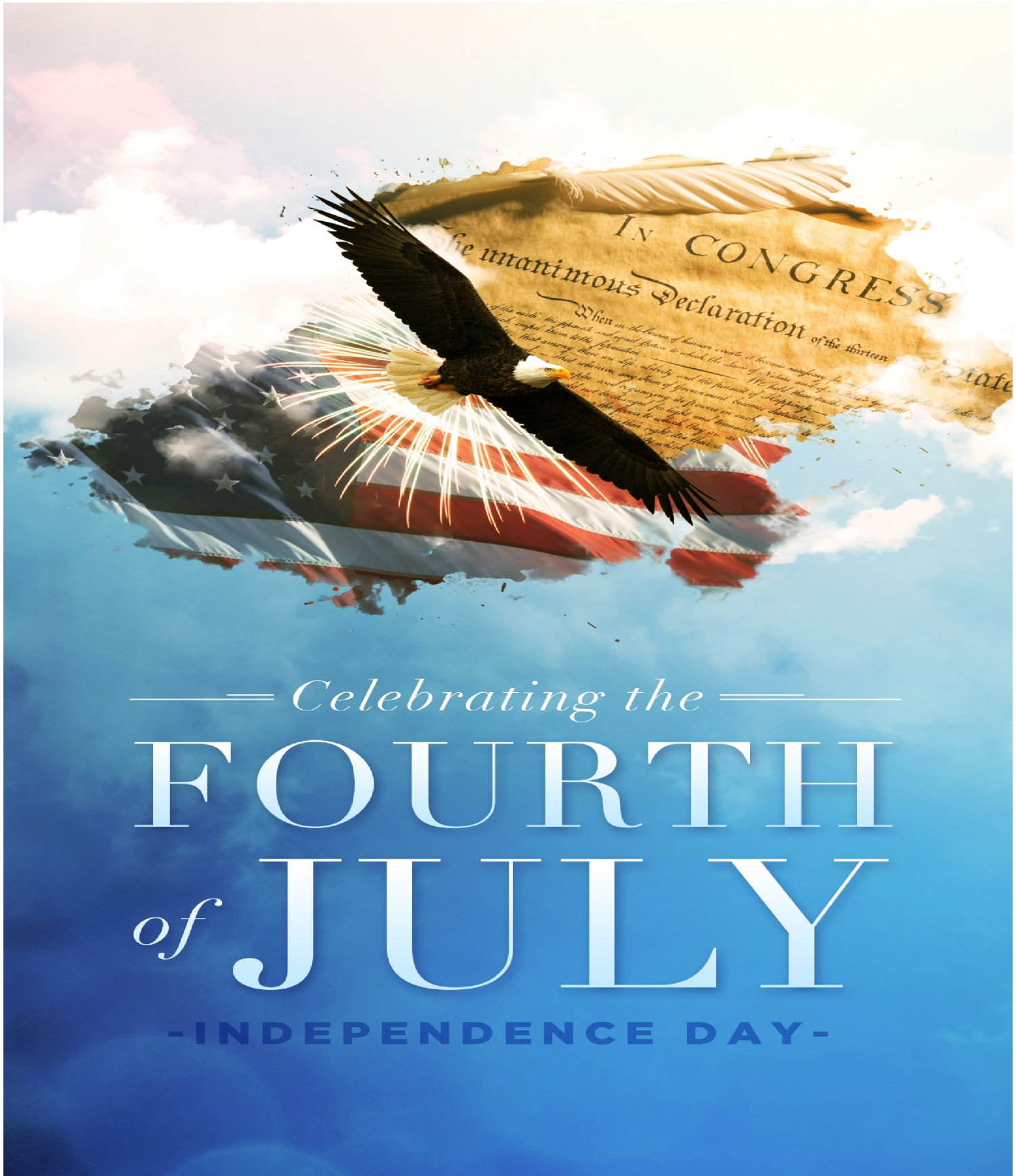


# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2018

VOL VIII: ISSUE 7 LBCPC.ORG



— Celebrating the —  
**FOURTH**  
*of* **JULY**  
**-INDEPENDENCE DAY-**



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

**Have you ever dreamed of owning two houses?** One where you can look forward to July and another where January is a perfect time of year to visit. For most of us that dream never becomes a reality so we just learn to hunker down and get through the weather extremes of either of those realities. I just returned from such a place, as we were in Eagle Idaho this past week with the builders for Christ. When we traveled up in the mountains to a nearby lake it was still a little cool and they proclaimed that this was the place to be in July as the weather was perfect. They didn't say a thing about January for obvious reasons. So we envy them in July and they long to visit us in January and that must be the way God wants it to be.

