

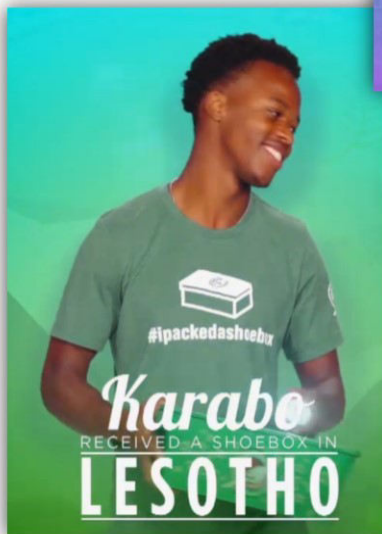
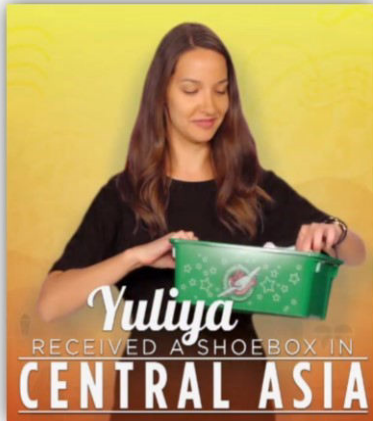
Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2020

VOL X: ISSUE 11 LBCPC.ORG

**These adults received shoeboxes as children.
Now they serve OCC as speakers for Christ!**





A Message from M.R. Hamilton

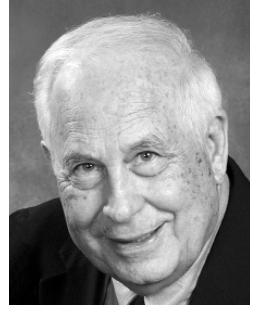
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SENIOR PASTOR

As I begin to write this month's letter I must admit that I am taken back by the reality that November is already here. 2020 has been anything but normal and with all the challenges I am surprised the time has passed so quickly. I have looked twice and it is indeed true that October is nearly over and the election is actually here and I for one will be happy when this time in American history is behind us. I am often asked about politics and I respond as I always do that I once took sides as the world fought it's wars but now my alliance is with God and His kingdom. There is plenty of fault to be found in all the different political parties but this one thing I do know with absolute certainty. Jesus loves the little children of this world and my God and Lord of my life really did say woe to those who bring harm to ones such as these. It is seldom we can know with absolute certainty that we are on God's side and we are standing with Him than when we stand up against the death of a child. My allegiance is with God and not men and thus I will do my part to stand against any party or power that stands against God and willfully takes the life of a child arguing that at certain ages be it too young or too old they have no value. God alone determines the value of human life and no court, nor government, nor political power shall ever change that fact. I recently saw a church sign that really hit the nail right on the head as it read "vote like children's lives depend on it".

It is my prayer that the nation of Christian people from every tribe and tongue will unite in the reality that God is still on His throne and that His kingdom will reign forever and ever. Our allegiance must always be to God and not men or the parties they form. Being a republican or libertarian or any other thing is fine as long as you're a Christian first who supports any organization that is fighting for laws that reflect God's will being done in our society. For example I am a Christian who has linked up with the Southern Baptist Convention and I plan to stay with this affiliation as long as the SBC continues to be Biblically based. But rest assured of this the very first micro second they choose to no longer submit to the authority of Scripture on all matters I will break my ties as I am not a Southern Baptist, I am a Christian who affiliates with the SBC. I am not an American Christian I am a Christian that happens to live in America and I thank God for that every

