

Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2017

VOL VIII: ISSUE 11

LBCPC.ORG



Due
November 12th

NO
Toothpaste or
Candy



Welcome Home.



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

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

I always liked to say that every day is like a holiday, and every meal is a feast. It is just like Sunday on the farm for me as I have never had it so good. Well, here comes November and the entire nation is joining in with me for one of the greatest holidays of the year, Thanksgiving. Why is Thanksgiving such a big deal you might ask? I think we need Thanksgiving in America more than almost anything else. We live at a standard that no people in the history of the world have ever know in America and we may well be the most discontent people the world has ever known. We certainly do have our problems in America and no one is denying that fact but we are still hands down the greatest nation on Earth. Our citizens have freedoms and opportunities available to them that exist no other place in the world. We as Christians in America should be at the very front of the parade celebrating our freedom to serve God without fear. My son wears a shirt that simply has a cross on it that reads "This shirt is illegal in 55 countries of the world". So let me lead by example and say it again, that every day is a Thanksgiving holiday, and every meal a feast. It really is just like Sunday on the farm for me and I have never had it so good. I am the senior Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church and I am loved by my church family. I have my health and my family is doing just great and I live in America where I am free to follow Jesus with all my heart and I thank God for that. I live at a standard beyond anything the world has ever known for I am blessed. And I realize that not everything is where it needs to be in this nation but I thank God for how far we have come. Last I thank God He has put me here to make the world an even better place to live and I will guard my actions so I don't make it any worse. And I thank God I am not alone and that I have you working with me. Perhaps the greatest potential for this Holiday is in the fact that it brings us from a spirit of discontent into one of appreciation and that change, changes everything.

Feast of Thanks

November 12th @ 6:00pm

Call Margaret Wilson @ 334-297-8014

If you wish to decorate a table

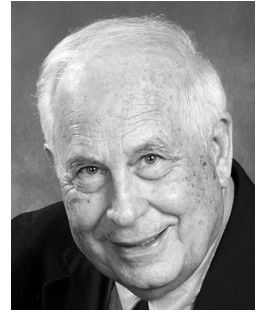
You will be able to decorate your table from

12:00-4:00pm

on the day of the event

A Message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH



As I write these words, I am in Thailand, a country whose population is only one per cent Christian. I'm on the last segment of an extensive ministry trip to Asia. It has been long and exhausting, but very worthwhile. I cannot describe to you the eagerness that people in this part of the world, particularly young people, have for the gospel. Countless times, both publicly and privately, people have said to me, "Thank you for coming all this way to teach us." Those words never fail to humble me, because I'm the one who should be thanking them for receiving me and the ministry that I bring, and thanking God for the glorious privilege and opportunity that He has given me to share the gospel.

Actually, I have no choice in the matter of spreading the good news, nor do you. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15: "For the love of Christ compels us, because we are convinced that if One died for all, then all died, and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." He isn't talking about my love for Christ, but Christ's love for me. The word translated "compel" always means a strong grip or constriction that prevents us from escaping, and the phrase could be translated, "The love of Christ leaves us no choice." How does Christ's love for us constrain us? According to Paul, it's not an emotional pressure, but a matter of simple logic. Christ loved me to the extent that He took my sins upon Himself and died for me on the cross. Because of His death, I have life. Therefore, if I owe my life to Him who loved me and died for me, how can I live that life unto myself? I must live it unto Him.

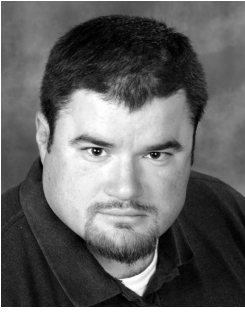
Not only is the love of Christ a factor that compels us to share the gospel, but we are under an obligation to do so. According to Romans 1:14, we are debtors. There are two ways to get into debt to someone. The first way is to borrow money from him. The second way is to be given money for him by somebody else. If a friend of yours entrusts me with \$1,000 to deliver to you, then I'm in your debt until I hand that money to you. That's the way we are debtors to people who need the gospel. Jesus has entrusted the gospel to us to deliver to others (see Gal. 2:7; 1 Thess. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:11; Tit. 1:3; 1 Cor. 9:17). Therefore, we are in debt, and we should be eager to discharge our obligations, because it's dishonorable to leave a debt unpaid. Of course, that does not mean that everyone should cross oceans and mountains and go to strange lands to share the gospel. It simply means to respond to the opportunities that God gives you wherever you are.

I thank God for Lakewood Baptist Church for making it possible for me to go to places and to people where you cannot go. That makes me a debtor to you.



A note of Thanks from the Bereavement Committee

We want to thank each lady in our church for all the food you have prepared in the past and especially the food for the Benton family.
May God bless each of you richly for your help.



