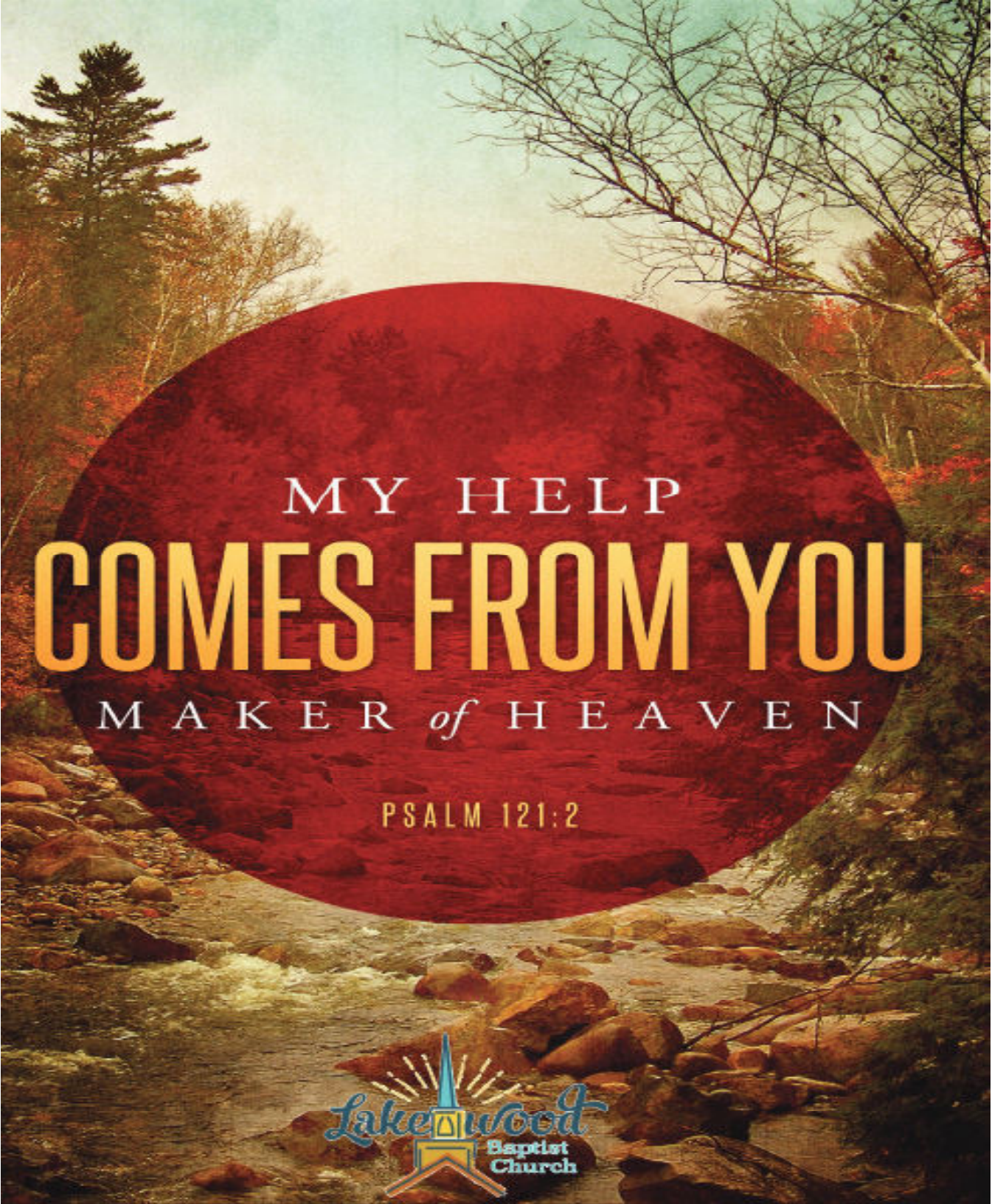


Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2019

VOL IX: ISSUE 9 LBCPC.ORG



MY HELP
COMES FROM YOU
MAKER *of* HEAVEN

PSALM 121:2



Welcome Home.