single day. So this year let us all remember that we are citizens of the greatest Kingdom of all, the Kingdom of God. Our king is the King of Kings and the Lord of all and He alone upholds or tears down the nations of this world. Please remember Sodom and Gomorrah and just why they were destroyed. They were not destroyed because of their sin they were destroyed because they had so few righteous people. "If my people who are called by name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways" was what God said it took for any nation to be blessed. Not for the lost to quit living like they are lost for God expects that of them. No, God wants Christians to stop living like they are lost and have no hope and have no God. "If my people" and we are God's people will get up and vote against evil God will hear our prayers and bless our land. This nation needs Christians to be Christians more right now than at any time in our history. God has blessed us in America with so much for so long that it seems we have come to a place where we are buying in on the lie that God has to keep on blessing us. We seem to believe that we are entitled to His blessing because we are Americans. We need to read our Bibles and realize that we have been blessed because we have been a nation full of His people fighting to turn ourselves and our nation from evil to His ways so He has blessed us. Now it is time again for God's people who are called by His name to humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways. What wicked ways you might ask and the answer to that question is simple. We can no longer sit by silently and say nothing and do nothing to stop evil when we have the power to stop it. We have the power in this great nation to vote to stop it and that is what makes this nation great. It is full of great Godly people who know the truth and this November I pray that God wins in a landslide. "Thy Kingdom come they will be done on Earth as it is in heaven".

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

I am writing this article two weeks before the election on November 3, and it's possible that most of you will have read it before you know the results of the election. My political preferences are very clear, and I am voting accordingly. At the same time, I'm wondering why everybody else can't see things as clearly as I can, and therefore vote the same way. The stakes are very high, and the ultimate battle is between light and darkness, not between left and right.

However, the point I want to make is that regardless of who wins and who loses, the message that I preach will remain the same. Whoever wins the election, the times will still be extremely urgent, our country will still need healing, and the commission of the church will still be to disciple the nations. And the fact remains that Jesus is still Lord, and our hope is in Him, not in Washington, D.C.

The prophet Isaiah declared, "Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very small thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him as less than nothing and worthless (Isa. 40:15-17).

This statement declares the greatness of God and expresses what the world looks like from His perspective. Even the pagan king Nebuchadnezzar recognized the same thing after he was severely humbled: "For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing. He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?'" (Dan. 4:34-35)

On November 4, God will still sit on His throne. We didn't vote Him in, and we can't vote Him out. Whether you are ecstatic or gloomy on November 4, and especially if riots and lawless turmoil follow the elections, I encourage you to read Psalm 46, and keep reading it until you have the assurance of God as your refuge and strength.

Perhaps we should be relieved that the bitter, nasty campaign is over. Billions of dollars have been spent on malicious negative advertising. Countless lies have been propagated and spread with straight faces, and Washington is still a

swamp. These ugly conditions should make us focus more on Jesus and intensify our efforts to bring our nation into submission to His Lordship. The most patriotic thing you can do on November 4 is not to wave a flag, shoot off a bottle rocket, or participate in a demonstration. The most patriotic thing you can do is to make certain your heart is right with God and then pray for America. Pray for the president, or the president-elect, that he will seek God in every decision, that God will give him the wisdom and knowledge he needs, that he will submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and openly confess Him as Savior, that he will set a biblical example in righteous living, that he will appoint judges who effect godly character and judge fairly. Pray for congress that they will seek God's purpose and not their own, that they will trust God for leadership rather than their own understanding. Pray for our country that we would repent and return to our biblical foundations, that we will not compromise our culture. And let us never forget that the ultimate hope of the nation is not the government, but Jesus and the gospel.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

In October, our young adults traveled to Charleston, South Carolina for a Fall Retreat Weekend. We spent time in the Word, in worship, and exploring the area. During our time there we visited parks and one obscure attraction, it's known as the Angel Oak Tree. This old tree is located on John's Island, down an unimpressive dirt road, barely big enough for two vehicles to pass one another at the same time. As we parked the bus along the narrow driveway the full scope of this giant tree came into view, it was massive, covering over 17,000+ square feet. This Southern Live Oak tree was different than any other tree I've ever seen, it was as wide (by its branches) as it was tall. What seemed like bushes that ran around the perimeter of the fenced off area were not bushes at all, but offshoots from branches that crawled along the ground. Estimates on age range from 300-1,500 years old, with the prevailing wisdom being around 400 years of age. This means, at the very least, it predates the United States of America, and would go back to the time of the Mayflower landing at Plymouth Rock. Needless to say, it is an ancient and awesome tree. As we walked around it and took pictures, I couldn't help but think of all the people who had visited that tree over time. Even that day, in the midst of the pandemic, there were a decent number of visitors viewing the attraction. I thought, how many children had played on its long branches (before that was banned), how many people took one of its acorns home in an attempt to grow their own "angel oak". I joked that we should take a few acorns home and plant them behind the FAC, and in 400 years or so, we too would have quite the sight. This got me thinking about legacy; what will people say of us when we are gone? In October, was buried a friend and former pastor mine, Andy Merritt, of Edgewood Baptist Church in Columbus, who passed away after battling Covid. Andy imparted such an awesome legacy in the pro-life movement as he and EBC founded the first church-sponsored Crisis Pregnancy Center in America, and was directly responsible for helping to plant at least 500 more around the nation in his lifetime. In fact, Andy came here to Lakewood

