

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2015

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LBCPC.ORG



NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK
NOV.16-23, 2015



Lakewood
Baptist
Church

Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

November! Are you kidding me, what in the world happened to September and October? Am I the only one who can't believe it can possibly be November? I looked up at my calendar and sure enough I see the events of September and October and I even vaguely remember some of them so I must have been there. Time really does fly when you're having fun and I love the first day the summer heat gives way to a cool northern breeze, signaling the end of the dog days of August. Now don't get me wrong, the dog days have their place as they serve to prepare our hearts to really appreciate the cool breeze all the more when it arrives. Certainly

God is a God of seasons and each season has its place and purpose in God's plan

there are going to be some more hot days following the first cool breeze but they will have lost their power because of the memory of

that cool breeze. No matter how hot it gets we just smile and say deliverance is coming soon. September and October go past us so fast because of all the activity they bring to our lives as well as the pleasure of a perfect day.

Now the Bible says that "God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen and understood from what has been made". (Romans 1:20) So what can I see and understand about God

and His invisible qualities and divine power and nature from this wonderful time of year we call Autumn? Well, I can tell that God is a God of seasons and each season has its place and purpose in God's plan. I can see that God can and does use difficult days to raise our appreciation of the good days that will soon come. I see that God is trying to remind us that the best is yet to come as He is a God of change and that change is for the good of all creation. I can see the message of hope that though He walked the earth so many years ago each day that passes is simply bringing us one day closer to His return. I can see God trying to teach us that those encounters with Him in the past are there to encourage us, even when a few hard days come in our future, they will not last because He is only allowing those days to raise our appreciation we will have when He returns like a cool breeze on a summer day.

Is it any wonder that it is in the month of November that we celebrate a holiday called Thanksgiving? The dog days of August are only a vague memory today, and the dark days of winter are still distant enough to not yet hold our attention. Yes, it is right for us to celebrate and give thanks to the God of all creation for we are blessed. I pray that you are not only physically but spiritually in a time of thanksgiving. That this letter finds you in a spirit of appreciation, filled with anticipation and guided by inspiration. God Bless and Best Wishes!



A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

A newspaper reporter once approached Rudyard Kipling, the famous British poet, and told him that his calculations showed that Kipling was paid a hundred dollars for every word he wrote in a poem. "Really," Kipling replied, "I didn't know that." Upon which, the reporter gave Kipling a hundred-dollar bill and said, "Here is a hundred dollars, now give me a hundred-dollar word." Kipling put the money in his pocket and said, "Thanks!"

If you can't *give thanks* for what you do have, how about giving thanks for what you don't have?

The Bible tells us, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18). Some people say that they don't have much for which to be thankful, but there is always something for which to be thankful. If you can't give thanks for what you do have, how about giving thanks for what you don't have? Thank God that you don't have a rare disease that's not mentioned in any medical reference. If you can't pay your bills, thank God you're not one of your creditors! There is always something for which you can be thankful.

Now, the atheist doesn't thank God. How can somebody give thanks to a God in whom he doesn't believe? It must really be frustrating for an atheist to feel grateful and has no one to thank. The agnostic doesn't thank God,

because he isn't sure that God exists. The self-sufficient person doesn't thank God, because he's so full of self that he takes the credit for all his blessings. Such things as discontent, greed, lust, materialism and humanism come from a thankless heart.

Psalm 103 has a great deal to say about thanksgiving. First, it issues **The Call to Thanksgiving**: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul" (verses 1-2a). To bless the Lord is simply to praise the Lord. For what? For His greatness (Psalm 104:1). For His goodness and mercy (Psalm 106:1; 118:1). For His kindness and truth (Psalm 115:1; 117:1-2) and for myriads of other features.

Psalm 103 also gives **The Cause of Thanksgiving**. "And forget not all His benefits" (v. 2). While some things are worth forgetting, there are other things that we should never forget, foremost among which are all the things that God has done for us. Beginning in verse 3, David lists six things that God has done in the life of everyone who loves Him. (1) He forgives all our sins (v. 3, 12; see Col. 2:13-14). (2) He heals us, both physically and spiritually (v. 3; see Isa. 53:5). (3) He saves us (v. 4). To redeem means to ransom, to release, to deliver, to buy something back, and the fact that God delivers us from the penalty of sin ought to put the music of thanksgiving in our hearts (Psalm 107:2). (4) God surrounds us (v. 4). The word "crowns" literally means "to surround." God surrounds us with His lovingkindness and tender mercies. (5) He satisfies us (v. 5; see James 1:17). (6) He strengthens us (v. 5).