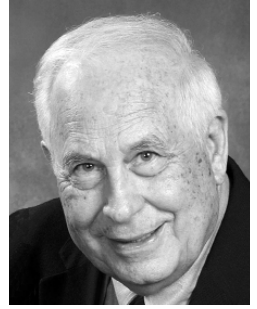
Creation is a window into the divine nature and invisible qualities of their creator (Romans 1:20) so the extremes of our seasons were created to teach us something about God that He wants us all to understand. With this reality in mind I began to consider all the benefits that come from getting through a difficult season. Things like nothing makes you appreciate feeling good faster than being sick. And nothing makes you appreciate a cool breeze more than an August day in Alabama. So I began to realize that God wants us to experience that feeling we call gratefulness. For when we are overcome by appreciation, our grateful hearts long to celebrate and give thanks and that is the very definition of the life more abundant and free God wants for us all. God wants us to fully appreciate what we would otherwise take for granted had it not been for the season of trial in their absence. So here we are in Alabama in July and we are all praying our air conditioning is up to the task so that we can get through these hot summer days.

That brings me to yet another reality as I am now looking forward to a day in the not so distant future that will bring the first cool breeze and yet another season. That anticipation has brought me joy ever since I was a child looking forward to Christmas or even better yet Summer vacation. That's right, when I was a child I used to think July was one of the very best months in the year. You see the heat didn't bother me as much as school did so I guess I just need to look at July from a different perspective. July may well be uncomfortable at times here in the deep south because of the hot weather but trust me, Satan is feeling the heat in a whole different way that is far more uncomfortable. Summer here at Lakewood means missions and we are striking our enemy all around the world. Dr Horner has been taking ground throughout Asia and we have been busy here in the states with teams in North Carolina and Idaho. As I write this message we are in Central America in the country of Belize and as you read this message we will be on the ground in the former Soviet union in the country of Romania. We certainly are making our enemy very uncomfortable and that alone is a good reason to appreciate the season.

I once traveled each year to a grouse hunting camp in Wisconsin with a few friends and we would share the cooking responsibilities while in camp that week. We all tried to make the best thing we could come up with and we had a rule that if you complained about the cooking you got an extra turn to cook. So needless to say, we never complained even when the meal was less than perfect. One such morning my buddy John was making breakfast and we had taken the cap off the salt shaker thinking that would be funny forgetting that we had to eat the finished product. That was the saltiest biscuits and gravy I have ever tasted but I ate it without so much as a word. Dean had been outside caring for the dogs and missed the salt shaker prank so he took his first bite totally unprepared and before he could catch himself he proclaimed "this is the saltiest gravy I have ever tasted". Before we could take a breath to catch him complaining he regrouped and added "and that is exactly how I like it". I was so impressed by his recovery that I have used that same escape every time I find myself wanting to complain. It is July, and one or more of our 52 air conditioning units will be down every Sunday from now until October and that is just the way I like it. It is July and we will have several of our members traveling and away from our services this month and that is just the way I like it. It is July and my shop is going to be hot and that is just the way I like it. And soon and very soon the first cool breeze will arrive signaling the end of the dog days of summer and friends that is just the way I like it. God sure did know what He was doing when He made the seasons and they are just the way I like it!



# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



.....  
MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

As we celebrate our independence as a nation, let's pause to reflect on our spiritual heritage and pray for a sweeping revival across our land. The prevailing rhetoric in America today is that all religion is essentially the same and it doesn't make any difference what you believe, as long as you believe. I just watched the video of a sermon preached by the pastor of a Baptist church of 10,000 members in New York, in which he declared that it doesn't matter if you believe in Jesus or not, as long as you believe in God and follow the way of love. In effect, he proclaimed salvation to anyone who recognizes a higher power. He even had the audacity to say that he was in agreement with what Jesus taught. I don't know what version of the Bible he has been reading, but it's not the same as mine. In addition to saying that Jesus is the only way, my Bible speaks of false prophets.

Let me list four results that have issued from America's departure from its Christian foundations. First, we have gone from authority to relativism. There is no fixed standard of right and wrong, a situation described of Israel in Judges 17:6. You develop your own sense of what is right and what is wrong. You're smarter than God, so pick and choose your morals like you're in a cafeteria line.

Next, we have gone from truth to pragmatism. We no longer ask, "Is it right and true?" We simply ask, "Does it work?" People are looking for religion to serve them, man-centered rather than God-centered.

In the third place, we have gone from reason to feeling. American society has replaced biblical theology with psychology. In this atmosphere of feeling good about yourself, sin is no longer the enemy; it's guilt. We live in a no-fault society in which sin is a forgotten word. Nobody is sinful; there is only sickness. Nobody is wicked; there is only weakness. Nobody is a thief; there are only victims of economic disadvantage. It reminds me of people falling off a cliff and we bring in ambulances at the bottom of the cliff. Wouldn't it be better to build fences at the top of the cliff?

