

# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

October 2019

VOL IX: ISSUE 10 LBCPC.ORG

**October 26th**

**4:00pm-6:00pm**

## Fall Festival

*Fun for the Whole Family!*

**Inflatables & Games**

*We are currently collecting candy*

*Please drop off at church office*



Welcome Home.



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

If God were to ever move me south of the equator I wouldn't know how to act come October. I suspect it would be a lot like my first few weeks in Kansas City as a student at Midwestern where I found myself so out of sorts spiritually that I physically got sick. It was there that I first came to understand the Book of Ezekiel where both the prophet and the people felt as though their loss was so great they couldn't dare to dream of any hope in their future. They had been taken captive from the promised land to Babylon and I had been taken captive by the call of God from the mountains to Kansas City during the 1993 flood. I had come from constant sunshine to no sun and constant rain and there I sat among them in bitterness of spirit and physically sick just like Ezekiel. The Bible says that the man who thinks he knows something does not yet know all he should know and that has proven to be true over and over again in my life. I thought my loss of energy and feeling sick was just depression but a trip to the doctor and a \$30 sun lamp fixed me right up, physically anyway. I needed a lot more than a sun lamp to heal my broken spirit and that would require a mission trip to St Louis but that is in itself another story. You see my life just like the people in the days of exile to Babylon needed hope. I needed just what they needed which was an honest assurance that the best was yet to come. You see our attitudes are like rudders for our lives and they direct our paths be it up or down hill. Hope is the driving force behind progress and acts like a favorable wind in the sails of a ship carrying it forward. And hope comes from faith and faith comes from hearing the truth from God Himself. The captives in Babylon needed it and so did I and it was their message that set my ship upright again and moving forward. It was the story of the dry bones that reminded them that the best was yet to come. Their hope had dried up just like those dry bones but God restored their hope and spoke life into them and into me with the very same promise. The best is yet to come, it is not in your past but your future and Jeremiah would deliver this message to them in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to bless you not curse you and to give you a hope and a future". You see they thought they had been cursed by being sent away to Babylon but Jeremiah would again bring them the good news that they were the good figs. They were the blessed and not the cursed and that God had a plan to bless not curse them. That was the message I needed and soon discovered as well.

Perhaps you're wondering what any of this has to do with October south of the equator so allow me to explain. October 1st was for most of my life the most sacred day of the year. It was the opening day of the fall archery hunting season. I once thought of little less and literally lived for the month of October. Until moving here in 2013, October 1st still remained the best day of the year for me as I would gather up my kennel full of Bird Dogs and head to the wilderness after grouse and woodcock. October has always been and I suspect will forever be a beacon of hope full of promise and set apart as the official best day of the year for me. I love it, and I still dream about it like a child who waits on Christmas. Now can you imagine me south of the equator where October 1st is the beginning of Spring and things turning green? No, October means brown corn stalks and bright orange pumpkins. October is a time to see the trees turn every color but green. October is the end of the captivity of Summer and a return to the promised land. October is the Alpha and Omega of all months to me and I hope that never changes because hope is the rudder of my attitude and attitude helps me see the best really is yet to come.

# A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

In preparation for our annual Fall Festival, we are looking for individuals, families, or Bible Fellowship Classes to sponsor games this year which will aid in the excitement and joy of the fellowship of this event. Candy offerings may be made to the Church office. We also need assistance with hay bales for the hayride.

The hay ride last year was a fun one. Don't miss out!

The front lawn will be filled with inflatables and games for all to enjoy.

Save the Date . . .  
Sunday OCTOBER 27th



4:00 - 6:00 pm

## Fall Festival



Hot Dog Supper

\$6 per plate

(includes Hot Dog, Chili, Chips, Drink & Dessert)



Your donations help our AWANA kidz shoot for their goal with the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

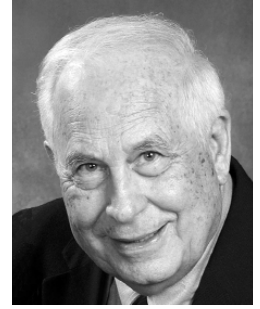
Have you ever felt like you just don't know where God wants you? That's ok because we are not supposed to "know" what He has planned for us, but He will pave the way for us to allow Him to lead us to serve Him. The Children's Department is a fun, yet rewarding place to serve. Lakewood's kidz are the BEST! Please call the Church office if you feel led to serve in any capacity with the children of our blessed Church or if you have any questions. There are events throughout the year that require many volunteers for success, Bible Fellowship Classes in need of Leaders/Workers, Extended Care during the 11:00 service, and Children's Church Leaders/Workers for both 9:00 and 11:00 services.