Don't give special attention to God's benefits only during the Thanksgiving season. Let praise characterize your daily life, and turn thanksgiving into thanksgiving.

A Message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC

Filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child has become a tradition for the children of our church through our Wednesday night ministries. They take up an offering throughout the year in order to help purchase items for their boxes. Many of you have told me in the past that you don't like to shop, or don't know what to buy, or simply don't have the time to fill a box. Since we didn't have our annual OCC fundraiser, which normally occurs during the Fall Festival, we are asking that anyone who isn't already filling a box but wants to participate to please give donations of money or items to be used by the Awana kids to shop and fill their boxes. See me, Patrick, or any of the Awana leaders if you would like to help out!

Please remember that we are continually making hygiene kits for the homeless as items are donated, which are delivered to those in need by our youth and young adults. We try to

take between 25 and 50 each time we help feed the homeless, which is generally twice a month. Typical items in the kits include deodorant, lotion, hand sanitizer, shampoo and conditioner, as well as soap and washcloths. Your donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the baskets provided on the elevator lobby welcome desk.

Our children's choir will be presenting their Christmas music on Wednesday night, December 9, in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. Please save the date and plan to receive a blessing as our kids minister in song on that evening!

Parents, mark your calendars for our annual Parents Night Out, which is scheduled for Friday night, December 4. We will take care of your kids from 6:00 - 10:00 so you can Christmas shop or just enjoy a night out on the town without the kids. Food, games and crafts will be provided!

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Grace Cook
for Homebound Ministry
from Clara Jean Watson

Shannon Bush
for Food Closet
from Larry & Sarah Bush

Shannon Bush
for Bereavement
from Larry & Sarah Bush

Shirley Yancey
for Food Closet
from Larry & Sarah Bush

Natalie Hollon
for Youth Ministry
from Janet Turner

Joyce Murphy
for Food Closet
from Fran Loftin

Frances Worthy
for Food Closet
from Fran Loftin

IN HONOR OF:

Carolyn Pruski's birthday
For Challenge to Build
from Evelyn Harris and
Myra Currier

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! PURCHASE YOUR LIVE TREE FROM LAKEWOOD. ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT MISSIONS. HELP US SPREAD THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA SO THAT WE CAN MAKE THIS FUNDRAISER ALL IT CAN BE.

SEE A MEMBER OF THE STUDENT MINISTRY TEAM OR CALL THE OFFICE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.





Who Were the Pilgrims? Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

We are all familiar with the story of the Pilgrims once they arrived in the New World, how they sailed on the Mayflower, how harsh the living conditions were, how the Indians helped them, and of the first Thanksgiving feast, but who were the people we now call The Pilgrims? For our purposes, let's define what the word *pilgrim* means; a pilgrim is a person who goes on a long journey for a religious or moral purpose.

First, we need to understand that the Pilgrims were not always called so, but were real, everyday people. They lived, and worshipped in England which was Roman Catholic until 1534 when King Henry VIII declared himself as the head of the newly created Church of England. The new church was a lot like the old in custom and tradition and lacked personal relationship between the common man and God. Many began to call for a simpler, less formal style of worship which harkened back to the original New Testament churches. These people also believed that the new church was just as corrupt as the former, and desired to "purify" it, therefore they became known as the Puritans. Out of this came a group known as the Separatists who believed the only true way to worship God was to "separate" themselves from those who had corrupted true religion. As their movement grew larger they began to run afoul of the law since it was illegal to worship in any other way than that sanctioned by the king. Many were arrested, interrogated, and forced out of their businesses. So they fled, first moving to the Netherlands (Holland & Amsterdam) where religious laws were much

less strict. However, life was tough, and many had left behind their livelihoods in England meaning most barely scraped by. Also, they began to find this free society encouraged "loose" living which began to corrupt many of their children, so after twelve years they were on the move once again.

There was a problem, now they were worse off than when they left England and had little money for such a move, so they entered into a financial agreement with some investors in

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England. They basically became indentured servants agreeing to colonize an area and work to send back natural resources to their investors in England until they had worked off their debt. In return, they received passage, supplies, and would eventually own some land in the New World. In this deal they would not be alone, other non-Puritans would join them, some

were taskmasters assigned to make sure all did the work they had pledged and others who were regular people looking for a new start. The Pilgrims purchased their own ship called the Speedwell but it had to eventually turn back due to severe leaking problems. This caused some of their group to stay behind, even splitting up families who planned to come later once the colony was established.

