

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 2019

VOL IX: ISSUE 5 LBCPC.ORG

GOD BLESS OUR MOMS

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

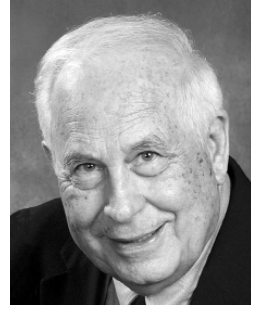
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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

May is a time of spring flowers and garden plans for most people but not for those of us who are in the ministry. For me this is the end of the first quarter and the launch into the summer mission trips and plans for VBS. It is also time to put in place the plans for next year's first quarter and that reality has brought me face to face with the year 2020. Next year is 2020 and that realization sent my mind racing back to the days of my youth when people tried to dream of what life would be like in the year 2000. Some thought it would certainly be the end of the world and I can still remember the Y2K scare that turned out to be nothing. I also remember the dreams of flying cars that have hardly changed while nobody even considered the reality of a smart phone. I bring this up because I remember wondering if I would even live long enough to see it as after all I would be 40 years old. At that point in my childhood a week was such a long time I just couldn't imagine life after 40. Now I find myself trying to imagine life after 60 because next year really is 2020. So today I want to ask you to help me to catch a vision of what Lakewood Baptist Church will look like in 2020. I wish I would have thought to have asked this question five years ago just to see the difference between our views from then versus our view today. 20/20 vision is considered to be perfect and in need of no correction so that is exactly what I'm shooting for as I plan and dream of what the future holds for us.

I spend hours every single day of my life watching, praying and dreaming of how we might use our facilities and resources to advance the kingdom. I know with all my heart that God has a plan to bless us and not curse us to give us a hope and a future. So start watching for posters and announcements for 20/20 vision as we gear up to make the dreams of today tomorrow's reality. I verbalized my dream of having enough people in our service that our choir would have no place to come down and that dream came true this past week. Just a few weeks ago we had a planning meeting to begin plans for addressing the need for a new roof and already that new roof is a reality. I once read that it is impossible to hit a target you have never seen for you have nothing to take aim and shoot for. So we need 20/20 vision so we can see and take aim at what we are shooting for and actually recognize it when we get there. We already have a few major things underway that we need to get accomplished for next year to look like we hope it to be. First are the two new Bible Fellowship classes for adults and young married couples. These classes are needed for multiple reasons but none is greater than the effect they will have on our church attendance. Visitors need that small group interaction to feel really engaged and part of the church family. They need that place where they feel connected and belong to move forward from visiting to actually joining us. Our early service has great potential for continued growth and the young couples class is key to that success.

Another area of deep conviction in my heart is the opportunity we have to grow our Sunday night worship service into one of the most inspirational worship services of the day. Throughout the area more and more churches are canceling their Sunday evening services which is leaving a huge void in the spiritual need of the community. Obviously, Sunday evening worshippers are a smaller segment of our community but none the less they are real. Some simply love Sunday evening while others because of schedules can only attend worship at that time. When we look at our own numbers plus those of other churches that no longer have services backed up by those whose schedules require this opportunity we are looking at a very large number. Now this number has how many other opportunities for a true 1st flight worship experience anywhere else in the community? The answer to that question is none so we would be running totally unopposed as we reach out to this need. I can see this service having more opportunity for real growth and kingdom impact than any other area of our church. We have the musical talent to make this evening worship into an inspirational time of praise, fellowship, testimonials and devotions. I can see it being a time of fellowship for the community of faith throughout our city and an opportunity to meet and hear the testimonies of those who serve in other locations in the morning service times but could join us in the evenings. So please let me know what you see when you look ahead with 20/20 vision. What opportunities do you see for us to use our facilities and resources to have a greater impact for the kingdom?

