

March Connections



Lakewood Baptist Church

Proclaiming the Word of God with boldness

As I write this month's message Katie and I have just returned from a retreat in Pigeon Forge that was a gift from the Morning Star ministry here in Phenix City. The weather was anything but ideal but the fellowship and Bible teaching were wonderful. The month of March has always been special as my birthday is on the 10th and this year it will be a time for looking back at all that God has done for me. One year ago Katie was just coming home from her first major surgery and the beginning of her year long struggle with cancer. This year will represent my 30th year of knowing the truth that changes everything; God really does love me. As I try to remember all the blessings from that first day until the present, I can hardly imagine the void that would be my reality had I not known that truth. God set me free from a belief that had taken me captive from the days of my childhood. That creation could never fill the void of a life lived apart from Christ. It was peculiar to be in the mountains this week as I once worshipped them, believing that I could find real peace and contentment there. But the truth shared in the movie Jeremiah Johnson came full circle for me as it did for Jeremiah. He was told this truth by a wise old mountain man who observed "That many a man has come hoping to find something in the mountain that he couldn't find below, but it isn't so". No, the peace that transcends all understanding is not to be found in all of creation, for creation exist to lead us to the creator of all things. True peace, true joy, real contentment can only be found in Christ alone. You see I still enjoy the beauty of God's creation but it has lost its power over me. Its power was born from my belief in it's ability to deliver me from my spirit of discontent. To bring me great joy and the peace I so desperately longed for. Few things are more difficult and life changing than climbing a ladder you believe will bring success, only to find you had placed it on the wrong wall. How many more disappointments would have awaited me had I failed to put my trust in the truth of God's love for me? Oh how I look back across these 30 years and thank God for the victories He alone has given me. I know the truth of who I am apart from Christ and how none of these victories are my own. I would have never started a single church without God doing it in spite of me. I could have never dreamed of a wife like Katie without God bringing it to be in spite of who I am. I could have never been selected as a missionary and then the director of missions without God causing His people to see in me what I have never seen in myself. I could have never even dreamed of preaching a revival in a church like Lakewood and Central Baptist on March the 10th 2013. But through Christ those things all came to be. Did you notice that date two years ago when God gave me one of the greatest birthday gifts of my life. Yes the revival here at Lakewood started exactly two years ago on my birthday that lead me to become the pastor here at Lakewood Baptist Church. This is one truth that I hope and pray that you all realize by now. I am certainly not the man you needed to be your pastor, but God has done it again in spite of me. You see I can't do it but God never said I could, but He can do it through me and He promised that He would. I am blessed! I am blessed beyond anything I could dare to dream or imagine. I am blessed to be called your pastor. I am blessed to be Katie's husband! I am blessed to be the parent of Elizabeth and Daniel! I am blessed to know the truth of God's love for me! I am blessed to be free from the belief that anything in all of creation could ever bring the peace of knowing Christ as my Lord and Savior! I am Blessed! I hope and pray that you also know the same reality in your own life. If not then there is no time better than the right now to move your ladder. If you do I promise you this, You will be celebrating March the same way I do!

God Bless and Best Wishes!

Blessed

I will sing to the Lord

SINGSPARATION on Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

Choirs from Greater Mt. Zion, Oasis International, Epworth, the Fort and Summerville Baptist are among those coming!

This is an event featuring different music groups from the Lee and Russell county area. If you want to see what other churches are doing or you just want to support the home team, I hope you will come. Lakewood is the host for this wonderful evening of inspirational music.

JUBILEE on Tuesday, March 24th at 10:30 a.m.

Beallwood Baptist Church

They have another great program planned for the morning session and of course the different choirs singing in the afternoon. This is one of our favorite events of the year. Our choir will probably sing last, but the Jubilee is open to anyone who wants to attend. Lunch at the church is \$6 and you would need to get your reservation in early. This is the 16th year and the Amen Choir has sung at every one.

Patrick Thornton

Children are a gift from God

Our new schedule on Sunday mornings seems to be working out very well for the children's division. As promised, I have been tracking the attendance of our children in the early and the late worship services so that I can make the best decision concerning which hour to offer our children's church program. At this time we will continue children's church during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour, and kids in kindergarten and older will stay with their parents during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will continue to offer childcare for babies through 4 year olds downstairs in the preschool division during the early worship hour.