8 or 9 years ago and preached both services on our Sanctity of Life Sunday. Paige and I attended the family visitation the night before we left for Charleston, and I listened to the livestream of his funeral as I drove the next day. I reflected on what Andy's ministry meant for my life; he had looked past my numerous past failures as a student at Edgewood, and allowed me, in turn, to serve the students there for many years, for which I am forever grateful. He left a strong legacy among his family of 10 adult children and 25 grandchildren, of what a godly-Christian father and husband looked like. He also left an awesome legacy of 40+ years of ministry to his church. Again, I thought, what will people say of me when I'm gone? There is much you can say of me; he loves sports, especially the Braves and UGA football, he was always fundraising and pushing missions, he's too self-confident, and prone to be a jerk sometimes. All of those are true, but what I hope people might say is that they saw a (poor & fading) reflection of Christ in me. In truth, I don't care if people remember me at all, but I do care greatly that they see Christ through me. As I looked at the branches of that old tree and followed them as some reached upwards towards the sky and others crawled along (and even under) the ground, I thought about the many opportunities we have to impact others for the Gospel daily. We know biblically (John 15) that we are the branches and Jesus is the vine (source), but as we grow, there should be new offshoots, new growth from God's work and Word in us. I'd like to close with that question to you; how many Gospel-offshoots do you see right now? How many people are you investing in for the sake of the Gospel? What new growth could come for the Kingdom from your testimony from your faithfulness to preach the Gospel? The old saying goes; "Who will be in heaven because of you?", and while none of us can save anyone, we can be intentional about spreading the Gospel far and wide. Look for those chances daily, they are all around us. I am thankful for you, and may God richly bless you, Andrew



A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



This month I want to give a huge Thank you to all who supported and served at our Lakewood Fall Festival. It truly was a success in every way. It really was a good thing to see all the families and kids having fun all over our front yard. The huge success of the bake goods auction and hotdog lunch is a testament to how Awesome God is! I personally enjoyed serving our church and this community thru this event.

This is the month to celebrate Thanksgiving. It seems to get lost sometimes in the frenzy of Halloween and the push to Christmas, and that is not a good thing. We must remember to be thankful. Gratitude is vital to our maturity in Christ. We talk a lot about the Gospel from an intellectual perspective, but it is the heart filled with gratitude for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that leads us to serve him with our whole heart. This leads us to live our life other's focused. A heart truly thankful for how it has been blessed in infectious to others and will not remain silent. As I walked around our front yard during fall festival this year the primary comment was Thank You for this opportunity to be in fellowship. There is a Joy that overcomes from a thankful heart. This is made alive and strengthened as people come together in fellowship.

This month our AWANA clubs are looking forward to packing A LOT of Operation Christmas Child boxes. Our packing party will be Wednesday November 18 during AWANA 5:45PM – 7PM.

If you are interested in serving in Children's ministry in any capacity, please come and see me. I have a need for helpers for Sunday morning as well as Wednesday night. Our team is A LOT of fun, and my goal is to help you serve in wherever God is leading you.

Please know that my office is open, and I am continuing to work to broaden the scope of counseling during the week on Monday and Tuesday.



OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH @ 7:00PM

BACK OF FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTER

Bring your lawn chair and your fav movie snack

Popcorn & Hot Chocolate provided

Sponsored by the Women's Ministry

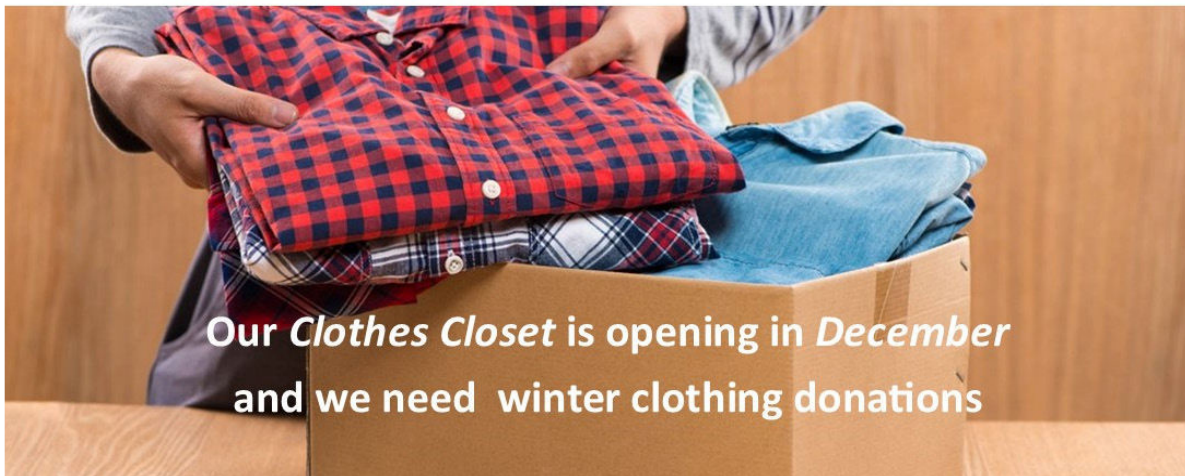


VOLUNTEERS

CALLING ALL HELPING HANDS

Church Work Day

Saturday, November 14th 9:00am Breakfast Provided



Our Clothes Closet is opening in December
and we need winter clothing donations

Lakewood Happenings

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
TIME CHANGE			10:30am VK/WMU			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	7:00pm Deacons Meet	12	13	9:00am Church Wide Work Day 7:00pm Church Wide Movie Night
15	OCC Drop Off 9:00pm-6:00pm	OCC Drop Off 9:00pm-6:00pm	7:00pm Finance Team meets OCC Drop Off 9:00pm-6:00pm	6:30pm JEG/BW F/H OCC Drop Off 9:00pm-6:00pm	OCC Drop Off 9:00pm-6:00pm	OCC Drop Off 10:00am-12:00pm
22	OCC Drop Off 9:00am-12:00pm	24	7:00pm Finance Team meets Tree Lot Opens	Thanksgiving Office Closed	Office Closed	28
29	30					

September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/6	\$27,225.20	\$120.00	\$3,575.96	\$512.50	\$31,433.66
9/13	\$11,749.87		\$770.96	\$164.00	\$12,684.83
9/20	\$15,298.00		\$746.96	\$100.00	\$16,144.96
9/27	\$16,265.06	\$100.00	\$1,050.48	\$ 634.00	\$18,049.54

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting
- 7:00pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Dr. Luton, Jr. from Fran Loftin for OCC Awana

Katie Arrighi from Fran Loftin for OCC Awana

Ruth Campbell for Amen Choir from Nancy Boyd

Natalie Hollon from Janet Turner for Student Missions

Pat Thornton for OCC Awana from:

Fran Loftin

Scott and Diane Bush

Gary, Kathy & Emily Hollon

In Honor of:

Judy and Rex Carter for Food Closet from Terry and Clara Grimes

A GREAT BIG
"THANK YOU"

TO ALL WHO WORKED TO
MAKE THE
FALL FESTIVAL
A HUGE SUCCESS

FOR CHURCH NEWS
OR ?S

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