

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 2018

VOL VIII: ISSUE 5

LBCPC.ORG

YOUR SHOEBOXES ARE ARRIVING!!





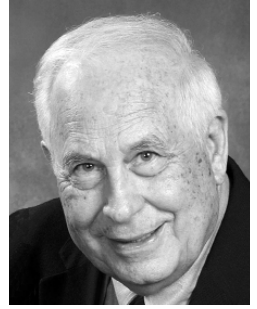
A Message from *M.R. Hamilton*

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

As a child growing up May was one of the greatest months of the year. May was the month I had been dreaming of as it carried with it the hope of better days ahead as May was the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacation. I can't remember any May ever living up to my expectations but I continued to expect it to be the greatest thing ever in spite of those facts. I can remember graduation being one of the greatest let downs ever as I had dreamed of just how great it would feel to finally be done with high school. As I walked across that stage I just knew some great transformation was going to take place as I transitioned from a student to a graduate. I can remember the painful reality that soon settled in as I would ask myself "so this is it"? I had survived 12 years of school and untold numbers of punishments for bad behavior and poor grades for this. I can remember May losing its magic that year as reality finally began to set in on me. I would love to say that I learned my lesson that day but nothing could have been farther from the truth. I simply replaced that lie with another and then another always believing that I could some how discover in creation what only the creator could do for me. I wasn't unhappy and longing for change because of where I was or because of my circumstances there. My longing and my real desire were spiritual problems and there simply were no worldly solutions for my spiritual problems. I see it everywhere I look and you can see it as well. Why is drug abuse most prevalent among the poorest and richest people in the world? Well the poor feel as though their chance of happiness is hopeless because of their lack of things. While the rich man has no hope because he has everything and yet he is still not happy. They both have a common reality and that is the fact that they have put their hope in a worldly solution for their spiritual problems. Neither of them will find what they had hoped for in drugs but both are there for the very same reason.

So please search your heart for the answer to this one simple question. If I could only _____ then I would finally be happy and content? How did you fill in the blank? I once said graduate high school but that turned out to not be true. Then I filled in the blank with live in the mountains and hunt and fish for a living but that also turned out to not be true. Then I surrendered to the ministry and I said to myself that I could never be happy pastoring a church or living anywhere other than the mountains but I would suffer through it for Jesus who died for me. Well, that was wrong as well. Pastoring and living where He has called me has been the only days of contentment I have ever known. You see that hunger and longing was a spiritual problem that I mistakenly blamed on my environment. Being spiritually in the right place regardless of where we are physically is the real secret to contentment and the life more abundant and free God promised. What's wrong with the world is a spiritual problem for which there are no worldly solutions. Until we are right spiritually no thing or place or person in all of creation will set us free no matter how many times we try. So, if you have lost hope because nothing you have tried in all of creation has satisfied your soul to the point of contentment please trust me this one time. Try a spiritual solution in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That is what your soul was created for and is longing to experience. In God alone can we truly find contentment because there simply isn't anything in all creation that can replace Him.

A Message from *Dr. Jerry Horner*



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Dwight L. Moody, one of the greatest evangelists who has ever lived, made this astounding statement after a lifetime of observation and service: "I have lived over sixty years, and I have learned one thing if I have learned nothing else—no man or woman who dishonors father or mother ever prospers."

The Bible commands us to honor our father and mother. If you are a Bible student, then you know that the Ten Commandments are divided into two sections. The first part deals with our relationship with God, and the second part deals with our relationship to one another. So we have vertical relationships and horizontal relationships, and we have to be right with God before we can be right with others. Conversely, if we're not right with others, we can't be right with God. Jesus summed up all of the commands in Matthew 22:37-39 by telling us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as oneself.

Why does God start the second section of the Ten Commandments by telling us that we are to honor our father and our mother? It's because the fifth commandment is a pivotal commandment. It's the one that helps us obey all the rest. Our parents are the first people we meet, and if we cannot learn to love and respect our parents, then it's likely that we cannot learn to love and respect anyone else. The religion that doesn't begin at home really doesn't begin at all. The first place you can show the reality of your religion is at home. Barbara Bush, the dearly beloved First Lady, said, "Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens inside the White House, but on what happens inside your house."

What happens at home is the basis of everything else. If the home decays, then the church decays. If the church decays, then society decays, and the nation decays. So it all begins with the home. God tells us that the basis of all our relationship to everybody else and everything else on earth after we get right with God is a home where we learn to honor our father and our mother. Mother's Day is not just sentiment; it's a token of the honor that the Bible commands us to have 365 days a year.

The Hebrew word translated "honor" literally means "to add weight to." Now, no mother wants weight added to her, so let me explain. The word means to think of your parents seriously, to reverence them, to respect them. Certainly, we honor our parents through obedience and by caring for them, but also by living an honorable life. The Bible says that a child can bring his mother to shame (Prov. 29:15). Why? Because we are an extension of our parents. Their life is in us, and if we live an honorable life then we honor them.

