

# Connections

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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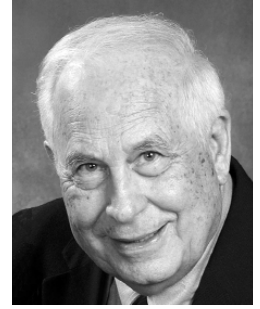
# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

September is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of so many things. September is one of the greatest months because it's filled with expectation. How many of us are expecting an end to the summer heat sometime in September? How many of us are expecting college football to start sometime in September? How many of us expect the Aspens to turn vibrant shades of red and gold as the elk begin to bugle in the Rocky Mountains in the month of September? (Ok, I might be the only one) You see September is a month filled with hope and expectation, dreams and excitement, relief and anticipation, which are all the things that make it worth waiting for. Perhaps the greatest thing God sends our way in September is not the change in weather but our attitude. When we suddenly begin to look forward to the days ahead for whatever reason that anticipation just adds a spark to our lives as we get ready for something good. I have some really good news for you as a believer. I was reading my Bible and I found there the plans God has for your life. The real Alpha and Omega, the creator of the heavens and the Earth said He was going to bless you and not harm you and that He was going to give you a hope and a future. The way I understand it is that God has promised to make every single day of your life like it was September. You know those things you love they are all about to happen. You know those things you have been trying to get through, those dog days of your life, well they are about to end. The great thing about this promise is that it doesn't just come once a year like September, this promise is for every single day of the rest of your life. And, the promises of God do not stop there as our passing from this life into eternity will be one of the greatest days of your life. Certainly, September is a great month filled with promise and I am looking forward to that first cool breeze that spells the end of the dog days of summer for a lot of reasons. You see God said His creation (September) has been made so that we might see and understand His divine nature and eternal power to bring about positive change in our lives just like He does the weather. September reminds us that our creator is a God of change and that change is meant to be a blessing. So whatever you might be going through always remember that this too shall pass. Speaking of pass, college football starts in September!

Hello,  
September!

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



.....  
MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

When you receive this issue of *Connections*, I will have just left Shanghai, China, bound for Singapore after a ministry of more than a week in that enormous metropolis of 25 million people. Of course, this ministry was of a covert nature, since foreign missionaries are banned in China, and the only places I could legally preach and teach are in the international churches, attended only by foreigners. However, there are hundreds of thousands of underground churches, meeting in homes, warehouses, after-hours restaurants, hotels, offices, etc., and that is where my ministry has been. Very rarely have I taught or preached at the same meeting place on two consecutive nights, even though many of the same people were in attendance, especially the Bible school students whom I was teaching.

To have legal status, churches must register with the government and place themselves under government control. According to official government statistics, there are 49 million Christians in registered churches. This figure does not include children, since it's illegal to baptize anyone under the age of 18. The number of underground Christians far exceeds those in the churches recognized by the government. The most reliable and up-to-date statistics I could find state that in this year of 2018 there are 234 million Christians in China's underground churches. In other words, there are currently more Christians in China than in the USA. That's a very impressive figure, but keep in mind that it represents only 20% of China's 1.4 billion population. Please pray for this vast nation and for me as I engage in missions to Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia. The role that I play is only part of a mighty floodtide sweeping the earth. The prophet Habakkuk wrote, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). Look around in our nation and see the virulent hatred, the putrid bitterness, the corruption, the disorganization, and the disintegration. Look around in our world and see the war and the strife. From the human standpoint there is no solution to all these disheartening conditions, but we can be assured that, as surely as there is a God in heaven, Jesus is going to be victorious. He taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." All the forces of hell and all the powers of sin, and all the doubts of people will not stop the enthronement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run;  
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
Thank you, Lakewood family, for helping to make it possible for me to do what I'm doing.

