

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2021

VOL XI: ISSUE 3 LBCPC.ORG

LBC SCHEDULE

Sunday

9am & 11am Worship In Person
or Facebook Live

10am Bible Fellowship In Person

Wednesday

6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE &
Prayer Meeting

6:30pm Youth & Singles Worship



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

March is a magical month in so many ways. My birthday is March 10th which is also the beginning of my 9th year as the pastor here at Lakewood. I preached my first service here March 10th, 2013. March is also a month of real world change as the world all around us starts to spring to life. Winter weather might try to remind us of where we have been but it won't be around long in March. Even nasty weather is better in March because you know it can't last very long and will soon give way to better days. This March is even more magical than all the others as this March we are planning to join in with creation and start showing more signs of life all around the different ministries that have been dormant for a season. Our children's department is remodeled and ready for those young families we just know are going to visit us soon. Computerized check in stations are at each entrance so if you see a family with children just direct them to the greeting check in stations. Bible fellowship classes are open and operating at about half capacity and we are asking everyone to be conscious of the safety of their neighbors as they meet in small groups. I have asked the teachers to use their discretion so check with your small group leader for meeting times and details. The month of March will see children's church available in both the 9am and 11am worship services and the nursery will be ready and open. The Sunday night concert series are still on hold as is our Wednesday night meal times but everything else is up and running. Awana and youth as well as the prayer meeting are now open and we hope to continue to make Wednesday nights a family night at Lakewood. The times for the children and youth have been synchronized so that we have the opportunity to come as a family and leave at about the same times.

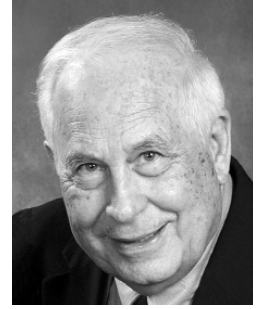
As you can see March is going to see more than just creation springing to life and we hope you can join us as we strive to get back on track with most of our main line services. It has certainly been a challenging year and

through it all you have been faithful. I wish to thank you for your continued support and for striving to stay connected. As we begin to jump start the many programs in the next few weeks please understand that we realize each family has their own unique set of circumstances. We are opening for those who wish to attend and are comfortable with being in small crowds. Should you not yet feel comfortable attending in person rest assured that we will continue to have live feeds and our television ministry. Just this week we began installing a series of digital improvements to our sound system in hopes of improving the live feed and television ministry. Everything possible is being done to keep the facilities clean and help members enjoy fellowship safely. Certainly COVID has made doing church more difficult but not impossible and we are going to continue to respond to each challenge reasonably and responsibly. During worship we will continue to keep all doors open and not pass the offering plates nor have a greeting time. However we are going to find a way to begin the observance of the Lord's Supper that is both safe and meaningful so watch for that in March. I certainly hope and pray that this note has found your looking forward to signs of life to start appearing all around you.

God Bless!

Brother M.R.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, I have had my temperature checked almost on a daily basis. You can't even get into a lot of public places without having your temperature checked. And it has always been that when you go to the doctor, no matter what the ailment is, whether it's a cold, a rash, a sprained ankle or whatever, the first thing they do is to take your temperature. I reckon they can tell a lot from your temperature.

The same principle applies to the Christian life, and maybe we ought to check our spiritual temperature more often that what we do. We might learn a lot about ourselves from our spiritual temperature.

Some Christians are cold. In Matthew 24:12 Jesus said, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold." A cold Christian has no concern for lost souls and no passion to serve the Lord. His prayer life is irregular, if he prays at all. He ignores his Bible and the fellowship of other Christians in the church. A cold-hearted Christian is a poor advertisement for Jesus Christ.

Other Christians are lukewarm. Jesus said of such people, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish that you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16). Lukewarm Christians, like lukewarm liquids, are made by mixing the hot and the cold. One day they are zealous for Christ; the next day they are living in the world. They are not so cold that they deny Christ outright, but they are not so hot that they serve him faithfully and worship Him wholeheartedly. A beverage meant to be either hot or cold, but which is only lukewarm, is nauseating. Lukewarm Christians make the Lord sick!

But, thank God, there are some Christians whose hearts are burning! "Did not our heart burn within us?" the Emmaus disciples asked each other (Luke 24:32). What caused their hearts to burn? They were walking with Jesus and listening to Him teach the Word! The fire of the Word (Jer. 5:24) can rekindle

the flames on the altar of the heart.

Paul warned Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God, which is in you" (2 Tim. 1:6). The image is that of stirring up a fire and adding fresh fuel, getting rid of the old ashes that smother the flame. Romans 12:11 admonishes us to be "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." The word "fervent" has the idea of "boiling," and it's the word from which we get the words "zest," "zeal," and "zealous." In other words, the proper temperature for the Christian is to be at the boiling point spiritually, to be enthusiastic and excited about life in Christ.