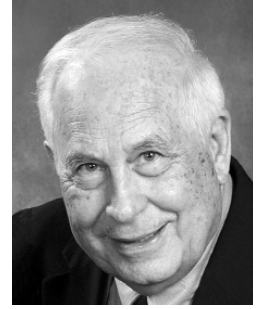


A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

September is celebrated all around the world as it represents the end of summer here in the North and the end of winter for our friends south of the equator. I have often wondered why change in the weather is a cause for celebration while any other form of change even for the better usually finds resistance. Perhaps the answer lies in the truth that one can get too much of a good thing. In winter we long for warmer weather and at times we might even deceive ourselves into believing we want it to get hot until it actually does. Then we find excuses to stay indoors as long as the air conditioning works as it should. Perhaps Spring as well as Fall are both so popular because they bring an end of the extreme heat and cold which force us to change our normal activities. Could it be that we love the change in weather because it allows us to get back to normal. We greet the change that allows us to get back to normal. You see we don't like change but we celebrate any change that does away with anything that was causing us to have to change. So what in the world does this have to do with God and what He requires of us? Nothing in all the Bible is as pleasing to me as the vision I get when I read about Jesus taking the children up in His arms and blessing them. Can you imagine watching your child running up to Jesus as He kneels down to take them up in His arms to bless them? Can you imagine those children growing up in the church remembering the day Jesus reached out for them. Can you imagine being the child Jesus brought before the disciples the day they argued about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom? (MT.18:1-4) Jesus called the child to Him and said "Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven". I love the fact that Jesus did not say to humble ourselves as a child. No, Jesus called a specific child forward and then He said the greatest would be as humble as this child. Unlike the disciples he would never approach Jesus without an invitation. He had no place in his heart for a dream of how his relationship with Jesus would serve him in the future. He only wished to be near Jesus for no other reason than to spend what time he had near Him. I like to believe that in the early church existed a member who's claim to fame was that he was this child. I wish I loved the message of this story as much as the image because the message was one of change. Unless I am converted which means changed from a man like the disciples full of ambition and wanting to be seen with Jesus to this child who simply wanted to see Jesus I will have no place in heaven. Our walk and our relationship with Jesus can never be about us and what we can gain or receive but about Jesus and wanting to be near Him. It is all about changing from a self-centered lifestyle and focus to a Christ centered life. The child was not exalted because of who he was but because of who he wasn't. Perhaps the greatest difference between adults and children can be found in a child's desire to change. A child wants to see change in every part of their lives. After all growing up is all about change. It is when we lose that desire for change that we begin to fight life's losing battle. Change is God's plan and it will always be the same. Thus those who fight against change then are destined to always be defeated and have you ever known a happy defeated person? So don't live like concrete all mixed up and set in your ways. You were a child once and you enjoyed change once and if you enjoyed it once you can enjoy it again if you just looked at life as though it were September. A time of refreshing as we wait for the first cool breeze of the season. A time of great change and a time to prepare for the harvest. A time to celebrate the opportunities that lie ahead of us and celebrate the dog days we just went through being behind us. As crazy as it might seem this is my take on September.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Our country has witnessed so many acts of violence over the past few weeks that many other countries have warned their citizens against traveling to the USA. In trying to explain why evil is rampant in this country, people are pointing fingers at the president's supposedly inflammatory rhetoric, weak laws governing the possession of weapons, bad environment, poverty, and a host of other reasons—everything but sin.

In these days we seem to tolerate everything and oppose controlling what once was called evil behavior. What once was deemed unthinkable evil is not only tolerated now, but considered good and normal. Those who question such behavior and the tolerance of it are often labeled with words that end in “-phobe,” such as “homophobe.” Societal norms, once determined by biblical principles, have been undermined to the extent that normal is what individuals think is okay for them to do, and absolute truth has given way to whatever individuals want to believe.