.....  
**Ladies Bible Study**

**Beginning Sunday September 9th @ 4:30pm in FAC or**

**Tuesday, September 11th @ 10:30am in FAC**

# *Psalm* 23

**THE SHEPHERD WITH ME**

**JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD**  
.....





# A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

I wanted to do something a little different with this month's article, to take the opportunity to brag on our volunteers. We just completed our tenth summer here at Lakewood which is an eternity in student/young adult ministry circles, as the average longevity of a student pastor is around 18 months. God had blessed and guided the ministry here by allowing us to participate in His plans, and to see His kingdom advance here in Phenix City, around the country, and around the world. However, there's no way we could have made it this long without a core group of committed volunteers who have served. I want to take a moment to brag on each of them. First, my wife Paige has been here from the start, teaching, leading, cleaning up after kids, and helping our girls grow in their faith. Almost right from the start God brought us John Rhodes to lead worship, and to also share his musical talents with the larger church body. God has given us committed bible fellowship/small group teachers over the years such as; Allyne Dault, John Giles, Sam Beman, Harrison Mills, Jes Keown, Judy McCarley, Autumn Scott, Wilkes Chandler, Beau Reimink, Mark Russell, Jordan Spires, Paige Spires, Mady Valfre, Teri Hodge, and Katie Hamilton just to mention a few. God has given me ministry interns like Mady Valfre and Teri Hodge who serve thanklessly behind the scenes and who've had to endure me on a daily basis. I couldn't brag enough about our long-time committed volunteers like Margie Argo and Lois Gray who loved on our students week in and week out, who didn't let age difference keep them from displaying their love and the love of Christ to the younger generations. What can I say about Mrs. Margie who gets up early on Sunday to bake muffins for our students every week, I am astounded by her love, and I can't even understand such commitment as she has been doing this for years! God gave us Shaun Culligan to lead our worship team and he has encouraged many of our students to use their vocal talents to serve the Lord. God gave us Mark Russell to run our sound and handle our technical issues along with teaching a small group. God gave us Beau Reimink, who came to me and said here I am, use me. So, that's what we did, over the past year he has led our young adult ministry and bible fellowship class. He recognized God's calling and desired ministry mentorship and he has functioned as my right hand guy over that time. I am overjoyed to see how God is calling and using him and his family. We've had many who were just willing to be used in whatever way needed like David Mathews, Fran Loftin, Chad Keeter, Kirstien Reimink, and Kendall Parks. Countless others who chaperoned trips, were regulars on mission trips, moms who fixed and served food for events. Folks like Lisa Woodburn who functioned as our fundraising coordinator for missions for several years taking stress off me along the way. Countless dads like Bert Woodburn, Chuck Hodge, and Jeremy Casey who would always respond to any physical challenge we ran into. Then there were our student leadership teams where we challenged our students to take on the mantle of leadership and serve their peers, which helped them grow in their faith as well. Still others church members too numerous to mention who have opened their homes for D-now, bible studies, swimming, parties, or whatever we needed. So many who respond to the call for hygiene supplies, student sponsorships, and calls to serve. I wish to thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart for your selfless service to our students and young adults. I will never be able to repay your kindness to me and the ministry here at Lakewood, but I pray God richly rewards you for your investment in His kingdom. We would not be able to function as a ministry each week without you, so thank you for your commitment to the Lord. As I look back God has surrounded us with people who cared enough to serve. I am always reminded that a leader is only as good as those who will follow, and I am eternally thankful for all of you who answered the call! Please forgive me if I didn't include your name, as I'm getting old and forgetful. God Bless,  
Drew

# A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC



FLYTE  
faith. life. together.

The goal of AWANA is to reach Kidz with the gospel and engage them in long-term discipleship. The program emphasizes memorizing and understanding key Bible verses, and a series of awards mark their achievements. A relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ is the most exciting and important thing anyone can ever have. Children age 3 thru 6th grade meet in the Children's Building on Wednesday evenings from 5:45pm to 7:00 pm between September and May. Last year attendance steadily increased to an all time high of 88 kidz.

**HELP ! PLEASE sign up to help a child learn his verses.**

**Wednesday  
September 5th @ 5:45**

**KIDZ News:** Wet Fest Family Night was a great time of fellowship and fun. Coach OJ is very much appreciated for his unending service to our Kidz Ministry. Thank you to all who helped with this event.