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

At the time of this writing, I am in Thailand, a beautiful country of 70,000,000 people, out of which only about 500,000 profess to be Christians. Thailand is one of the most idolatrous and superstitious nations on earth, with countless ornate temples and shrines displaying figures of Buddha and promoting animism. Most all Thai homes have a “spirit house,” resembling a miniature temple, in which resident ghosts reside to protect a person’s property. In exchange for this service, the spirits receive offerings of a variety of food and drink. Signs in prominent places, such as airports and huge billboards, warn against speaking in a derogatory fashion or showing other irreverence toward Buddha. There is freedom of worship, but many Thais view Christian converts as betrayers of their country. Nevertheless, people in increasing numbers, particularly from the younger generation, are turning from idolatry to Christ. One such person is a young lady, pictured below, who has adopted the name Faith to demonstrate her allegiance to the Lord. Like most others who convert, she was rejected by her friends and family for becoming a Christian. As a result, she is excluded from all family events, and cannot even attend family funerals. To see her, however, you would think, and rightly so, that she is one of the happiest people on earth. She is filled with the joy of the Lord and radiates His glory, and the witness of her life and testimony has brought many other young people into the kingdom of God. When I commented to Faith about her overcoming joy, she said that it’s just the fulfillment of what Jesus promised us—His joy remaining in us that our joy may be full (John 15:11).

Joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. One of the earliest descriptions of the first Christians is that they “were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 13:52). Notice that it wasn’t a once-in-a-while kind of thing. It was continual. They were always full of joy, even in times of sorrow (2 Cor. 6:10). It’s just who they were, like Jesus. For the joy that was set before Him, Jesus endured the agony and shame of the cross (Heb. 12:2). The joy of the Lord is not just a cozy feeling or a cute sentiment, but our strength (Neh. 8:10). The Holy Spirit brings a joy to believers that goes beyond mere happiness, because it is an inner commitment that is independent of external circumstances.

I join the apostle Paul and Faith in praying this prayer for you: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13).





A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

This past week I met with several other ministers for lunch to do some event planning. After the meeting concluded, I walked towards my truck when one of the ministers hung around as if he wanted to talk further. He went on to explain some church and family issues, specifically one he had with his brother (who I also know). This wasn't the first time I'd listened to him complain about his brother, who has seemed directionless in life, and who had been a financial drag on their family. His brother was the guy who never wanted to grow up, never chose a career, just bounced from thing to thing. The conversation continued until he made a disturbing statement; "if I heard my brother had died, I'd say, well that happened." While I understood the man's frustration with his brother (remember I know him too), I turned the conversation towards forgiveness, that God shows all of us His mercy and grace when none of us deserve it. Of course I was preaching to the choir, this guy is a fellow minister, he knows the Word, he loves the Lord, but he was struggling with forgiveness. As I was driving back to the church, I was reflecting on the conversation, and it reminded me of an older man I once worked with. This former coworker and boss had become a friend, even though we were generations apart in age. One day, as we were riding together in the car, I asked him about his family. I knew and had met his wife and adult children, but I was curious if he had any extended family. He went on to tell me that his mother and father were deceased but that he had a brother whom he hadn't seen for more than 30 years. When I pressed to ask why he hadn't seen him for such a long time, he exclaimed they had a falling out. My curiosity continued and I asked him what was their disagreement. What he said next really surprised me, he said; "I really don't remember! We had a fight, he was angry, I was angry, and that was that." I thought, maybe his brother lives on the other side of the country, maybe they just don't see each other often enough to reconcile? However, when I asked where his brother lived, it turned out to be a neighboring state. I remember being shocked by this one as well, for this guy was also a believer, active in his church, and even served as a deacon. He had not seen his brother, his sister-in-law, or his nieces or nephews for over 30 years as a result of a fight of which he couldn't remember the details? Only God knows if that was the truth, because we always remember when people harm us, right? Back to the present, I got back to the office after the lunch meeting and checked my email and lo and behold I got an email from Barna who does Christian research on various topics. What do you think the email was about? You guessed it, forgiveness. Here's a snapshot of their study; 25% of professing Christians say there's at least one person they can't forgive, 50% of practicing Christians say mercy doesn't affect their thoughts or actions, or they're not sure that it does, 20% of professing Christians express difficulty in accepting forgiveness for something they have personally done, and the study found that statistically, Christians aren't much different than non-Christians when it comes to deciding whether or not a person deserves forgiveness and compassion and that the numbers are nearly identical for displaying merciful attitudes and actions towards others. All this should shock us. How can we as believers, who have understood and desired grace and mercy from God be so hypocritical not to forgive others? How can we as Christians have people in our lives that we "can't" forgive? For some of you reading this, you want to yell at me right now and say; "Yeah, but you don't know what they did to me! They don't deserve forgiveness!" You may be right, someone may have done you wrong, they may have consistently done you wrong, they may blame you for things you had no part in, they may be the meanest, nastiest person on the face of the earth to you. However, they deserve your forgiveness. It's hard for us to get our minds around it but God is willing to forgive the terrorist, the child-molester, the rapist, the thief, and the serial killer. You might say; "Yeah, but that's God, and I'm not God!" You're right, God has an unfathomable ability to forgive, to show unmerited mercy and grace, but He also commands us to do the same. In Matthew 6:14-15, right after the Lord's Prayer (which also contains the forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors phrase) we see the following command with a promise; "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." In this passage and many others like it, we see that a Christian's life should be defined by forgiveness, it should be a character trait. We should emulate Jesus' attitude on the cross as He exclaimed; "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing!" With ultimate power at His disposal, with righteous wrath being what we deserved, and with His own physical pain and suffering at its zenith, Jesus said Father forgive! It kind of negates our excuses right? You might say; "I have the ability to harm them back, and they deserve it, or I'm hurting so much that's why I don't forgive!" Jesus showed us the way. Have you been holding onto something for 30 years? Let it go, forgive. Do you have a family member you can't trust, maybe you can't even stand to be around? Forgive! Are you having trouble accepting forgiveness for your past sins? Remember, all your sins were still in the future when Jesus died for you, and He covered those sins with His blood on the cross. We are commanded to forgive, it's not optional. Let us be believers who live this out.

