$2,125.00	\$2,579.35	\$22,525.52
5/17/15	\$8,725.59	\$680.00	\$1,416.00	\$721.00	\$11,542.59
5/24/15	\$6,186.70	\$315.00	\$2,742.04	\$605.00	\$9,848.74
5/31/15	\$19,445.31	\$985.00	\$2,169.00	\$1,171.81	\$23,771.12

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day
5 Kidz Ch @ 6 Youth Ch @ 5	6 Amen Choir @10:30	7 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	8 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	9	10 Breakfast Club Game Night @ 5:30	11
12 Youth Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	13 Amen Choir @ 10:30	14 9:00 Bus trip to Brown's Farm Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	15 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	16	17 Breakfast Club	18 O.D. Hamrick's B-Day Party 2-4 F/H
-----Belize Mission Trip & VIP-----						
19 Kidz Ch @ 6 Youth Ch @ 5 -----VIP-----	20 Amen Choir @10:30	21 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	22	23	24 Breakfast Club	25 Feed the Homeless 11-2
26 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	27 Amen Choir @ 10:30	28 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	29	30 Loaf Closed	31 Breakfast Club	

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

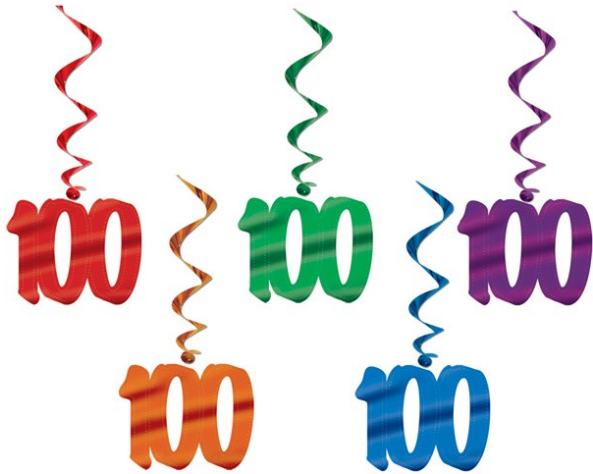
5:00 PM Family Night Supper
 5:45 PM Youth Get R.E.A.L.
 5:45 PM Wet Wednesday
 6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
 6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
 2:00 PM L.O.A.F.

* All times are Eastern

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A
100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR
O.D. HAMRICK
SATURDAY JULY 18 2:00-4:00
LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL**



Congratulations to our Daycare



**Bus Trip
Tuesday, July 14th
Brown's Farm
for Peaches
Yoder's for Lunch
Leave at 9:00 am**

Contact Information:

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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

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