The Bible says that we are to revere our mother and our father (Lev. 19:3). If your parents are still living, lavish love upon them now. Make that telephone call now, pay that visit now, give that gift now, give that kiss of affection now, do that repair job now, write that thank-you note now. Whatever you're going to do to show your love, do it now. Dead noses smell no roses!

*"Honor your father and mother.
Then you will live a long,
full life in the land
the Lord your God is giving you."*

~Exodus 20:12 (NIV)



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Well, we've reached the end of another school year, and soon our seniors will take the big plunge into the great unknown of college and life.

This is always a time that's a little unsettling for those students about to graduate. Most are trying to finish their last high school requirements and choosing a college, while the parents are busy trying to figure a way to pay for it all. Graduation should be a happy and exciting time but it ends up very stressful. This is a small symptom of a larger problem that is rampant among our students, but also affects many adults; it's the issue of fear and anxiety. While it is natural to have a fear of heights or public speaking, our irrational fear can become paralyzing for the sake of the Gospel and detrimental to our understanding of God's grace, mercy, and love. When we are all alone, and honest, most us don't really like ourselves and therefore we have a hard time understanding how God could truly love and accept me, much less delight in us? Still others are in love with ourselves and it shows in our prideful and obnoxious nature which is off-putting towards others. Digging deeper, many who seem prideful and obnoxious are actually using that false bravado to cover up their deep rooted insecurities. What does all this tell us? Fear and anxiety can affect anyone at any time and it's quite common to the human condition. However, different people handle it different ways; for some they become practically disabled shying away from life itself, others lash out at those around them due to their lack of control, and some internalize the stress till it affects their health. Wherever you fall in the spectrum, know that you're not alone! To understand how all this started we have to go back to the beginning. Genesis 1:26-31 records that humans were made as God's image bearers, made for eternal relationship, endowed with a purpose, and God alone was their sufficiency. Absent was death, the struggle to survive, pain, sickness, or disease. But then came the Fall of Man in Genesis 3:17b-19 where man lost his innocence (naked & ashamed), man hid his sinfulness, man became separated from God, and their relationship was severed. Going further, creation itself was cursed, death entered the world for man and beast, pain, toil, harsh environments, survival was necessary, work became loathsome, and enmity came between all beings, even between the man and woman. However, with our fallen nature came the grace of God enacting His plan, and I'd like to give you four ways to combat fear and anxiety. First, to combat fear and anxiety you must have a correct view of God, which brings a correct view of self. Seeing yourself through God's eyes is far more impactful than how you see yourself. The parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-24 is so liberating in our understanding of how God sees us versus our view of self. We see dirty, broken, and worthless, while He sees ready to be molded and used for His glory as a display of grace. We see unforgivable, while He rejoices over us. We are scared and hiding, while He's our daddy waiting with open arms. Second, we must be mindful/careful of what we place importance on. What we prioritize and obsess over is often at the root of our anxiety and fear problem. We can spend all our time seeking after something that's truly worthless in the end. Comparing yourself to others is always a dead-end street, as there is always someone more _____ than you are. But when you find your value and worth in Christ alone, you seek His approval over man's. Third, ask yourself who's really in charge of my life? This is a control issue at heart, because if I'm in control, I'm fallible, which means I can and probably will fail at times which leads to more insecurity. But if God's in control, His will... will be done... for my good and His greater glory, so there's rest, safety and provision there (sound familiar?). When we read Matthew 6:25-34 it sounds so simple as Jesus declares; "Do not worry!" However, few of us can live this out. He gives two tangible examples of money and clothing, but there are many other things that we use to fill in those blanks. Our list might read; money, popularity, sports, achievements, position, respect, beauty, friends, or things? We often get bent out of shape over the smallest things when those things probably won't matter this time next year and definitely don't make a difference for eternity. Parents are often guilty of living in fear and anxiety over their kids. What if my child gets hurt, misses out, gets picked on, isn't popular, or fails? The result is "hover" parents who swoop in to the rescue, which actually hinders the child's growth and social development under the guise of protection. Even further, it often ends up alienating their child against them later on. Finally, the last way to combat fear and anxiety is found in Matthew 6:33, and the famous "seek ye first" command. It was true when Jesus spoke it and it remains true now, we are to seek Him first in all things, and especially with the things that trouble us! When He becomes our first resort instead of our last, we will feel the power of fear and anxiety slip away. When we try and handle things on our own it actually represents a lack of faith and a lack of trust that God is truly good in His nature. If there's lack of trust in your relationship with God it probably stems from damaged human relationships in our past, where someone failed, disappointed, or scarred you. If left unchecked your fear and anxiety can combine with your failures/sin and become depression, anger, bitterness, and a negative outlook on life. Remember, fear is a primary tool of the enemy, and while feeling fearful or anxious may be somewhat natural you don't have to be mastered by it. Just keep reminding yourself; God's got this! Because He truly does!