I am of the opinion that God gave America in 2016 an opportunity to reverse the country's gravitation toward moral and spiritual disaster, but there is a concentrated satanic opposition to fulfilling that opportunity, and it's so powerful and deceptive that many professing Christians are caught up in it. The early leaders of America would be horrified to witness how the country they founded with such high ideals is gradually being transformed into a secularist and atheistic utopia, where communist ideals are glorified and promoted, while Judeo-Christian values and morality are ridiculed and increasingly eradicated from the public and social consciousness of our nation. The decades-long assault and militant radicalism of many so-called “liberal” and “progressive” elites has resulted in the progressive deletion of God from our public and educational institutions, to be replaced with all kinds of delusion, perversion, corruption, violence, decadence, and insanity. In places of influence today are some of the most radical and hypocritical, least democratic, and characterless individuals our society has ever produced. Godlessness is always the first step towards tyranny and oppression.

Abraham Lincoln's proclamation for a day of fasting and prayer, issued on March 30, 1863, should be required reading for every citizen of the United States. He declared the nation's duty to depend upon God and called for national repentance, recognizing “that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.” Then he wrote these words: “And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then, to humble ourselves, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, in a speech describing how communism dominated Russia, said: “While I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.” He went on to tell how he devoted fifty years to an intensive study of the cause of the ruinous movement that exterminated sixty million of his people. After all those years of investigation, here was his conclusion: “I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.”



A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Reflections: There have been many times in my life where I've looked back to reflect on God's grace and mercy towards me. Today is one of those days. There are seemingly so many paths to take in life that could affect the outcome; what school to attend, what career to choose, what person to marry, where to live, and so on and so forth. We rarely know the best path to take, yet as a believer, we rely on the sovereignty of Almighty God to direct our lives, as He wills. As I reflect on the last ten years here at Lakewood, I can honestly say there have been a lot of ups and downs; some really good times, and some really tough times. Some times to cherish, and some times to forget, but such is the nature of life! While we just celebrated 10 years here this past month, this also totals 24 years for us in student ministry overall. As I look back at the three very different and distinct churches where we have served, I can see God's guiding hand through each one. We've known God's blessing, God's maturation process, and experienced God's chastening as well. As I think further on all these things, I realize that I was never alone. Not only did I have God with me always, but He surrounded me with helpers. First, my wife Paige has been by my side, teaching and leading, always doing whatever I asked of her. God has also given me countless bible fellowship teachers, small group leaders, secretaries, interns, chaperones, and key parents who all played vital roles making the various ministries successful over the years. Right now, I think about those He has blessed me with here at Lakewood and I am so thankful for their service. I am thankful for Mrs. Margie Argo, for making muffins, taking roll, sending out cards, and lovin' on our kids for 28+ years now. I am thankful for David Mathews, who is always checking on me, who always gets the roll book for me, who's always ready to pray, and is always so happy just to be at church. I'm thankful for Beau and Kirstien Reimink, for their 3+ years of service to our students as the consummate servants and leaders. I'm thankful for Mark Russell who not only leads a small group weekly, but runs our sound and video in the FAC each week. I'm thankful for our small group leaders Deztanee Woods, Jordan Spires, Teri Hodge, Saige & Mady Valfre, and the many who have gone before them. Finally, I'd like to say thank you to all of you, the community of believers called Lakewood Baptist Church. The main thing God has been teaching me here over the last ten years is how to better love His people, and He's been teaching me that through you! Thank you for accepting this mean-faced, loud-mouthed, wrong-side-of-the-river, Georgia fan into your midst. People often ask me how I came to serve at a church in Phenix City, Alabama, being born and raised in Columbus, UGA? I always give the same response; "First, God must have a sense of humor! Second, if His Alabama and Auburn loving folks can tolerate a Georgia boy like me, then surely they can love their neighbors as themselves." In all seriousness, my family and I wish to express our gratitude for all the many expressions of love, gifts, and kind words during the last 10 years. Someone asked me last Sunday night what I have planned for the next 10 years? In truth, I have no idea what the next 10 years hold, but I know the One who does! God bless,
drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC



Our Kidz NEED YOU!