The investors secured the second vessel known as the Mayflower and they sailed for the New World. They missed their intended target of Northern Virginia and wound up in modern day New England in what we know as Plymouth. They set up camp in an abandoned



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection Week is just 2 weeks away and the need is so great. Last year only 1/3 of the world's needy children received a shoebox and the gospel story—a booklet called The Greatest Gift which is given with each shoebox in their own language. It is estimated that each booklet is read by 7 people—7 lives hear the good news of Jesus Christ because of one shoe box. Here are a few pictures of a shoe box distribution in Ecuador with Franklin Graham and Michael W. Smith.

NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK NOV.16-23, 2015



Wampanoag Indian village but they arrived so late in the year that winter was in full swing. Only 52 of the original 102 settlers survived the first year, and they were assisted greatly by Massasoit & Squanto who taught the Pilgrims ways to plant and survive. So who were these people? They were believers like you and me, not willing to worship a false religion, but seeking freedom to worship God individually. Many of us today would call them too strict or uptight, but the truth is they are just as much a part of the American spirit as the founders of our country. They counted the worship of God and purity of life as paramount in their lives and would not settle for anything less. They sat down at that first Thanksgiving table, remembering those they had lost, yet still they were able to give thanks to God.

Very few of us would have been able to endure the circumstances that it took to survive those first few years in America. We see the amazing fortitude of these people but even more outstanding is the thankful heart they had towards God in the midst of immeasurable loss and pain. For us it stands as a stark reminder of the many blessings we take for granted in our lives. If you had just a few moments and just a few words to offer in prayer to God, I think it would be wise to thank Him! Thank Him for the good and the bad, the hard and the easy, the blessings and the pain. Let your heart be like the Pilgrims, but further like the heart of Job when pressed by his wife to curse God and die he said "*Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble*". In this Job showed his integrity, his understanding of God's sovereignty over his life, and displayed the essence of a thankful heart. As we head towards Thanksgiving, this truly American holiday, don't forget to offer daily a simple prayer of thanks to Him, because we are all so very blessed!

Lakewood Happenings

November 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir VIP 1	10:30am Amen Choir 2	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 3	6:00pm Fields of Faith @ Brookstone Football Field 4	10:30am VKWMU 2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 5	Women's Conference Birmingham 6 7	
5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 8	10:30am Amen Choir 9	7:30pm Charlie Daniels Tribute to Veterans @ River Center 10	VETERANS DAY 7:00pm Deacon Meeting 11	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 12	13	14
5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir Operation Christmas Child 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16 17	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 18 19	Flower Committee Work Day 7:00pm Finance Meeting 20 21	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 7:00pm JEBW 19 20 21		
3:00pm 7th Annual Turkey Bowl 5:00pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Kidz Choir 6:00pm Home School Choir 22 23 24	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 24	7:00pm CDC Meeting 25	THANKS GIVING BREAK OFFICE CLOSED 26	OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Tree Sale For Missions ... 27 28	OFFICE CLOSED 28
6:00pm Kidz Choir Solo/ Ensemble Christmas Concert 29 30	10:30am Amen Choir 30					

September Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
9/6	\$21,703.37	\$5,795.00	\$1,160.00	\$3,138.19	\$31,796.56
9/13	\$12,907.82	\$848.01	\$510.00	\$693.50	\$14,959.33
9/21	\$11,196.27	\$430.00	\$486.00	\$1,565.00	\$13,677.27
9/27	\$7,622.72	\$160.00	\$435.00	\$1,885.87	\$10,103.59
All other deposit adjusts	(\$613.70)				(\$613.70)
	\$52,816.48	\$7,233.01	\$2,591.00	\$7,282.56	\$69,923.05

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship
Kidz Choir

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm AWANA, FLYTE, R.E.A.L.
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 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
5:00-5:45pm.

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

11/4

SCRAMBLED EGGS
BACON
LINK SAUSAGE
BISCUITS &
SAUSAGE GRAVY
GRITS
CINNAMON ROLLS
JUICE

11/11

BAKED CHICKEN
RICE & GRAVY
MAC & CHEESE
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

11/18

VEGETABLE SOUP
CORNBREAD
SALAD
PECAN &
PUMPKIN PIES

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



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