God bless,
Drew

A Message from *Gina Fusillo*



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CHILDREN, LBC

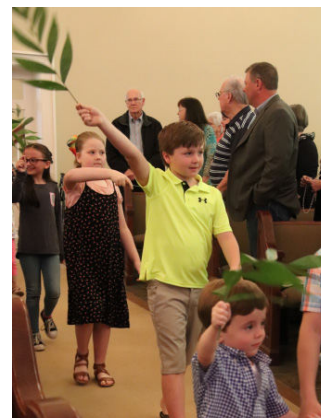
J must say that God must have been smiling down on us at the AWANA/FLYTE Lock In last month. Every kid was engaged in every activity. It was a fun night for all. This crew has it “going on” as they know how to entertain the kidz. Thank you to all participants, leaders and helpers for keeping the kidz in motion until lights out and movie time. Forty five kidz were entertained from 7:00 – 9:30, while 27 camped out for the night.

We welcome all preschool – 6th grade kidz to SHIPWRECKED, the VBS where they will learn that Jesus rescues. This is an amazing adventure that will help them begin or deepen their faith by discovering that Jesus cares about them personally and rescues in life’s toughest circumstances. An island of adventure is planned, so come to VBS 2018! Please spread the word around the community about our Vacation Bible School coming up in June. Our faithful servants are preparing for yet another wonderful VBS.

Upcoming events that you will not want to miss:

Monday May 14th . . . Spirit Night at Mike & Ed’s 5:00 – 9:00 pm
Sunday May 20th . . . AWANA Program Night and Ice Cream Social 6:00 pm
June 3 – 7 . . . VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Wednesday June 13th . . . Wet Wednesdays begin 5:45 – 7:00 pm

If you feel led by God to serve in our Children’s Ministries, please contact Gina @ (321) 759-6065.



As a followup to the seminar I did on charitable giving and serving as chairman of your Finance Team, I wanted to provide you with some additional information. Most of you are aware we still have a debt of \$300,000 on our beautiful and newly built Family Life Center. Our church is also trying to raise money for expensive repairs to our buildings and windows, many of which have cracks and holes.

Remember giving to your charity (or our church) is not only personally satisfying, the IRS and possibly your state also rewards you with generous tax breaks. Some of the best property to give is highly appreciated or rapidly appreciated property, such as stock or real estate, or art or jewelry; and of course cash. Please let me know if anyone has any questions. Additional information will follow over the next few months.

David Newsome

AMEN CHOIR CONCERT SUNDAY NIGHT



Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Maggie May Taunton for Circles of Influence from Janet Turner
Diane Thorne for Budget from Glenda Medley

In Honor of:

Chris and Jan Bankston for Challenge to Build from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Lakewood Happenings

May 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU			Pick Up Boston Butts
		VIP 1	VIP 2	VIP 3	VIP 4	VIP 5
11:00am Hamburger Lunch FR. 6:00pm Amen Choir Concert	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC	5:30pm Game Night	11:00am Helping Hands Ministry RUSH 2018 Thomaston GA Y&YA
VIP 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mother's Day		5:00pm Chick fil a Spirit Night	7:00pm Finance Meeting	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:00am Graduate Recognition 6:00pm AWANA Night	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Team Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW 7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Memorial Day Office Closed		No Orchestra No Youth			
27	28	29	30	31		

May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/4	\$15,685.64	\$75.00	\$977.50	\$2,569.51	\$19,307.65
3/11	\$24,738.27	\$1,123.18	\$6,260.91	\$1,316.98	\$33,439.34
3/18	\$14,596.72	\$95.00	\$6,750.98	\$1,694.49	\$15,331.52
3/25	\$12,485.85	\$165.00	\$1,720.67	\$960.00	\$15,331.52

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

5/2

HAMBURGER
STEAK
RICE & GRAVY
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

5/9

SPAGHETTI
CORN
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD & DESSERT

5/16

SMOTHERED PORK
CHOPS
RICE, LIMA BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

5/23

BAKED CHICKEN
YELLOW RICE
GREEN PEAS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

5/30

SALISBURY STEAK
MASHED
POTATOES
BUTTER PEAS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

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

**Welcome New
Member**
NELL HOLDER

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MR Hamilton
PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner
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HORNERJERRY@LBCPC.ORG

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FAC: 334.298.6460
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

Tammy Evans
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG

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

May Greeters
SHELREA FUNDERBURK
GAIL BRANTLEY

**Check
Bulletin
Board**

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS
&
OTHER INFO

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