

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2018

VOL VIII: ISSUE 3

LBCPC.ORG

Join us for an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Thursday, March 15th

11:00am - 1:30pm

Frank Jones will accompany on Piano



Lunch will follow the Concert in the FAC

\$10 a plate

Call the Church Office to register

334-298-6433



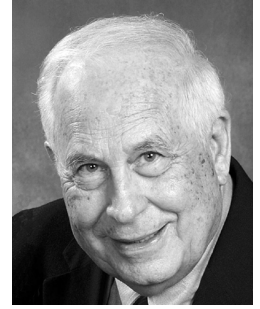
A Message from **M.R. Hamilton**

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

March is a wonderful month of the year. I must admit that it has not lost a bit of its glory from the days of my youth as March 10th is my birthday. I can remember March 10th, 1976 as one of the most exciting days of my young life as I turned 16 that day and my parents took me to get my drivers license. You see that set the stage for one of my life long dreams. To explore the Canadian wilderness in a canoe starting the day after school let out for the summer. I went straight from school that last day to Eli, Minnesota where I rented all the gear I needed and I set out only to discover that those little lakes on my map were actually massive bodies of water on which my canoe seemed far less than adequate. I remembered the first time I realized that my plan to use distant objects as a heading was hopeless as all that stood between myself and my objective was water going over the horizon. Being lost, I mean really lost, as in I had no idea where I was or how to get where I was going was a new experience for me. I had to fight off the fear and remind myself constantly that I had dreamed of this all my life. I had never been outside the country before but I was sure Canada was real and it was north of where I started so I just kept the course I had laid out on my map. The first few days were the worst as I often fought with myself over my desire to turn around and give up on my dream. Then without really noticing the fear began to fade into a sense of fascination and the days soon turned to weeks as I began to find myself longing for the trip to never end. I remember seeing my first porcupine on that trip just swimming along in the middle of a lake some distance from land. I paddled some distance along-side a small Black Bear that was enjoying the cool waters of a small stream as he kept pace with me quite easily, overcome by his curiosity. I often wondered what he thought of the first man he had ever seen.

This note is proof that Canada was indeed where it was supposed to be and the maps did really lead me back home only to dream of the next birthday and what it would bring. You see my life has always been a journey in which I have seldom felt as though I knew where I was or where I was going. I remember March 10th, 2013 in much the same way. It was the first day of a spring revival I had promised to preach some years before. It was really going to be different for me as it was in another faraway place that was like nothing I had seen before. I was trembling a bit over the reality that the first day would be at a church named Lakewood that looked just like a church from a promotional video and it was going to be broadcast on NBC. We are all familiar with the rest of the story but I must admit that in reality it wasn't all that different from my first great adventure to Canada. I soon found myself in deep water and I had no idea where I really was or where I was really going, but I knew God was real and He was out there just over the horizon. That was five years ago and the fear has faded into fascination once again as I look back at all I have experienced here. It feels just like my first great adventure as I feel just as lost as I don't seem to know why I am here or where this journey is taking me. I know God is real, and I know He is just beyond the next horizon and that is enough. I don't expect to paddle with a bear but I am willing to bet that this adventure will be an even better story than any that have come before. I cannot help but believe the best is yet to come. This is the magic that makes March such a wonderful month indeed.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Did you know that there is a day in March dedicated to a letter of the alphabet, and that this day is celebrated around the world? Well, the alphabet is Greek, the letter is pi and the date is March 14. Pi is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant, which is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Although pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point, typical calculations use only the figure 3.14, which explains why the symbol is celebrated on March 14.

While scientists, mathematicians, and astronomers may grapple with the dimensions and mysteries of the universe, the Bible tells us plainly and simply, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1) and "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made (Ps. 33:6). God not only created the universe, but He controls it. The experts are constantly sending out space probes to collect all kinds of data, only to find out that they don't know a lot of things that they thought they knew. And they never will know until they start with a biblical perspective.

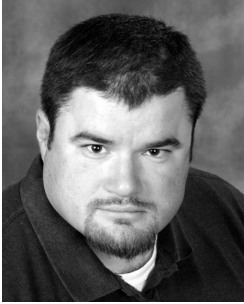
When we look at the clear midnight sky, we are amazed at the vastness of our solar system, but in reality, it's quite tiny. It consists of just nine planets, which have a total of 28 moons and some little planetoids flying around them. All of these planets and moons are orbiting around our particular sun, which is 93 million miles from earth. But all of this vastness is just a speck in God's great universe. If you could see the whole picture, this earth on which we live would be so microscopic in comparison to other heavenly bodies that it would be invisible. For example, Jupiter is 1,300 times bigger than the earth, and that's just in our solar system. Did you know that there are 200-400 million stars in the Milky Way, and some of them are so big that they measure 300 million miles from one side to the other? It's only 93 million miles from here to the sun, and there are stars in the Milky Way more than three times that size. And there are millions of them out there!