A Message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

November is the time of year we give thanks to God for His many blessings, we go and visit family, enjoy great food, and probably watch some football. Like many of you, I love this time of year, it is comfortable and familiar, but God has been stirring my spirit with a few things that I thought I'd share with you. A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit the island nation of Jamaica with RUSH ministries, ministry friends from Thomaston, Ga. They have long known my passion for local and international missions and were eager for me to see the work they have spent over 25 years building in Jamaica. This was the first mission trip that I had been on in almost 20 years where I was not the leader or organizer. The Spirit moved mightily on several occasions during the trip and many people were saved to the glory of God. We were able to plug many of those into local churches in Jamaica so that they can get rooted and grow in their faith. I was moved at the sheer simplicity of the evangelical work going on there; we announced we were coming, we showed up, we sang a few songs, the Word was preached, and people got saved. It was just that simple. For a while now, God has been dealing with me about the American-ized Jesus and church we have created because as I travel around the world I notice extremely happy and passionate Christian brothers and sisters who by our living standards have little or nothing. Their homes are simple, their churches are mud floor huts, maybe a covered pavilion, or at best a concrete block building with a tin roof with no heat or air, yet their worship is more real, relevant, passionate, and life-changing, and the people are working together in true unity to survive day by day much like the New Testament church model. The Word is preached, not to "we've heard all this before" ears, but to hearts eager to hear the Gospel message even if it is for the 1,000th time. Meanwhile, our college-aged young adults have been going through a small group bible study called Goliath Must Fall by Louie Giglio that is centered on the familiar story of David and Goliath, it seeks to reveal and slay the giants of sin and stronghold in our lives. One of the giants is the giant of comfort, it is a sneaky giant because it leads us to settle for something good while missing out on something great. Comfort reassures us that life is about us, our comfort, our future, and our security and it eschews taking risks, being stretched, or being uncomfortable for the cause of Christ. Comfort enters our Christian life, especially here in the American church, and settles us in to life of listening instead of doing. Yet we are reminded all throughout the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament that the call given to us by Christ is one that leads to discomfort, uncertainty, and a lack of security. It leads us to the place of total dependence on the work of Jesus Christ in our lives and we are just blessed to be a part of History as MR said in a recent message. We here at Lakewood do a lot of good things, we have good fellowship together, we help people, we meet physical needs, and we preach the Gospel message, but could God be calling us to something more, something even greater? What if church wasn't about me or you, my likes or dislikes, and not about my comfort at all? What if church is supposed to be more about how we live, how we work, and how we boldly proclaim the Gospel outside these four walls? What happens when church stops being about religious performance, stops being about religious tradition, stops being about ME or YOU, and cries out to God; use me for your glory, for your fame, for your kingdom's sake! Our students recently finished a ten lesson series entitled "Comfortable?" which was based on a systematic walk through the book of Romans. In this we were challenging them to never become comfortable, never shift into neutral, and to guard against slipping into apathy. I'll close with an illustration I gave them a long time ago from a book I've had for years, it's called "The Lifesaving Station". On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat. But the few, devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for their own safety, went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of the people who were saved, and various others in the surrounding community, wanted to become associated with the lifesaving station and to give their time and money for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little lifesaving station grew. Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so small and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided for those who were being saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely. It became sort of a club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions so they hired professional lifeboat crews who were specially trained to save lives. The lifesaving motif still prevailed, and a ceremonial lifeboat was placed in the room in honor of all those people who had been saved in the past. About that time, a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crew brought in boatloads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and some of them were from a foreign country and couldn't speak their language. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee of the lifesaving station called an emergency meeting and decided to build a shower house outside the club where the victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up and properly instructed regarding the rules of the lifesaving station. At the next meeting, there was a split in the club's membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities because they were unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Other members, however, insisted that lifesaving was the primary purpose of the club. They pointed out that they were still called a "lifesaving station". But they were finally voted down and told if they wanted to save lives, then they could start their own lifesaving station down the coast. They did. As years went by, the new lifesaving station experienced the same changes that had occurred with the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit the sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown." May we here at Lakewood always remain a lifesaving station, never settling for comfort over call!

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

I arrived at the church last Wednesday night for Awana, knowing that it was time to prepare the candy buckets for this weekend's Fall Festival. I foolishly wondered if we would be out shopping for additional candy. When I opened my office door, I almost had to push candy back with the door just to enter my office! I could not believe my eyes. What a great congregation we have with awesome fellowship, love for Christ, love for one another, faithfulness, and cheerful giving. The Fall Festival is a community wide event with the hope that visitors will come with a love for Jesus and that those who do not, may find His love. Proceeds from the Hot Dog dinners and the Bake Auction/Sale go to the purchase of items to fill Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and for shipping of the boxes. This required a lot of volunteers who prepared for the event for the enjoyment of the community. The success of the Festival is solely due to the support of our volunteers who gave their time, energy, love, offerings, and candy. We thank everyone who participated in any way for the success of the Festival.

Shoebox packing is planned for AWANA night on November 15th. Make sure your kidz attend this night as it is more fun than you can imagine. It is awesome to see the blessings of our own kidz choose items as they fill the Operation Christmas Child boxes that will travel the world before reaching very special children. Parents are encouraged to help in this ministry.