Kids, we have the rest of the year mapped out on the calendar now, and our next big event is the Awana Lock-In, which will be Friday night beginning at 7:00 p.m. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 28 at 11:00 a.m., and then an overnight camp-out is coming up at the beginning of May for our 3rd – 6th graders. Come to Awana on Wednesday nights and find out all of the details about these upcoming events!

Senior Adult Game Night

March 13th from 5:30-8:30 pm

Bring Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

We will meet every second Friday night of the month.

Attention Median Adults:

Charles & Judy May have recognized a need in the **Median Adult** department of our church and have volunteered to fill that need.

They will be in charge of **events and fellowships** for this department. If you have any ideas or suggestions for fun activities please let them know.

To know Him and make Him known

I will leave on March 9 for several weeks of ministry in Borneo, Laos, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Lakewood Baptist Church plays a vital role in all my mission endeavors, and were it not for your financial and spiritual support, I would not be able to complete this missionary activity. I want to express to you my sincere gratitude for your investment in my ministry, and I want you to know that wherever I go and whatever I do, I am an ambassador of Christ and of Lakewood Baptist Church. You participate in Every lesson I teach, in every message I preach, and in every personal witness that I give. Therefore, you share whatever reward may come as a result of the ministry to which the Lord has entrusted me. Considering my age, people often ask why I continue such a demanding itinerary and how long I intend to do it. Such questions are not for me to answer, because, recognizing that I cannot function without unction, I realize that the appointing and the anointing are God's business. Mine is simply to obey and to cooperate. Besides, age is more than a matter of chronology; it's a matter of attitude. And I assure you that I am a very young man, divinely energized in mind and spirit. Sometimes I may get weary *in* the work, but I never get weary *of* the work. When Jesus called His apostles to follow Him, they did not ask "where, when, how long, why?" Theirs was a lifetime commitment, with an attitude definitively expressed by Paul in I Corinthians 9:16: "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" I'm locked in and I can't get out. God caught me and I can't get loose. Paul also declared in Romans 1:14 that he was a debtor to the world, because Jesus Christ had entrusted the gospel to him to deliver to the world, and he had to fulfill that obligation. Someone recently said to me, "You can't save the whole world." Well, as a matter of fact, I can't save anyone, much less the world. That's the business of the Holy Spirit, not mine. My commission is to deliver the message by which the world may be saved and to engage in "the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12). If you are a follower of Christ, you also have a call on your life. It may not be to preach or to be a globetrotting missionary, but you do have a call from God and a spiritual gift or gifts that will enable you to fulfill that call. Whatever it is, you are to respond to it with the intent of pursuing it until you are translated into glory. I Peter 4:10 declares that each of us has received a gift and that we are to administer it as good stewards of God's grace. Whether God has put you in an accountant's office or a teacher's classroom or a mechanic's garage or a wife and mother's household, or appointed you in some other role, you are accountable for the talents, the opportunity, and the stewardship He has given you. You are not here to impress others with your knowledge of the Bible, or how well you can sing or play an instrument or preach or teach or raise money or build a gigantic church building. You are here for the purpose of glorifying Christ and to bring others into the Kingdom. Thank you for helping to make it possible for me to fulfill my call.

Easter Announcement: WE HAVE A REALLY GREAT PROBLEM!

We have been really blessed and have one of the best problems possible. We are starting to run out of seating space in our second service. Presently we are running near capacity and Easter is coming with even more guest than normal expected. Last year I must admit that I was not nearly as faithful as I should have been and we had a large group who were not able to find seating. So I promised myself then and there to do better this year in making sure everyone who chooses to attend our Easter services will find a place for their family. To accomplish this goal I have asked the choir and orchestra to be prepared to do both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am times so that both services will be identical. Now I need for a few of my faithful second service people to please agree to attend the early service on Easter so that we can have your seat for the guests who primarily attend the second service. We will have a signup sheet available at the Welcome Desk and on the bulletin board next to the church office so that you can sign up. We are looking for 50 to 60 people as that was the number that we had to turn away last Easter. I would love to say that this is just once a year but I feel certain I will be asking you for the very same thing for mother's day as well. We have a plan for that service that is sure to be a remarkable blessing. Remember both services on those days will be exactly the same so you will not miss anything by coming to the earlier service time. And you will be helping us advance the kingdom by offering your place to a visitor. For everyone who had difficulty last year finding a seat I apologize for not being better prepared. So this year you can invite your family and friends and know we will be doing our very best to accommodate everyone. Brother M.R. Hamilton