Be an answer to our prayers!

Commit to help
2-3 children memorize scripture. We meet on
Wednesday nights from 5:45—7:00 and only a
small segment of that time requires your
attention and presence.
Please call Gina if you have any questions.
(321)759-6065



Sweet BLESSINGS

Our dear friend, Mr. Bum was having some symptoms, and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in December. When his neurologist gave him the diagnosis, Bum wasn't worried. He knew God would take this diagnosis, use it and bless it. The diagnosis has been turned into treasured gifts.



Scrap wood was scattered around Mr. Bum's workshop. He thought he might make some wooden blocks for our Sunday school rooms. The thought turned into a little wooden car that he took into the kitchen and asked Mrs. Carol what she thought, "you made that?", she exclaimed. Well, that's what "got the cars rolling". Since then, Mr. Bum has expanded into several different small vehicles that fit perfectly into Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes as well as larger busses, trains, 18-wheelers and more! Our Preschool Sunday School kidz are loving the wooden toys and we are all loving our Mr. Bum. He has a jumpstart on the OCC cars and our AWANA kidz will be packing them into the shoeboxes this November. Praise God for His "Sweet Blessings" !

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Bennie Cole from Janice Noble for Builders for Christ
Arthur Byrd from Glenda & Gabriel Medley for Budget
Eva Turner from J.D. and Diane Whitehead for Building & Grounds
Maxine Cole from Billy and Cathy Greene for Food Closet
Max Wilkes for his birthday for the Amen Choir from Malinda

In Honor of:

Sue Melton from Terry and Clara Grimes for Food Closet



Circles of Influence Spotlight

Valley Interfaith Promise consists of 10 local host churches volunteering at 8 sites.

There are two partnerships which means that 2 smaller Churches partner with another to provide hosts for meals and overnight stays. Year to date VIP has “housed” six families which means that these families are now working and they are paying affordable rent. We are fortunate that our families and our program are able to qualify for Rapid Rehousing. These programs offer help in many different ways. Some offer assistance with security deposits, first months rent, utility deposits, and some offer continued assistance up to a year! Most importantly it is continued Case Management to ensure that once our families leave us they have the necessary tools to remain stable. In addition to housing, all of our families were able to receive the necessary furnishings and extras to make their house a home. Not having to worry about those things gives them the opportunity to continue their savings. One more piece of great news. One of our families received a clear titled mini-van. Thank you all for what you do. This could not happen without you!

Lakewood Happenings

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
VIP 1	Labor Day	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/ WMU 5:45pm AWANA resumes			VIP 7
VIP 8	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting		5:30pm Game night	11:00am H/H Ministry FTH
6:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Finance Meeting		10:00pm 5th Quarter FAC	10:00am Churchwide Tailgate @ FAC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW		11:00am S&YA FTH
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Ram Corps	10:30am Amen Choir					
29	30					

July Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
7/7	\$22,522.66	\$886.00	\$3,410.41	\$1,700.01	\$28,519.08
7/14	\$13,900.51	\$73.67	\$1,165.51	\$1,448.28	\$16,587.97
7/21	\$15,731.77	\$480.00	\$1,794.30	\$1,880.42	\$19,886.49
7/28	\$12,020.30	\$116.00	\$833.00	\$ 451.21	\$13,420.51

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
- Youth Worship
- 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

9/4

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED
POTATOES
CORN
ROLLS, SALAD &
DESSERT

9/11

TACO SALAD
DESSERT

9/18

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD & DESSERT

9/25

PORK LOIN, RICE
& GRAVY, GREEN
BEANS, ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

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

CALL OR COME BY
THE CHURCH
OFFICE TO GET THE
ACCESS CODE
FOR OUR
MOBILE DIRECTORY

September Greeters

JILL HENDERSON
MYRA CURRIER

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS, NEWS
ALSO OUR WEBSITE:
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