*Don and Kathryn Huffman along with Judy McCarley lead the 9:00 Worship for Children's Church each Sunday. We are praying that God will send helpers for this group so we can work out a rotation schedule to share the Love.*

Our Ministry is truly blessed with many faithful servants and I am very thankful for every single person who lends a helping hand to our kidz. We love on them, teach them about Jesus, and live as role models to each of them. Be a servant to our Father God and join us in the love and fun at Lakewood.

God Bless,  
Gina

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

As you read this article, I am in Asia, probably Indonesia, where I have been preaching and teaching for several weeks. I wish you could witness a typical worship service in the various cultures of this part of the world, as well as in other places. You would certainly be impressed at how the different cultures influence the outward expressions of worship. However, all those worship services have in common a heartfelt and uninhibited exuberance that I would like for our congregations to experience and to display more openly. Being dignified in worship doesn't mean that you have to be dull. Nor is congregational worship meant to be just a warm-up act for the sermon. Personally, I don't understand how we can be drab and unmoving when singing about the glory and majesty and might and goodness of God, or how we cannot get excited when we sing about our victory in Christ and about our eternal home. At least there could be a little toe tapping or shoulder twitching. We all know that the Bible tells us to worship the Lord with singing and musical instruments, but it also tells us to put a little action and emotion into it. We are instructed to clap and shout (see Psalm 47:1-2; 150:3-6), to bow and kneel (see Psalm 95:6), and to dance (you didn't misread it—see Psalm 149:3; 150:4; Jeremiah 31:4; 1 Samuel 6:12-14; Exodus 15:20-21). But you might be surprised to learn that the one physical activity in worship that the Bible describes more than any other is the lifting of our hands. This is not an exhaustive list, but check these passages: 2 Chronicles 6:12-13; Ezra 9:5; Nehemiah 8:6; Psalm 28:1; 63:4; 88:9; 119:48; 134:2; 141:2; 143:6; Lamentations 3:41; 1 Timothy 2:8. To me, the passage from 2 Chronicles is especially significant, because it describes Solomon lifting his hands toward heaven in dedicating to God the temple, the place of worship.

In most Baptist churches it's acceptable to clap and even encouraging to hear a few shouts of "amen," but the dancing might bring less than a desirable reaction. However, it might just set a few people free and loosen some stiff spiritual joints, that is, if it's done in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Now, lifting hands is another matter, certainly untraditional among Baptists, maybe even touching on fanaticism, close to Pentecostalism. For the life of me, I cannot understand why people at a rock concert can get all excited about a bunch of noisemakers trying to pass themselves off as musicians, jump up and down and raise and wave their arms and they are classified as fans, but if you do the same thing in church when you get excited about the Lord, you're classified as fanatics.

Let me tell you a true story, only with names changed to protect the guilty. During a worship service at a certain Baptist church something out of the ordinary happened, and the unlikely source was a quiet, mild-mannered man named John Goodman, a respected layman in the church. It seems that John had been blessed by attending some home fellowship meetings, and he was particularly touched by the sincere worship of the group. So on this particular Sunday, he raised not one arm but two during the first hymn. It wasn't one of those half-hearted, palms-up, arms-at-the-waist efforts. He stretched those arms as high as he could. And nobody behind the second row could miss it, because he always sat close to the front. There were several audible gasps, and Ima Trueblood was so stunned that she had to support herself by grabbing the pew in front of her and then she sat down. At least half the choir stammered over the next two measures, and some of them simply stopped. Even the song leader fell three beats behind before he collected himself. John's teenage daughter buried her face in the hymnal, and his wife looked around with a slight shrug of her shoulders to indicate that she was just as surprised as anyone.

The pastor thought it would be in order for the deacons to meet after the service to discuss John's noticeable expression of praise. He made it clear that he wasn't against it, and he didn't think it was out of place, but he thought they had better discuss it in case it caused a problem. One deacon said it didn't bother him, but he wondered what visitors might think. Another deacon told how he felt like raising his hands one time, but thought better of it. Nobody could think of any concrete thing to say about raising or not raising hands, so one then suggested that the pastor appoint a committee to come up with guidelines concerning hand raising and other examples of "spiritual exuberance." Everybody thought it was a good idea, so the pastor asked for a show of hands from those who were willing to serve on such a committee. It's too bad John wasn't a deacon. Not one hand was raised.