God bless,
drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

In spite of the weather delayed Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter Bunny found Lakewood's front lawn and laid hundreds of colorful eggs for the kidz to find. They were so excited to count the number of eggs collected in their baskets. Thank you to our faithful and loyal servants who participated in this event.

With the upcoming annual AWANA Night Program, plans and preparation are underway and notes will be going home with the kidz to remind parents of this worthy event. Please join us in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm on Sunday May 20th. If you ever wonder what the kidz do all year in the AWANA Program, this is the time to see them shine in God's glory. It's a fun and rewarding time for the kidz as they are honored for their achievements during the AWANA year. Of course you will not want to miss the sweetest moments... the Ice Cream Social... immediately following the Program.



It's **Vacation Bible School** like you've never experienced before! Gas up the all-terrain vehicle and head out on a wilderness adventure like no other. This June kidz will focus in on some amazing, real-life encounters with Jesus and discover the most amazing truth of all. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing, we can have life in His name.

This week of fun, food, and exciting learning opportunities is free of charge and open to children age 3 years through 6th grade. Our "In the Wild" journey will be an adventure to remember! Come join us!

Daily from 5:15—8:30 pm

June 2nd through June 6th

Lakewood Baptist Church
4011 Lakewood Drive
Phenix City, Alabama 36867

VBS plans are in full swing! With a successful VBS meeting, we have commitments for most of the volunteer needs. If you want to participate in VBS this year, please contact me as soon as possible. There will be a place for you to serve!

We have a pair of shoes to fill in our Ministry. Amanda Owens has coordinated the calendar for the Extended Care during the 11:00 Worship Service for kidz ages birth—age 4 for the past four years. She has been a true blessing to our Ministry through her selfless service in this capacity. The calendar coordination requires some dedicated planning time to plan the rotation of the volunteers, email the calendar to the participants, as well as a follow up each week to ensure the Extended Care is covered for the nursery and ages 2—4. If you feel led to serve, please contact Gina Fusillo.

