

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

May 2020

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Welcome Home.



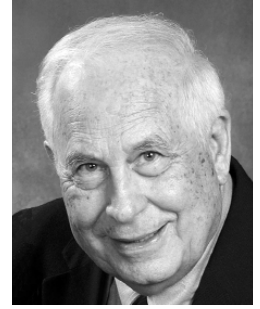
A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

As I begin to write this month's letter I find myself where I have never been before. This May is not like any that have come before it in so many ways. This is the month of May flowers, a time of celebrations and a time for weddings. This is a time for baseball and summer vacations to begin as the school's end and graduations dominate our schedules. But not this year. No this is the year 2020 and this is a May we will never forget as we pass through COVID19 crisis. This is the year we went to virtual church services and I learned how to preach to an empty room with cameras and technology holding the church together and allowing us to stay connected. It is not all bad news as our numbers reached through Live Streaming are more than five times the number we were reaching before the crisis. God has used this crisis to revive the hearts of so many people to seek to hear from God the truth of their circumstances. It has helped me to realize the power of social media to expand our borders and to reach new people. Katie's new Bible Study "Rebuilding The Walls" went out this past Sunday with a live stream and her numbers were equally strong so God is getting the Glory through it all.

As I write this note it is actually late April and the number of cases in Alabama are continuing to rise so it is still impossible to say with any certainty just how long this will last. I believe it will last as long as God wants it too and I will try with everything in me to rejoice in it for this is the day the Lord has made. Until this passes please stay connected and follow us on our web site and Facebook page. We are putting out short messages of encouragement each Monday and Friday with Dr Horner doing his Wednesday Bible study full length as well in the Midweek. So we have both the 9am and the 11am services Live Streaming on our Facebook page as well as our 11am services on channel 38 NBC at 11am on Sundays. Ladies don't forget to follow along with Katie's Live Stream of her Bible study "Rebuilding The Walls" Sunday afternoon. Should you miss any of the live stream times don't worry it is all available 24/7 on our website to view at your convenience. Little did I know when I put together the 2020 vision statement that we would find ourselves where we are today still nothing has changed. Each one can invite one even easier now than ever before by simply hitting the like button and share button on your computer. With each like and share our messages reach into new homes and communities around the world so share, share, share everyone as we strive to make the most of this day for the Kingdom. Let me close this message with a word from God that really has spoken to me through these crazy days. It is found in Isaiah 26:20-21 "Go my people, enter your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by. See the Lord is coming out of His dwelling to punish the people of the Earth for their sins." You see we like to think that nothing like this has ever happened before but this is not the case, God is still God and some things never change. We like those before us need to be reminded that without God we have no hope. Those whose hope is in science well their hope is gone. Those whose hope is in the Government, well their hope is gone. "But those whose hope is in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like Eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31) Now Isaiah sure did have a lot to say in his day about our day because the same God that was God in his day is still God today.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Over the past several weeks, all of us have been experiencing a universal problem, but have you ever gone through some difficulty in which you feel like you are the only one who has experienced it? Perhaps it's bereavement, sickness, a financial challenge, an estranged relationship, or a severe disappointment, but whatever the problem is, you feel all alone in facing it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man . . ." The word translated "common" means "not unprecedented to humans." However peculiar you may think your trial is, no matter how overwhelming, suffocating, and insurmountable your trap might seem, it's really a common human problem that has already been faced and overcome by countless believers in the past.

All of us can identify with the plea of Psalm 130:1--"Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord." We all have been in the depths. The Hebrew describes someone caught in a deep and dangerous abyss. The Psalmist doesn't identify what his specific problem was—he simply used the nonspecific "depths." If he had told us what his situation was, we would limit the words to that particular problem. But as it is, the word "depths" applies to every oppressive situation, and whatever our "depths" may be, this Psalm tells us what to do when we're going down for the third time.

First, we are to cry out to the Lord. Literally, the Psalmist says that he has cried and is still crying. He was still in the midst of his trial when he wrote these words, and there is an urgency involved. He isn't writing about a past experience or discussing a theological theory. He had an urgent need right now. Sometimes God allows us to experience the depths in order that we might learn of His grace and forgiveness. When we cry out to the Lord we take our mind off the depths and focus on the Rock that is higher than I, and according to verses 3 and 4 we discover what kind of God we're dealing with.

Then verses 5 and 6 tell us to wait for the Lord. The idea is to wait for the Lord to act, and the Psalmist illustrates the waiting with a picture of those who wait for the morning. Anyone who waits for the sunrise should remember two important truths. The first is that you cannot rush the sunrise, as much as you would like to. Daylight Saving Time doesn't fool the sun. It's going to rise according to its own timetable. It's the same with the Lord. You cannot rush Him. With God, timing is more important than time, and God's timing is always perfect.