Finally, we have gone from convictions to opinions. Instead of "the Bible says," it's "I feel this way." It's sad that not only individuals and churches have compromised, but denominations as a whole are allowing public opinion to determine their theology and ethics, rather than the dogmatic pronouncements of God in His written word.

The consequence of what I have described is moral confusion. Our children in college are being taught that you can't be certain about anything. In one class recently, after the professor declared that we can know nothing for certain, a student asked, "Professor, are you sure about that?" The instructor said, "I'm absolutely certain." Think about that one.

But there is hope for America, and we are already seeing the beginning of God's deliverance. In Judges 2:16 we read that God sent judges to deliver Israel, in spite of their rebellion. God had rather save than forgive. George Washington took the oath of office with his hand on the Bible, and then he leaned down and kissed its pages. In his following inaugural address, he said, "It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States. . . . No People can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

As his first official act, Washington took the entire congress, every representative and every senator, to church for a two-hour worship service. May God bring revival to America!



# A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

I thought I would share a recent message from our Wednesday night student worship titled; "What difference should the Gospel make?" This was an ole' fashioned bible study where we went from text to text uncovering the context, message, and original people it was written to. It will take effort to study this for yourselves, but it is worth it, as you'll see the glorious, life-changing power of the Gospel message.

- The Gospel should be valued above all else- Matthew 13:44-45
  - Parable of the hidden treasure (great value)
  - Parable of the fine pearl (unique)
- The Gospel should motivate us to action, for time is limited- Matthew 13:47-49
  - Parable of the net of fish
  - God's Sovereignty is displayed, showing those God chooses will be "caught" by Him
  - The door is open for a determined amount of time
- The Gospel should be enough- Philippians 1:20-21
  - I will not be ashamed, expect, hope, sufficient courage
  - For me to live is Christ and to die is gain
- The Gospel should cause us to seek God's will above our own- James 4:13-15
  - Our plan for our life takes a backseat to His
  - His will, WILL be done!
  - Seeking to follow His plan, be used by Him
- The Gospel should cause us to stand firm in our faith- 1 Corinthians 15:58
  - Commanded to stand firm, unwavering
  - Let nothing move you, no person, knowledge, study, or new thought
  - Giving ourselves fully to the Lord, for our labor is never in vain (missional call)
- The Gospel should open our hearts and minds to the correct fear of the Lord- Isaiah 48:8-11
  - We are rebellious at heart, but we need to listen (not stubborn like Israel)
  - God is delaying His wrath; we have the opportunity to turn people from wrath to joint heirs
  - God is refining His people, trials, temptations, persecutions
  - God will be glorified in your life and/or the lives of others
- The Gospel should take us to the nations- Romans 15:19b-20
  - From home, to surrounding areas, to around the world, this should be our ambition
- The Gospel should bring persecution but also results- John 15:20
  - If they persecuted me they will persecute you
  - If they obeyed my teaching they will obey you
- The Gospel should bring boldness- Numbers 13:30 (whole chapter)
  - Joshua and Caleb saw the opportunity before them
  - Out of the 12 spies, their report was to trust the Lord
- The Gospel should cause us to reflect Christ in our everyday lives- 2 Corinthians 3:16-18
  - Blinders are removed and we see ourselves and God clearly
  - We are to live in fearful freedom
  - We are to reflect His glory and be transformed into His image
- The Gospel should show us the great love of our God, and how we should love- 1 John 4:18-21
  - Fear of life, death, or any other thing is cast out and off
  - God chose us, our response is to love Him in return
  - God's love is an example to us, enabling us to love others

There was a key word in the lesson title (should), as in we choose whether to let the life changing power of Jesus change our lives and the lives of others. So, how many years of life do you have left? 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60? No, you have trillions, you have eternity left...so live like it! Live intentionally displaying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone you meet.

# A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

VBS Shipwrecked 2018. . . Oh how we say YES to VBS! What a fabulous week! Thank you to every single person who had any part, large or small, serving our Lord God during this vital ministry. A record breaking year, 155 different children attended VBS 2018.

We need KIDZ on Wednesday nights.  
Join us for Wet Wednesdays from 5:45—7:00.  
Meet in Children's Church room.