Is your Christian life cold? Lukewarm? Perhaps it is time to do something about the fire!



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

As many of you know, we are committed to serving and evangelizing the local homeless population, on the last Saturday of each month. We partner with two local ministries; Highland Community Church and Safehouse Ministries, both of Columbus. Every Saturday, Highland Community Church serves anyone who walks up, a warm bowl of chicken and rice, with bread, water, and likely a dessert. They also take meals into the community and deliver them to shut-ins or those without transportation. Their church also operates a Christian school, a clothes ministry, as well as providing a place for the homeless to shower. Their pastor, Robert Strickland and his family, live in the community, just a few doors down from the church. Our own Rick Roper leads worship there each Sunday after he finishes with our first service. Their outreach and evangelism footprint in the old Bibb City area is amazing. Safehouse Ministries is housed in the old Rosehill United Methodist Church off Hamilton Rd in Columbus. The church closed its doors several years ago and donated the building to the homeless ministry. They house, feed, train, and serve the local homeless population of Phenix City and Columbus daily. Each Saturday, they too, provide hot meals for the needy in their fellowship hall. In fact, Highland Community takes their leftover chicken and rice there for distribution. I'd like to share with you what happened last month when we went to serve. It's always easiest to go and pass out food or hygiene kits and have surface level conversations with the homeless. After all, many are rough, trapped in addictions, or have mental issues, which are daunting conversations for adults to have, much less students. Yet, I am constantly encouraging the students and young adults to step out of their comfort zones and open their mouths for the sake of the Gospel, then trust God with the results. This past month, I wanted to be intentional (myself) and show them how to have such a conversation. So, needless to say, I was on the lookout for someone to tell about Jesus. We went to Highland, we served, but there weren't a lot of people there that day for help. So, we loaded up and went to Safehouse, where there are usually larger numbers of people needing help. When the homeless see our bus coming they know that means one thing; hygiene kits, which they are desperate for. They began to lineup as we were getting setup with the donated items that we brought. I took that opportunity to talk with the whole group about Jesus. I told them that the hygiene kit we brought were prepared by people who love Christ, filled with items donated by people who love Christ, and that the most important item inside each bag was a Gospel tract. Everything else in that bag was temporary, would run out and be used up, but a decision for Christ would last for eternity. I told them (as a group) that we'd love to talk with them individually, pray for them, and talk with them about Jesus, then I prayed for them corporately. At the end of prayer the line began to move forward as each man grabbed his hygiene kit. Unusually, one man got out of line, which would almost certainly insure he would not get a bag, because we usually run out. He headed straight for

me and asked to talk. His name was Byron, he was clean cut, and stood out in comparison to most there that day. Over the next few minutes he told me how he ended up on the streets. He had owned his own small business, and his business was in the same community, just a few blocks away. He said he often gave small amounts of cash and meals to the homeless who would stop by and ask for help. However, when Covid hit, his orders dried up and he was unable to make a living. He went months trying to stay afloat, taking loans out to stay open, but eventually unable to pay his rent, he was forced to close. Not only had his business suffered, but so had his home. He sunk everything he had into his business, now his personal finances were also in ruin, and his wife of 20+ years had lost faith in him. One day, she told him that it would be best if he left, she no longer wanted him at home until he could get his life together. He had lost his business, seemingly lost his wife, and had nowhere to go. He spent a few nights in a hotel until his cash ran out and then ended up on the streets. He thought it ironic that he, a man who used to help the homeless, would himself become homeless and living on the streets. He ended up at Safehouse, and they provided a place for him to stay and fed him. The cynical-rational side of me was waiting, waiting on him to ask me for money, after all, I've been doing homeless ministry for more than 20 years and had often been hit up for cash. But not today, not Byron. He simply said; "I need prayer!" He said; "I know Jesus, I believe in His Word, I know He loves me, and just need someone to pray with me." For the next few minutes, as if nothing else was going on around us, we prayed, aloud and over all the noise. I asked God for healing for his family/marriage, for physical provision for his life, I prayed for his faith to be strengthened, and that God would be glorified in his life. I gave him the name of a local pastor who had a church nearby (walking distance), and encouraged him to attend the next day. I gave him a hygiene kit, for which he was grateful, and told him about Lakewood and our outreach ministries (food & clothing closets). I was stunned by Byron's theology, he understood that his circumstances were part of life, and that he deserved nothing more than anyone else, and his faith seemed strong in spite of his circumstances. He never asked me for anything other than prayer. It was just a short moment in time, just a few minutes spent together, yet I left with the understanding that God had given me a divine appointment that day. I don't know where Byron is right now, as I write this we are nearing the last Saturday in February and will soon return to serve again. I hope to see Byron again and get an update on his life. I write this to you as an encouragement to be intentional. I believe God has divine appointments for us all, we just need to look and listen. Maybe yours won't run up and ask you for prayer, but if you're obedient, if you're intentional, God will provide Gospel opportunities.