Let me try to illustrate how great God's universe is. There are more known suns in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the seashores of the entire earth. Go to the beach in Panama City and start counting. How many grains of sand are there in a square foot? Can you imagine how many there are in all the beaches around the world? There are more suns than that in just our galaxy. Just in the observable universe there are more than 170 billion suns, with hundreds of billions of stars.

There is another galaxy, called Andromeda, that we can see with the naked eye. It's just a faint dot out there, more than two and a half million light years away. What does that mean? A light year is how far light travels in a year at 186,282 miles a second. How fast is that? Well, if you strike a match, that light would go around the world before you could blow it out. That means that the light you see from the galaxy of Andromeda left there two and one half million years ago.

It's a great universe, and God created and controls it all. But what is the point I'm making? Let's leave the celebration of pi and the vastness of the universe and come to the smallness of the earth. Better yet, let's come to the smallness of you. The same God that watches over the great universe watches over you. He numbers the hairs on your head. He knows your every need. Nothing about you is insignificant to Him. Not one of your problems is too large for Him to handle or too small for Him to take notice. If no sparrow falls without His knowledge, don't you think He cares for you?





A Message from **Andrew Spires**

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Spring is the time of year when our preparations for summer missions really ramp up. Our students have sold Christmas trees, t-shirts, candy bars, and cases of Cokes all with the work of the Gospel in mind. While we're a long way from the finish line, I love that our students and young adults have developed such a passion for spreading the Word in our city, in our country, and around the world. I believe it is the call and the command of every Christian to be on mission for Christ every day in the field of life. The most famous of these commands is known as the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:16-20 which says, Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of 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." Note a few things about this passage; Jesus didn't say go and get new church members, He didn't say go and collect more tithes, He didn't say go and help people, instead He simply said go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey My commands. These famous verses have been the challenge and charge of each successive generation of believers, to do what those original Disciples did by giving their all for the cause of Christ. However, if we look at the beginning of the passage, specifically in verse 17, we see that even among the Disciples, the elect, there was doubt in their hearts. Doubt over the resurrected Jesus, doubt over what would happen next, and surely they must've doubted their ability to step up to this Great Commission! The beauty of the rest of this story is they were not alone, the power of the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within these 11 men and so many more, and these early Christians are obedient to the call and for Christ they turn the world upside down. They gave their all, with almost all receiving a martyr's death as their faithful reward. How does this apply to us today? Well, we have accepted and acknowledged Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit who seals and empowers us, we have most likely been baptized, and we have definitely been taught to obey the commands of God, but are we in the disciple making business? Those 11 passionately loved Jesus, their hearts were overjoyed when they saw the resurrected Christ as they knew their labor to that point had not been in vain, but still doubt found root in some of their hearts, even while they worshipped Him. Maybe you too doubt that you are called, maybe you too think your story isn't dynamic enough to make a difference, maybe you too think your sin disqualifies you for the Master's call? I'm here to tell you that's not the case, Jesus wants to put you on display for the sake of the Gospel in your school, in your college, in your workplace, in your homes, in your state, in your nation, and around the world. Don't ever believe the lies of the enemy that someone else will do it, someone better than me, someone younger, or someone older, someone more talented. There isn't another you, God made you unique, and because you are unique, you are the only one who can share your story. Now go, and make disciples!

God bless,
Drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.

God is so good! ALL THE TIME! Believer's Baptism was a family affair last Sunday when Beau Reimink baptized his daughter, Kymber, and then baptized his wife, Kirstein. May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love, and the joy of His life within you. It is a true blessing to see God's hand at work in young lives. After all, as followers of Christ, we pray that according to God's will, the little children of God will grow and come to know the Holy Spirit. Having had several kidz baptized in the past few months, it is clear how our leadership and teachings together with that of the parents, are effective in demonstrating the love of God.

As Easter approaches, the Children's Ministry has a special treat for our Church Family. Don't miss the Palm Parade, on **Palm Sunday**, March 25th during the 9:00 and 11:00 Worship services.

Kidz and parents, the rest of the year is mapped out on the Church calendar now.

Our next big event is the annual **Easter Eggstravaganza Hunt** set for Sunday, March 25th. This event is usually held on a Saturday morning, but this year we are making changes that hopefully will increase attendance. The Hunt will follow the 11:00 Worship Service. The Easter Bunny will busily hide hundreds of eggs during Worship service and the kidz will gather in the Kidz Church room to prepare for the Hunt immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service. The Hunt will begin on the front lawn promptly at 12:30. Meet us in the Fellowship Hall for our **Annual Fundraiser Lunch**. The cost is \$5.00 per plate and includes a BBQ sandwich, chips, cookies and a drink. All proceeds go to the OCC boxes that the AWANA and FLYTE kidz will prepare this Fall. Please purchase your lunch tickets before March 21st in the Church office or during your Sunday School.