*Save the Date! LBC Annual FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, October 28th*

# Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Charles Turner for Youth Ministries from Janet Turner

Bill Phillips For Builders for Christ:

Billy & Cathy Greene

Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

Ruth Drinkard

For Amen Choir from Bill & Judy McCarley

Glenn Anderson

For Amen Choir from JD & Diane Whitehead

For Meals on Wheels from Bill & Judy McCarley

For Challenge to Build from Ken & Janice Noble

For Youth Ministry from Billy & Cathy Greene

For budget from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schroeder

For Meals on Wheels from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

For Bus Maintenance from Gail Brantley

For budget from Mr. & Mrs. Henry Long

For Food Closet from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree

Janie Maxwell

for Amen Choir from Bill & Judy McCarley

for Amen Choir from Cecil & Dorothy Robinson

for Amen Choir from Fred & Margaret Van Horn

Buddy Jackson for Amen Choir from Terry & Clara Grimes

Slade Bush for Food Closet from Brenda Slappey

In Honor of:

Charles Keown for Amen Choir from Margie Jackson

## Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6:00pm

M.R. will be teaching a new study in which he will give biblical answers to life's hardest questions

## New Bible Fellowship Classes

Steve Argo & Rick McGowan will be joining their two classes together and will share the teaching responsibilities.

Also Beau Reimink will begin a young adult bible study on Sunday, September 16th. This class will be held upstairs in the Senior Adult building in the former youth room.

# Lakewood Happenings

## September 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						VIP 1
VIP 2	Labor Day 3	10:30am Ladies Bible Study FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 4	10:30am VK/WMU 5:45pm AWANA/FLYTE Resume 5	7:30pm YA Bible Study 6		11:00am Helping Hands Ministry 8
4:30pm Ladies Bible Study - FAC 9	10:30am Amen Choir 10	10:30am Ladies Bible Study FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 11	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 12	7:30pm YA Bible Study 13	5:30pm Game night 14	
4:30pm Ladies Bible Study - FAC 16	10:30am Amen Choir 17	10:30am Ladies Bible Study FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 18	7:00pm Finance Meeting 19	7:30pm YA Bible Study 20		
4:30pm Ladies B. Study FAC 23	10:30am Amen Choir 24	10:30am Ladies Bible Study FAC 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 25	7:00pm CDC Meeting 26	7:00pm JEG/BW 7:30pm YA Bible Study 27		10:45am S&YA Feed the Homeless 29
4:30pm L.B.S. FAC VIP 30						

## July Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
7/1	\$15,514.60	\$555.00	\$2,863.77	\$1,148.28	\$20,081.65
7/8	\$19,867.86	\$815.00	\$1,062.11	\$175.00	\$21,919.97
7/15	\$9,994.18	\$287.00	\$3,627.73	\$1,797.42	\$15,706.33
7/22	\$10,423.67	\$170.00	\$1,196.41	\$6,090.83	\$17,880.91
7/29	\$11,608.15	\$45.00	\$335.74	\$454.00	\$12,442.89

### 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	Wet Wednesday
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

## SEPTEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 9/5

BAKED PORK  
LOIN  
MASHED  
POTATOES  
GREEN BEANS  
ROLLS, SALAD &  
DESSERT

### 9/12

TACO SALAD  
REFRIED BEANS  
WHOLE KERNEL  
CORN  
DESSERT

### 9/19

HAMBURGER STEAK  
RICE, BROCCOLI  
ROLLS  
SALAD & DESSERT

### 9/26

FRIED CHICKEN  
MAC & CHEESE  
PEAS  
ROLLS  
SALAD & DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

### Game Night

September 14th  
5:30m  
Fellowship Hall

### September Greeters

JILL HENDERSON  
MYRA CURRIER

### Check Bulletin Board

FOR  
THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS, NEWS  
&  
SIGN UP SHEETS

MINISTERIAL STAFF

#### MR Hamilton

PASTOR  
[BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Charles Keown

MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
[CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES  
[ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Patrick Thornton

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES  
[PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:PATRICK@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Gina Fusillo

CHILDREN  
[GINA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:GINA@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

#### Jerry Horner

DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH  
[HORNERJERRY@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:HORNERJERRY@LBCPC.ORG)

OFFICE STAFF

#### Onezima Everritt

FINANCE ASSISTANT  
[ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Carol Breault

OFFICE ASSISTANT  
[CAROL@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CAROL@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Linda Keown

MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA  
[LINDA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:LINDA@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

#### Cabbi Black

DIRECTOR  
[CABBI@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CABBI@LBCPC.ORG)

#### Tammy Evans

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.  
[TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

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