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



This month we have opened up 9 and 11AM Kids Worship. We are excited to see kids and family back into our classrooms worshipping and learning about Jesus. This month our theme for Elementary is "Baking Off: It's Worth the Wait." Our virtue we will be exploring is PATIENCE. We are defining patience as; waiting until later for what you want now.

Week 1: Simeon waits for the Messiah (Luke 2:25-35)

Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember God is with you.

Week 2: Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-5)

Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what is true.

Week 3: Esau's Impatience (Genesis 25:24-34)

Bottom Line: If you don't wait, it could cost you.

Week 4: Palm Sunday (Matthew 21: 1-11)

Bottom Line: You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

Monthly Memory Verse: Wait for the Lord. Be Strong and don't lose hope.

Wait for the Lord. Psalms 27:14 NIV

We have to wait for our baking to be completed before we can enjoy 'yummy' goodness. This past year we have been waiting for the time to be able to meet for corporate worship and fellowship with each other.

This month as we are beginning to enter back into meeting with others. Let's worship together in unity like the picture we see in Revelation 5, this throne room with Jesus the conqueror and redeemer. Is not worship setting aside our baby thrones and ordering our attention to this throne room in all things? All creation worships this Jesus. It is in the space that we wield weapons to fight battles. It is in this space where there is an invitation for all to come. Let our church, our homes, our lives be an invitation to others to know this conqueror Jesus.

In children's ministry we are in need of helpers who are willing to serve on Sunday morning on our Kids Worship team. The 'Ask' is very easy. I set up everything that is needed for the worship environment and you come and have fun with kids for an hour Sunday morning at 9 or 11 AM. I am looking to build teams of 4 people who are willing to take 2 months out of the year. Your team of 4 can work out what weekends you can serve. I do not want teams missing church for more than 2 weeks in a row. Above is the lessons for March to get an idea, and the lessons are video based, which means only pressing play for that portion. Worship songs video, so if there are youth that are interested in jumping around with kids in the Christian 'Kids Bop' way, check it out. Come and see for yourself some Sunday at 9 or 11 to see what is happening during the hour. It really is very simple and is a lot of fun to facilitate. Help is needed! Reach out to me!

WELCOME to the World...

Willa Kate Keown 2/13/21 9lbs. 2oz.



Eggstravaganza Spring Fest

Palm Sunday March 28th

From 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Front Yard

Activities for Kids

Egg Hunts start at 12:00pm

\$7 Lunch to support Merge Summer Camp for kids

Lakewood Happenings

March 2021

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|------|-------------------------|-------|-----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8:00am Yard Sale for Missions in FAC |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 7:00pm Deacons meet | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 7:00pm Finance meets | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 11:00am Eggstravaganza Spring Fest | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

January Giving

| | BUDGET | CTB | MISSIONS | OTHER | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|
| 1/3 | \$7,792.43 | \$205.00 | \$465.96 | \$105.00 | \$8,568.39 |
| 1/10 | \$17,201.59 | \$225.00 | \$1,287.55 | \$639.00 | \$19,353.14 |
| 1/17 | \$19,649.56 | \$25.00 | \$825.96 | \$285.00 | \$20,785.52 |
| 1/24 | \$14,400.70 | \$25.00 | \$951.85 | \$255.00 | \$15,632.55 |
| 1/31 | \$16,357.62 | \$230.00 | \$1,483.46 | \$390.00 | \$18,461.08 |

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE
6:00pm Prayer Meeting
6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Ronnie Moore
Jim and Angela Combs for Orchestra
David and Anne Kimbro for Budget
Stephen and Nancy Stainsby for Orchestra

Eddie Ezell from Margaret Wilson
for Student Missions

Max Adams from Margaret Wilson
for Student Missions

Baxley Oswalt from Margaret Wilson
for Student Missions

Norma Morgan from Jimmy and Susan Graham
for Benevolence

John Evans from Billy and Cathy Greene for Budget

Caris Amelia Horton from David and Debbie
Newsome for Sound Choices

Frances Sinuefield from Ken and Janice Noble
for Amen Choir

Kenneth Jones from Terry and Clara Grimes for
Belize

In Honor of:

Dorothy Atkins from Margaret Wilson
for Student Missions

Lakewood Church Staff from Margaret Wilson
for Student Missions

Rex and Judy Carter from
Terry and Clara Grimes for Belize/Kenya

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

**KENDALL & DEBBIE
PARKS**

**FOR MORE INFO
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