The **Awana Lock-In** is set for Friday April 6th. This is a special event to reward the AWANA and FLYTE kidz for their commitment and hard work. Kidz ages K to 2nd grade may be dropped off at 7:00 pm and must be picked up at 9:30 pm. Kidz ages 3rd to 6th grade may be dropped off at 7:00 pm and must be picked up at 7:00 am on Saturday morning. The cost is \$5.00 per attendee which covers snacks. We are excited to host this event in the Family Activity Center where we will enjoy a movie, games, and crafts. PERMISSION Slips are REQUIRED for every attendee and will be sent home later this month with the kidz. It takes several volunteers to make this event possible. This is a great time for parents to be involved with AWANA/FLYTE.

A quick glance at the upcoming events and opportunities to serve:

March 25th	Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt
April 6th	AWANA and FLYTE Kidz Lock-In
May 20th	AWANA Night Program & Ice Cream Social
June 3rd - 7th	Vacation Bible School
June 13th	Wet Wednesdays begins
July 16th - 19th	MERGE Summer Kidz Camp (requires pre- registration)
August 22nd	Wet Fest Family Field Day
October 28th	Fall Festival & Bake Sale/Auction
December 7th	Parents Night Out
December 5th and 12th	AWANA/FLYTE kidz - Nursing Home & Birthday Party for Jesus
May (date to be determined)	Childrens' Choir Musical/Drama ** Director Needed**

Please continue to pray for God to provide the servants to serve Him through this vital ministry. There are opportunities in every event listed above to serve Him. Please direct questions or interests to Gina Fusillo (321) 759-6065 or send email to gina@lbcpc.org.

Please drop off any offerings you wish to make of plastic eggs and Easter candy in the Church office before March 6th. Candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit in the plastic eggs. Thank you.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

AN ERWIN BROTHERS FILM

J. MICHAEL MADELINE TRACE PRISCILLA with CLORIS with DENNIS
FINLEY CARROLL ADKINS SHIRER LEACHMAN QUAID

IN THEATERS
MARCH 16, 2018

*Will I stand in your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all*

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

**Bill Wilson for the Decorating Team from Jack and Pam Tinkler
Floyd Faircloth for the Budget from Glenda Medley
Walter Miers for Challenge to Build from Billy and Cathy Greene
Jimmy Miles for the Alabama Children's Home from Jean Faulkner**

Lakewood Happenings

March 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				Amen Choir Tour 1	Amen Choir Tour 2	7:00pm Builders for Christ Meeting in F/H Amen Choir Tour 3
6:00pm Called Conference Amen Choir Tour 4	Amen Choir Tour 5	10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 6	10:30am VK/WMU 7	8	5:30pm Game Night Pizza & Salad 9	8:00am Missions Yard Sale in FAC 11:00am Helping Hands Ministry 10
Time Change 11:00am FR Lunch Tacos/Taco Salad 4:30pm Women's B.S. VIP 11	10:30am Amen Choir VIP 12	10:30am Women's B.S. 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible S. Chick fil a 5-9 VIP 13	7:00pm Deacon Team Meets VIP 14	11:00am Hymn Singing/Lunch VIP 15	VIP 16	St. Patrick's Day VIP 17
4:30pm Women's Bible Study VIP 18	10:30am Amen Choir 19	10:30am Women's BS 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 20	7:00pm Finance Team Meets 21	7:00pm JEG/BW 22	23	24
12:30pm Easter Egg Hunt 4:30pm Women's Bible Study 25	10:30am Amen Choir 26	10:30am Women's BS 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC 27	7:00pm CDC Team Meets 28	29	Good Friday 30	10:45am Y&S Feed the Homeless 10:30am Women's Brunch & BS 31

January Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
1/7	\$24,524.20	\$720.00	\$1,176.60	\$50.00	\$26,470.80
1/14	\$15,761.77	\$45.00	\$1,064.28	\$975.91	\$17,846.96
1/21	\$11,115.06	\$120.00	\$367.67	\$1,248.75	\$12,851.48
1/28	\$5,640.57	\$303.39	\$290.28	\$258.75	\$6,492.99

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	FLYTE, AWANA
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

FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

3/7

BEEF &
MACARONI
CORN
VEGETABLE
MEDLEY
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

3/14

MEATLOAF
MASHED POTATOES
CARROTS
ROLLS, SALAD
& DESSERT

3/21

FRIED CHICKEN
BUTTERED RICE
CORN
ROLLS, SALAD
& DESSERT

3/28

TACO SALAD
DESSERT

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

Welcome
New Member
KyMBER Reimink

March Greeters
Becky Sanders
Sheila Barbaree

Check
Bulletin
Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS
&
OTHER INFO

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