Having just returned from a glorious week of ministry work I am bursting with joy and excitement and can't help but to share this with you. By the Grace of God our Builders for Christ group was sent to Eagle, Idaho to begin the new Worship Center for Restored Community Church. This Church was planted by Pastor Ben Smith from San Diego, California, starting with just 12 people, growing to 50, then to 100, with two Sunday services to accommodate the need for more space. Praise God for this growth. Builders for Christ began the first walls on this new Worship Center and completed the outside and interior framing, truss work, outside sheathing and most of the roof sheathing with a group of 20 workers. This was accomplished in spite of the fact that we devoted time after every meal to worship and praise our Father God. While we worked, ladies prepared meals for us to help us remain healthy, strong and for strength for what each day held in store for us. During our last worship together, I realized many of the members felt like they aren't capable of helping with the labor of building their Worship Center. I found the words "spiritual gifts" on my tongue and began speaking to the group about opportunities where they might offer their spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is an endowment or extraordinary power given by the Holy Spirit. ... These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to individuals, but their purpose is to build up the entire Church. I encouraged each of them to seek a task, no matter how small. It takes all kinds to get the job done, and God will see to it that you are used in His service. I saw some looks of peaceful smiles on many of their faces. I just feel that they will find a way to serve and help build this building. ( 1 Peter 4:10-11) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. A common problem for Christians is the temptation to get so caught up in our spiritual gift that we only seek to serve God in the area in which we feel we have been gifted, which is usually our "comfort zone". God calls us to obediently serve Him in all things. He will equip us with whatever gift or gifts we need to accomplish the task He has called us to do in order to better use our spiritual gifts for His glory. I encourage you to reach out.....explore your spiritual gifts and seek opportunities to serve God. We were blessed with the opportunity to meet several of the children and lots of relationships began. A little girl named Bella asked me to build a table (miniature) for her dolls. I told Bella about spiritual gifts and that if I were to "help" her make the table, then I would be loving on her and she could learn how to do something at the same time and this would be "serving others" and "being kind to others". She smiled her beautiful smile and we got to work.





PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF

*Billy & Cathy Greene*

SUNDAY, JULY 22ND, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTER

RSVP TO: PATTI GREENE AT (706)718-8511

*Your presence, love & friendship are the only gifts we need!*

## Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Mamie Lindsey

for Student Missions from Billy & Cathy Greene  
For Amen Choir from Joyful Servants Sunday School Class

Jeanne Gordy for Amen Choir:  
from Joyful Servants Sunday School Class  
from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree  
from Mr. & Mrs. Emory Bailey  
For Food Closet from Pat Holland

Kristi Jones for Budget from Glenda Medley

Jimmy Jones for Window Repair from Terry & Clara Grimes

Pat Devlin for repair of AC Units from Terry & Clara Grimes

In Honor of:

Betty Burrows for Homebound Ministry from Brenda Slappey

Tommy & Onezima Everitt in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary:  
For Builders for Christ from Billy & Cathy Greene  
For Student Missions from Janet Turner  
For Children's Ministry from Margaret Wilson



# Lakewood Happenings

## July 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6:00pm Philadelphia BC America  1	10:30am Amen Choir  Leave for Romania  2	3	Independence Day Office Closed No Activities  4	5	6	7
Lord's Supper  8	10:30am Amen Choir  9	6:30pm Alleluia Choir  10	10:30am VK/WMU 7:00pm Deacon Meeting  11	12	5:30pm Game Night  13	11:00am Helping Hands Ministry  14
6:00pm Church Conference  15	10:30am Amen Choir  Merge Kids Camp begins  16	6:30pm Alleluia Choir  Return from Romania  17	7:00pm Finance Meeting  18	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC  Merge Kids Camp ends  19	10:00am Breakfast Club  20	21
2:00pm Greene 50th Anniversary Party in FAC  22	10:30am Amen Choir  23	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 11:30am Youth- Clearview BBQ  24	25	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC  26	10:00am Breakfast Club  27	10:45am S&YA Feed the Homeless  28
29	10:30am Amen Choir  30	6:30pm Alleluia Choir  31				

## May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
5/6	\$20,693.33	\$440.00	\$4,452.00	\$2,920.97	\$28,506.30
5/13	\$16,861.66	\$525.00	\$4,333.25	\$1,896.50	\$23,616.41
5/20	\$8,806.45	\$237.00	\$4,178.74	\$1,564.00	\$14,786.19
5/27	\$12,744.31	\$45.00	\$13,374.74	\$1,376.83	\$27,540.88

### 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 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

# 7/4

4TH OF JULY  
HOLIDAY

# 7/11

TACO SALAD,  
CORN  
REFRIED BEANS  
DESSERT

# 7/18

BEEF TIPS  
RICE  
BLACK-EYED PEAS  
CORNBREAD  
SALAD & DESSERT

# 7/25

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

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

### Welcome New Members

AMY & LANI OVERTON  
LINDA ELLIS

### July Greeters

MERITA NORRIS  
SARA BUSH

### Check Bulletin Board

FOR  
THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS  
&  
OTHER INFO

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