Shaping the future

God is doing only what He can do: Have you ever prayed and prayed for something to happen? Wondering, hoping, looking forward to the day when it would come to pass? Grasping on to the truth of God's Word knowing that there is hope for tomorrow? I have come to a realization in my life that sounds pretty simple but is profound; there are some things that only God can do. I'm a bit of a control freak, I know how to get things done and many times I'd rather do them myself than to trust someone else to do them for me. Unfortunately, that also translates into my ministry here at Lakewood. I sit back and think; "how can I inspire a true passion for God in the students and young adults that God has entrusted to me?" I see so many of them struggling with "big" issues, so many of them hurt, so many of them dealing with family issues or relationship issues and I feel overwhelmed. I preach to them weekly the Word of God but I watch many of their eyes glaze over as the Word is taught. I watch many in worship just going through the motions, mindlessly singing a song they've sung a hundred times before. I watch many of them check and play with their phones while worship is going on or talk with the person sitting next to them and it causes me to wonder. I wonder what it would take to shake them from their sleep and cause them to run unashamed to the foot of the cross and surrender all. I try to create entertaining lessons, games, events, and exciting worship that will evoke the response I'm hoping for but then it hits me; I'm not God, and that's not my job! Then suddenly, last week happens. We go to True Love Waits, as we have many times before, but the message spoken by God cuts to the heart of many of our students and before I know it I'm on my hands and knees praying over our young people as they fall at the altar. As I lay my hands on the heads of each student and pray for them, my hand touches a familiar one, that of my own son Colt. Paige and I have prayed for a long time for Colt to come to know the Lord. After all he's the son of a minister and most would assume he had already made that decision of faith. Although Paige and I have talked with Colt many times about making Jesus Savior and Lord of his life, I never saw the Holy Spirit move upon him until last Wednesday night. God was handling business in His time! Then we went to Snowbird last Friday, as we have many times before, but the message spoken broke the hearts of many of our students and they came back and enacted practical changes in their lives that will give them victory in the battle with purity and the war against lust. God, once again, was handling business! I listened as student after student sought me out to tell me their struggle, tell me their hurt, and tell me of their new passion for Christ, and I was overwhelmed with joy as I watched God inspire and God empower. All of this to say to you; if you've been praying for something and are about to give up hope, if you've been struggling with sin and see no relief, if you need a fresh touch from the Lord and need your joy restored, then just stop; stop trying to manufacture it, stop trying to accomplish it in your own strength, let whatever it is go and let God do only what only He can do. I'm still praying for certain things; still waiting for some answers; still lifting up big concerns but I'm thankful for God's reminder over the last few days that He is at work all the time!



Bulletin Board

There are events and notices posted there as well as notes of appreciation from our members.

A Note of Appreciation

was received from The family of Jason Dyer

Welcome New Members

Paul & Ruby Formby

Sympathy to

Maxine Cole in the loss of her sister, Charlotte Latham

Wednesday Night Supper Menus

March 4

Ham
Sweet Potato Casserole
Peas & Butterbeans
Rolls Salad Dessert

March 11

Fried & Baked Chicken
Mac & Cheese Casserole
Green Beans
Rolls Salad Dessert

March 18

Pork Chops
Rice & Gravy
English Peas
Rolls Salad Dessert

March 25

Chicken Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Cabbage Cornbread
Salad Dessert

~ In Memory of ~

Max Wilkes for Challenge to Build from Malinda Wilkes

Evelyn Smith for Challenge to Build from Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Whitehead

Evelyn Smith for Amen Choir:

From O. D. Hamrick
Teresa's Kuts and Styles

Polly Newton for Challenge to Build from Clara Jean Watson

Polly Newton for Amen Choir:

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Worthington
Dot Beck

Mr. & Mrs. Don Sikes

Gift given in memory of Polly Newton for the Amen Choir

~ In Honor of ~

Jes Keown for the Orchestra from Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Scarborough