The second thing to remember is that the sun does rise. When you wait for the morning, you don't wait in vain, because the morning always comes. And when you wait for the Lord, you don't wait in vain. He will come; He will act; He will deliver. Time spent waiting for the Lord is never time wasted.

According to verse 7, the third thing we are to do is to hope in the Lord. "O Israel hope in the Lord." The word "hope" today usually means wishful thinking or a desire, without any assurance that it will happen. In other words, "I hope so." But the biblical idea of hope is far different. It's a solid certainty that is based on the promises of God. We confidently believe that God will keep His word, and we really can't wait for the Lord if we don't have confidence in Him. To the Psalmist, this confidence is based on two things. First, there is God's goodness. Verse 7 tells us, "For with the Lord there is mercy," or steadfast love. Second, there is God's greatness. "And with Him is abundant redemption." The Contemporary English Version reads, "He has the power to save you." The New Revised Standard has, "With Him is great power to redeem," while the New English Bible translates, "Great is His power to set men free." The Psalmist is telling us that as sure as the morning comes, God and God alone will save His people.

If you feel like you're drowning in trouble, about to go down for the third time, why not follow the Psalmist's suggestions? God knows exactly how to bring you out of the depths.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Well, ain't this been something (in my thickest Southern accent)!?! We would be hard pressed to come up with a movie script that could compare with what has been played out in our recent reality. I know as many of you are reading this, you are longing for the day when we can return to "normal", when worship will be at church, when school will be at school (unless you're a homeschooler ☺), when there's no shortage of supplies, and when you can go out and about handling your daily business without any concern of infection. As I write this article I am having to make big decisions about our summer plans. Already, we have moved our SWO summer camp from the end of May to mid-summer. We have canceled the Belize trip due to many contributing factors. I just completed a meeting regarding our planned late June New Mexico trip and have been in constant contact with our church partner in Zimbabwe. In truth, I don't know at this point that either of those trips will happen? What can you say when everything you've been planning and working towards is suddenly gone in an instant? We say; God's will be done, His way over my way, everyday! No one could've predicted what our world has endured over the past weeks, and no one truly knows what the future holds. Yet, our God is so BIG, so MASSIVE, so BEYOND our understanding that it is childish and foolish to believe that we hold any sway over Him or this world. He IS certainly in control, this IS part of His plan, and I believe He IS up to something BIG. So, through all this don't miss out on an incredible opportunity, to be the Church outside these four walls. Don't miss an opportunity for self-growth through personal study of His Word with the slowdown in your schedule. Don't miss an opportunity to lead your family in worship inside of your homes. You might be tempted to think; how can I serve, how can I lead, and how can I meet needs during this BIG pandemic? The answer is the simple, ONE act of service, ONE need, ONE person at a time. Speak Jesus to everyone you meet! And when fear and doubt assail you in the midst of this storm, remember who IS the Master of the winds and waves (Mark 4:35-41). After all, as the old saying goes, "Has it ever occurred to you that nothing ever occurs to God?" God's got this, and He wants to use YOU to change the world. Pray constantly, serve joyfully, go be the Church.

God bless,
drew
John 3:30

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



High Chair; Walking

Get down from that silly high chair and start walking. Where are we going you might ask?
Start walking your God given purpose.

He alone is worthy of our following. There is no other, and we must not fall into the trap of following the created over the creator. When Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, one of the problems they were struggling with was; whom they were supposed to follow; "...for when one says, 'I follow Paul,' and another, 'I follow Apollos,' are you not mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:3,4) These guys were good teachers, but we must remind ourselves that all of us are ministers of the Gospel, preachers, teachers, parents, pastors, executives, business owners, artists etc., all who desire to share Biblical truths are servants that God uses to accomplish His purposes. We fail him and are not following him when we become followers of a specific minister or personality OR when we feel personally responsible for another's growth.

As we read more in this Corinthians passage has not the Lord assigned to each of us tasks? Didn't Paul plant the seeds, Apollos watered the seeds, but only God made it grow. We must remember that God and he alone is what makes the seeds grow. We cannot make anything happen.