Baby Dedication is Mothers Day, Sunday May 12th. Baby Dedication is dedicating your child's life to God through promising to set a Christ-like example for him or her to follow and to teach your child about the love of God. If you wish to participate, or have any questions, contact the Church office.

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Maggie Mae Taunton for Challenge to Build from Janet and Eva Turner

In Honor of:

Gene and Robbie Cameron for Food Closet from Terry and Clara Grimes

Rex Carter for Bus from Brenda Slappey

Fred Van Horn for Bus from Brenda Slappey



Samaritan's purse has the capability to evangelize every people, tongue and Nation in the next decade.

Do you want to be a part of it?

Find out more information about Operation Christmas Child and the local Chattahoochee Valley Area Team by emailing Cathy Driver, the Volunteer Area Coordinator.

There are a variety of roles in which to serve, and the eternal impact is grand!

Contact Cathy at occ.chattvalley@gmail.com

Lakewood Happenings

May 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU 5:45pm AWANA resumes VIP 1	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's VIP 2		11:00am H H Ministry FTH VIP 4
FR Lunch for Missions 6:00pm Amen Choir Concert @ Concord VIP 5	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class Lifetouch 6	10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir Lifetouch 7	7:00pm Deacon Meeting Lifetouch 8	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's Lifetouch 9	5:30 Game Night 7:00pm YA Bible Study Lifetouch 10	Lifetouch 11
Mother's Day Baby Dedication 12	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class 13	9:00am B&G Meet 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 14	7:00pm Finance Meeting 15	6:30pm Women's Bible Study @ The Hamilton's 16	7:00pm Student Game night 17	18
Baptism Grads Recognition 6:00pm AWANA Night 19	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Grief Share Class 20	10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 21		7:00pm JEG/BW 23		10:45am Y&SA FTH 25
26	Memorial Day 10:30am Amen Choir 27	10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 28	29	30	10:00am Breakfast Club 31	

March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/3	\$21,728.11	\$871.40	\$7,050.75	\$3,504.52	\$33,154.78
3/10	\$24,304.72	\$788.00	\$8,764.88	\$2,219.83	\$36,077.43
3/17	\$14,772.32	\$208.67	\$1,669.93	\$3,109.31	\$19,760.23
3/24	\$11,204.33	\$185.00	\$2,898.59	\$5,051.21	\$19,339.13
3/31	\$14,730.39	\$355.00	\$778.90	\$532.83	\$16,397.12

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:15am Kidz Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study/FAC

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 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

MAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

5/1

HAMBURGER
STEAK
POTATO SALAD
LIMA BEANS
ROLLS, SALAD
DESSERT

5/8

FRIED CHICKEN
MAC & CHEESE
SWEET PEAS
ROLLS, SALAD &
DESSERT

5/15

TACO SALAD
DESSERT

5/22

HOT DOGS W/
CHILI
BAKED BEANS
FRENCH FRIES
COLE SLAW
SALAD & DESSERT

5/29

SMOTHERED
PORK CHOPS
MASHED
POTATOES
FIELD PEAS
ROLLS, SALAD &
DESSERT

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

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

MIKE & KAY MURRY

BILL TIDWELL

ADRIAN STEWART

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton

PASTOR

BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS

CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires

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Patrick Thornton

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Gina Fusillo

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

Jerry Horner

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Cabbi Evans

DIRECTOR

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Tammy Stephens

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

O: 334.298.6461

LBCPC.ORG/CDC

HOURS: M-F 6:30AM-6:00PM

May Greeters

KATIE WHITE

GAIL BRANTLEY

Check Bulletin Board

FOR

THANK YOU NOTES

EVENTS, NEWS

ALSO OUR WEBSITE:

lbcpc.org

CONNECTIONS (USPS #463270) is a monthly publication by Lakewood Baptist Church. Periodicals paid at Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER: Send all address corrections to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867