**Lakewood Baptist Church
Ministerial Staff:**

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Jan. Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
1/4/14	\$16,191.71	\$550.00	\$970.00	\$225.00	\$17,936.71
1/11/14	\$14,034.21	\$2,615.00	\$410.00	\$625.86	\$17,685.07
1/18/14	\$10,753.33	\$3,907.00	\$1,859.00	\$318.00	\$16,837.33
1/ 25/14	\$8,436.17	\$8,288.00	\$1,599.00	\$123.17	\$18,446.34

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	2 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Dr. Horner's Study @ 6:30	3 Spirit Night @ Jim Bob's - Belize Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	4 VKBW @ 10:00	5	6	7
8 Time Change 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	9 Amen Choir @ 10:30 Sinspiration @ 7:00	10 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	11 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	12 7:30 am Mayor's B'fast Central Act. Center	13 Game Night 5:30 - 8:30 Heavy Hors d'oeuvres	14
15 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth. Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	16 Amen Choir @ 10:30	17 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	18 Finance Meeting @ 7:00	19	20 Awana Lock-in	21 Youth Winter Jam
22 1st Pl. @ 4 Yth Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	23 Amen Choir @ 10:30	24 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30 Jubilee at Beallwood	25 CDC Meeting @ 7:00	26 JEGBW@ 7:00	27	28 Feed the Homeless 11-2 Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00
29 Yth Ch. @ 5 Kidz Ch @ 6	30 Amen Choir @ 10:30	31 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30				

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

SUNDAYS

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM Bible Fellowship Classes
11:00 AM Blended Worship Service
11:15 AM Kidz Worship
6:00 PM Evening Worship

WEDNESDAYS

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Get R.E.A.L.
5:45 PM A.W.A.N.A. / FLYTE
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM L.O.A.F.

What does it mean to give to the Circles of Influence?

Circles of Influence



Just as a pebble in a pond makes waves far from where they began, a dollar into the Circles of Influence fund touches ministries in our local area, North America and the uttermost parts of the earth.

The scripture basis is **II Corinthians 9:5** "I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given."

It's like a Christmas Club for missions. **EACH TIME YOU GIVE YOUR REGULAR TITHES AND OFFERINGS, YOU DESIGNATE AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE...**but rather than waiting for the end of the year to disperse the funds, checks are written monthly to each of these ministries.

Imagine that every family gave \$30.00 a month, \$1 a day, for just for 11 months a year to Circles of Influence. That could easily reach \$49,500.00 a year combined! Here's what each ministry could receive versus what they received our last fiscal year.

	<u>What they would receive in 2015 through Circles of Influence only</u>	<u>Received 2014 with add'l gifts</u>
Phenix City & Columbus Area 30%		
L.O.A.F. 5%	\$2,475.00	\$7,504.68
The Baptist Center 2.5%	1,237.50	686.92
Valley Interfaith Promise 2.5%	1,237.50	786.92
Valley Rescue Mission 2.5%	1,237.50	736.92
Mercy Med 10% (added 2015)	4,950.00	
Teen Challenge 5%	2,475.00	1,373.77
Sound Choices Crisis Preg Ctr 2.5%	1,237.50	943.92
Alabama & United States 20%		
AL Bapt. Children's Home 5%	2,475.00	1,663.77
Kathleen Mallory (St Missions) 2.5%	1,237.50	736.92
Annie Armstrong 10%	4,950.00	3,822.47
Life Action Min. John Rhodes 2.5%	1,237.50	342.96
Global 50%		
Lottie Moon 25%	12,375.00	9,544.59
World Hunger 2.5%	1,237.50	736.81
Laughing Child (HIV Children Mexico) 2.5%	1,237.50	1,001.92
Lakewood Mission Trips 17.5%	8,662.50	4,807.81
Samaritan's Purse (Disaster Relief) 2.5%	1,237.50	839.93
	\$49,500.00	\$35,530.31

Prayerfully consider what you might give to touch our world in the name of Jesus Christ.
Each of us giving a little becomes a great harvest for those who are fighting
on the front lines for the Kingdom.

Contact Information:

Lakewood Baptist Church

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Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

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334.298.6461
Hours: M - F 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

March
2015

Volume VI

Issue 2

CONNECTIONS
(USPS #463270)
is a monthly
publication by
Lakewood Baptist
Church.

Periodicals paid at
Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER:
Send all address
corrections to:
Lakewood Baptist
Church,
4011 Lakewood
Drive, Phenix City,
Alabama 36867