We must keep our focus on Jesus and him alone. Now! In our daily walk on this earth we will have many people to help us in our walking, and we need to recognize and accept those people for who they are. We also must expect to be used to aid in the walking of others. As we do this we must remember that God must get ALL the credit in this giving and receiving. We teach truths with our words. We demonstrate truths with our lives, but we can never force anyone to accept truth and start walking. Our instructions are to plant the seed and water them with discipleship, prayer, and encouragement. "We are therefore Christ ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us". (2 Corinthians 5:20)

We may never see the results of our planting and watering, and we need to be okay with that. We trust that God will accomplish his work. I will admit it is really awesome when we are able to see the fruit of our ministry labor. When this happens we must fall on our faces before God in humility, as we are seeing a glimpse of his character on display. It is in this humility that God works miracles. We become less so he can become more.

We are called to be bold, but we cannot allow our boldness to be self-serving. We must submit to God's leadership. Like Joshua with complete humility prostrated himself before the Lord and he voiced his allegiance to the Commander of the Lord's army, he gave all the battles over completely to the Lord and he opened himself up to whatever God would have him do and wherever God would have him go. (Joshua 5:13-15)

When we start walking the purposes for all believers in Jesus is to be planting and watering. Let's start making disciples in our homes. Let's show compassion to a world that is desperate for it. Let's start encouraging others around us. Let the God in you see the God in our brothers and sisters, as we do this we will see God at work all around us. Let's see people in their need and speak life into the situation.

People! Get down from that High Chair! The 'feed me feed me' mantra of a child is no more.

*****Kids Ministry Calendar*****

VBS

20/20 Vision Seeing Clearly Through Christ

Habakkuk 2:2-4

May 31 – June 4 (5:30PM – 8:30PM)

Teams are forming; Please reach out to me to help with VBS this year it will be AMAZING

Stay tuned if this date has to change due to COVID 19

Merge Summer Camp July 13 - 16

3rd - 6th grade Students

Shocco Springs Conference Center

Tuition \$199

In Memory of:

Buster DeLuca from Stephen and Nancy Stainsby
Mr. Schaefer from Stephen and Nancy Stainsby
Brenda Barfield from Myra Currier
Homer Medley for his birthday from his wife, Glenda.

Carolyn Pruski:
Jerry & Sheila Barbaree
Carole Ray

Rilda Martin:
Lakewood Baptist Church for Columbus Hospice
Billy & Cathy Greene for Builders for Christ
Brenda Slaphey for Homebound Ministry
Ken & Janice Noble for Food Closet
Myra Currier for Challenge To Build
Carole Ray for Homebound Ministry

J. P. Benton:
Lakewood Baptist Church to Circles of Influence
Ken & Janice Noble for Circles of Influence
Margaret Wilson for Builders for Christ
Carole Ray for Homebound Ministry
Donnie & Tammy Smith for Circles of Influence
Jerry & Sheila Barbaree for Builders for Christ
George & Sharon Delgobbo for Challenge to Build
Buddy & Diane Blue for Builders for Christ
Jimmy and Susan Graham for Builders for Christ



**Betty Burrows has faithfully led our
Homebound Ministry
for more than ten years.**

**Regretfully she needs to step
down from this position.**

**If you are interested in filling this
position or want to find out more info
about this ministry.**

Please give Betty a call @ 334-297-5854

Lakewood Happenings

May 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ALL ACTIVITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED AS THEY BECOME POSSIBLE					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Memorial Day					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
3/1	\$26,794.69	\$610.00	\$5,051.11	\$3,871.60	\$36,327.40
3/8	\$21,549.45	\$130.00	\$2,383.00	\$2,163.41	\$26,225.86
3/15	\$14,334.00	\$545.00	\$11,240.82	\$7,294.50	\$33,414.32
3/22	\$9,964.52	\$90.00	\$2,652.23	\$1,399.91	\$14,106.66
3/29	\$11,433.10	\$20.00	\$860.96	\$75.00	\$12,389.06

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 9:00am 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 SUPPERS

5/6 5/13 5/20 5/27

WNS
WILL RESUME
AS SOON AS
WE ARE ALLOWED

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

May Greeters

Mary Anderson
Katie White

FOR UPDATES
CONCERNING OUR
SCHEDULE DURING THIS
TIME VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
LBCPC.ORG



For more info go to LBCPC.org
Click on the rotator about
online giving

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton
PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires
STUDENTS & SINGLES
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

David Stephens
CHILDREN
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner
DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH
JHORNER@LBCPC.ORG

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE
PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867
O: 334.298.6433
F: 334.298.4873
FAC: 334.298.6460
LBCPC.ORG
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

OFFICE STAFF

Onezima Everritt
FINANCE ASSISTANT
ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault
OFFICE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Cabbi Evans
DIRECTOR
CABBI@LBCPC.ORG

Tammy Stephens
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG

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

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