"Children are a gift of the Lord." Psalm 127.3

SAVE the DATE Sunday November 19th Baby Dedication
Call the church office if you have a child you wish to participate.

Parents Night Out is Friday, December 1st. Think ahead about your "Date Night" and plan to drop off the kidz. Birth - 6th graders can be dropped off at 6:00 pm and picked up by 10:00 pm. A fun filled night with supper, crafts, games and songs is planned for the kidz enjoyment. Volunteers are needed for this event so that parents of our young children can relax and enjoy their dates.

Our Ministry is in need of volunteers in several areas. Please call or email Gina Fusillo to get set with our kidz ministries. Make a difference in a child's life. Share your spiritual gifts.

Upcoming Events:

November 15th	Operation Christmas Child Box Packing Night
November 19th	Baby Dedication during 11:00 Worship Hour
November 22nd	No AWANA/FLYTE
December 1st	Parents Night Out
December 6th	AWANA Clubs visit Nursing Home
December 13th	Birthday Party for Jesus
December 20th	No AWANA/FLYTE
December 27th	No AWANA/FLYTE



Red Door Dinner Theatre
Union Springs, Alabama
"Christmas Bells"
Thursday, November 30th,
2017
Leave at 5:00pm
Cost is \$35.00
Play, Dinner & Bus
Call Lorene Parker
To reserve your spot
706-570-1207

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Max Wilkes for Youth Ministry from Malinda Wilkes
Dot Beck for Homebound Ministry from
Stephen and Nancy Stainsby for Amen Choir from Pat Holland
Sue Newsome for Cross for FAC Building from Gary Newsome
Robert Holland for VIP from Pat Holland
Linda Groff for Amen Choir from Pat Holland
Harris Henderson for Amen Choir from Pat Holland
Otto Scarbrough for Amen Choir from Pat Holland
Natalie Hollon for Youth Ministry from Janet Turner
Jennifer Sullivan for Challenge to Build from Terry and Clara Grimes

In Honor of:

Sherry Scroggins for Homebound
from Clara Jean Watson
David & Pansy Slocumb for Challenge
to Build from Pat Holland
Charles & Linda Keown for VIP from Pat Holland

Bill Wilson:

For Amen Choir from:	Youth Ministry from Myra Currier
Malinda Wilkes	Food Closet from Margaret Maurer
Eddie and Judy Ezell	Flower Fund from Clara Jean Watson
Dorothy Atkins Robinson	Bus Fund from Gail Brantley
Pat Holland	Homebound from Stephen & Nancy Stainsby
Bobbie Redmon	Youth Ministry from Myra Currier
Brenda Slappey	Food Closet from Margaret Maurer
	Flower Fund from Clara Jean Watson
	Bus Fund from Gail Brantley
	Homebound from Stephen and Nancy Stainsby

Lakewood Happenings

November 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU 6:30pm SWO/NOW FAC	6:00pm Craft Class Shoe Boxes F/H		
			1	2	3	4
Time Change 5	10:30am Amen Choir 6	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 8	6:30pm Cookie & Candy Swap & OCC Boxes FAC 9	5:30pm Game Night 10	11:00am Helping Hands Ministry Carter Class OCC Boxes FAC 11
6:00pm Feast of Thanks Shoe Boxes due today 12	10:30am Amen Choir OCC Drop Off 13	6:30pm Alleluia Choir OCC Drop Off 14	7:00pm Finance Meeting OCC Drop Off 15	OCC Drop Off 16	OCC Drop Off 17	OCC Drop Off 18
Baby Dedication 3:00pm Turkey Bowl OCC Drop Off 19	9:30am Ladies Decorate for Christmas OCC Drop Off 20	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 21	No Wednesday Night Activities 22	Happy Thanksgiving 23	24	10:45am YA&S Feed the Homeless 25
Shane Clark AM & PM Services 26	10:30am Amen Choir 27	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 28	29	30		

September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/3	\$22,534.20	\$918.20	\$996.00	\$330.00	\$24,778.40
9/10	\$12,485.17	\$1,506.00	\$1,129.85	\$1,274.27	\$16,395.29
9/17	\$11,698.70	\$225.00	\$305.00	\$ -	\$12,228.70
9/24	\$15,135.24	\$235.00	\$1,012.32	\$4,803.00	\$21,185.56

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
7:00pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	Youth Worship

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

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

11/1

CHICKEN POT
PIE
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

11/8

SPAGHETTI
WHOLE
KERNEL CORN
GARLIC
BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

11/15

FRIED CHICKEN
MAC & CHEESE
ENGLISH PEAS
BISCUITS
SALAD & DESSERT

11/22

THANKSGIVING
BREAK

11/29

MEATLOAF
MASHED
POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD &
DESSERT

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

Welcome New Members

Norman & Katie White
Kay & Ronnie Ellison
Jim, Angela, Matthew
& Lawrence Combs

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
&
OTHER NOTES
OF INTEREST

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