# A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

A few weeks ago Beau and I went to a student ministry conference in North Carolina. We heard from many different speakers on the challenges we face in ministering to today's students. Anyone who knows me, knows that I have an affinity for Christian **apologetics**. Just as a review, **apologetics** is knowing what you believe, why you believe it, and being ready to give a reasoned defense/answer for the hope within you. One of the speakers we heard struck a chord with me, as he reminded me of a belief system that is systemic within our American churches today. It is known as **Moral Therapeutic Deism** (we'll define it momentarily). This lie is believed by countless people, of all ages, who call themselves Christians within the Church. At its base, it's the thought we can customize God to **our** needs and wants. That we, as God's creation/creatures, can somehow, by our good behavior, manipulate or weaponize the Creator on our behalf? As if we have rights over Him, instead of the other way around? We should easily be able to reject and dismiss such a thought, but when we truly examine the way we **worship**, the way we **pray**, and the way we **obey** God, we can objectively see that this thought has infiltrated many of our lives. Let's stop for a moment and define the terminology: **Moral Therapeutic Deism- Moral:** concerned with the behavior (good or bad) of mankind's character, defining principles of proper conduct. **Therapeutic:** the treatment or relief of an illness, or injury by a remedial agent. **Deism:** the religious belief in a God who created the world, has set all the rules, and is now disengaged with humanity, watching from afar. Many would argue that theological belief system included here (Deism) is incorrect, because the true Deist believes God is unconcerned and unaffected by what goes on in the affairs of man. Instead, let's replace it with Theism. **Theism:** religious belief in a creator God or gods who intervene in the affairs of humanity.

So, how has this mindset infiltrated the Church? **Moral Therapeutic Theism** is the incorrect belief in God, as someone who acts on our behalf when we behave well, when we need a religious pick-me-up when life's got us down, or when we need Him to solve a problem we can't handle. This is the equivalent of the **religious pharisaical mindset** of Jesus' day, and at its root, it is **legalism**. As we know, you can never be "good enough" to move God on your behalf, you can never follow His statutes so perfectly that God will go beyond His promises or change His mind. God is sovereign, and to legalistically try to follow Christ is nothing more than to be a **closet unbeliever** parading around as a Christian. Our students just finished a four-part study on the **Ten Commandments**. We understood that God gave us the Law to clearly **reveal OUR sin nature**, to define **THE standard of morality**, and ultimately, that **OUR failure** to adhere to these ten simple rules, would point to **OUR need for a Savior**, in Christ. We should all be familiar with **Romans 3:20-26**; all have sinned, all fall short. Many churches today espouse a belief system that says you just need to fill-up your faith gas-tank, then God will move on your behalf. Right now, you're quarter-full of faith, but if you were three-quarters full, then you'd see God move. If you are just more godly, serve more, give more, come to church more, etc., then the Spirit will empower you or you'll be more blessed. While all of these good things should be paramount in a believer's life, if we do any of them with any other motivation other than a heart totally devoted to Christ, they are worthless and filthy rags. Our eyes should be fixed on Christ alone, the Author and Finisher/Perfecter of our faith, who didn't come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it. Our heart's cry should be; there's nothing good in me save Jesus, and all I do for the Kingdom of God, I do for the sake of what Christ did for me. We worship because we have a deep love and devotion for God, and it is the right response of His people. We pray because we are commanded to in all things, because we want to communicate with God, and because we know that His Word promises us there's power in prayer. Finally, we obey His commands because we love Him above all else. He is the Creator, therefore He has rights over His creation, not the other way around. Should a child tell their parents, who brought them into this world, what to do? Should they manipulate the parents will? Should they entreat their parents blessing by feigned good behavior? No, a child obeys because their parents created them, because they have God-given authority over them, because they love them, because they daily provide for their needs, because in spite of their kids failures, the parent forgives and loves them. How much deeper is the Father's love for us? If this mindset has infiltrated your life, if you've been legalistically trying to follow Jesus and find yourself miserable, if God has become just a religious add-on to your life, instead of Savior and Lord, confess, repent, and turn to Jesus. God bless, drew

**In Memory of:**

Lester Little:

Margie and Steve Argo for Youth Missions  
Margie Jackson for Budget  
Becky Neuhaus for Budget  
J.D. and Diane Whitehead for Challenge to Build  
Billy and Cathy Greene for Student Missions  
Laura C. Jones for Budget  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hebson for Budget  
Doug and Susan Wall for Budget  
Peggy Little for Budget

Buddy Helton:

Margie and Steve Argo for Amen Choir  
Glenda Medley for Budget  
J.D. and Diane Whitehead for Challenge to Build  
Billy and Cathy Greene for Student Missions  
Gary and Paula Johnson for Music Specials  
Eddie and Judy Ezell for Amen Choir

The Villas at McIntosh Creek

Leon Bailey for Budget from Glenda Medley  
Maxine Cole for Challenge to Build from J. D. and Diane Whitehead  
Bill Wilson for Food Bank from Margaret Wilson  
Leon Bailey for Budget from Glenda Medley  
Maxine Cole for Challenge to Build from J. D. and Diane Whitehead  
Bill Wilson for Food Bank from Margaret Wilson

**In Honor of:**

Rex Carter for the Food Bank from Terry and Clara Grimes  
Andrew Spires for Student Missions from Janice Noble  
Beau Reimink for Building and Grounds from Janice Noble



## Circles of Influence Spotlight

John Rhodes who was part of our worship team for several years is now living and serving as part of a church plant in Kuala Lumpur (KL), Malaysia. He has been in KL for nearly 2 years now and is loving southeast Asia. KL is literally translated as “muddy estuary.” KL started out as a sleepy, sludgy river town in its tin mining days. Today, rather than mud, you’ll find sleek skyscrapers, manicured parks, and busy expressways rising up around its rivers. KL, the capital and the most populous city in Malaysia, is often called Southeast Asia’s hidden gem, in part for its affordability, as well as for its beautiful landscape, warm weather, and delicious food scene.

KL is a culturally diverse city with a blend of with a large expat community from all over country is a Muslim country predominately, which means all are welcome, but it is illegal Sharia law, although God is saving many of

John’s church became part of the Harvest Bible Fellowship organization and has been in nationalities represented in Harvest Bible those who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Iran and other Arab nations. John’s worship team of course consists of all of these nationalities and during a recent visit, his participation experienced their worship, and what an experience to see “the nations” worshipping under one banner – the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ!



Chinese, Indian, and Malay cultures along the world. KL is mostly English speaking. The although they do have “freedom of religion”, to evangelize the Malay people who are under them in spite of the Muslim restrictions.

Please pray for John as he doesn’t have a permanent visa and must exit / enter frequently to reset his visa, so there is great risk with this but God has been so faithful and he covets your prayers for a permanent solution to that and continued safety in that area. He also asks for prayer for the many transitory people who come and go due to refugee status, or visa issues and are part of their church for a season. Lastly please pray that God would continue to grow local workers and leaders among them to rise up and take leadership roles in the church, and provide a firm foundation for the years ahead.

# Lakewood Happenings

## OCTOBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU			
		1	2	3	4	5
Lord's Supper 11:00am AWANA FR Lunch Fr. Porch 6:00pm Proclaimers	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting		11:30am Senior Adult Luncheon in FAC 5:30pm Game Night	11:00am H/H Ministry FTH
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Columbus Day	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
6:00pm Church Conf.	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW	7:00pm Student Game Night	11:00am S&YA FTH 6:00pm Amen Choir Concert w/ Wade Daniels
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4:00pm Fall Festival	10:30am Amen Choir	10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir				
27	28	29	30	31		

## August Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
8/4	\$21,687.68	\$380.00	\$3,706.00	\$563.00	\$26,336.68
8/11	\$13,898.71	\$239.00	\$349.74	\$779.73	\$15,267.18
8/18	\$18,546.03	\$848.67	\$1,639.73	\$1,014.07	\$22,048.50
8/25	\$18,167.58	\$255.00	\$736.48	\$1,383.54	\$20,542.60

### 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
- 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

## OCTOBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

<p><b>10/2</b></p> <p>MEATLOAF MASHED POTATOES GREEN BEANS ROLLS,SALAD &amp; DESSERT</p>	<p><b>10/9</b></p> <p>FRIED CHICKEN YELLOW RICE LIMA BEANS BISCUITS,SALAD, DESSERT</p>	<p><b>10/16</b></p> <p>TACO SALAD DESSERT</p>	<p><b>10/23</b></p> <p>BAKED CHICKEN, RICE, PEAS, ROLLS,SALAD &amp; DESSERT</p>	<p><b>10/30</b></p> <p>HAMBURGER STEAK, MASHED POTATOES GREEN BEANS ROLLS,SALAD &amp; DESSERT</p>
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To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEAST OF  
THANKS  
NOVEMBER 17TH

### October Greeters

KATIE WHITE  
GAIL BRANTLEY

### Check Bulletin Board

FOR  
THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS, NEWS  
ALSO OUR WEBSITE:  
[lbcpc.org](http://lbcpc.org)

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