

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2020

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VBS 2020

1	S	20/200
2	EE	20/100
3	ING	20/50
4	GOD	20/20

CLEARLY

July 12-16

5:30 - 8:30



Welcome Home.



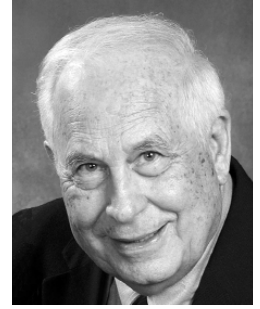
A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR

As I begin this note it is my 1st day back from Alaska and I am amazed by the news of continued social struggles and the rapid spread of the COVID 19 cases. It seems that my expectations of just the opposite were nothing more than wishful thinking. I am tempted by it all to lose heart and to expect the worst based on my experiences of the past few months but that would require me to deny everything I know to be true. God did say that He had a plan for me and it was not to curse me but to bless me and to give me a hope and a future. My future is not controlled by the government nor is it controlled by a virus. My future is in God's hand and God is good and not a single one of His promises has not come true. Certainly my plans are in serious trouble it seems but God's plans for me have never changed. Is the church going the way I planned? NO! Is the Child Development Center going the way I planned? NO! Is the church being forced by this crisis to use every resource available to stay in contact and remain relevant? YES! And friends we should have been doing just that without the crisis. You see this crisis has come and stayed exactly in step with our Experiencing God series where we learned to look and see where God was and join Him. This crisis has forced us to do just that and therefore it really has been a very good thing for us as a church. It has taught us to use our resources and talents to reach more people in more ways than we ever thought possible. It has come at a time when our nation has lost something very special and is searching for a way to get it back. That something is peace and many have discovered through this crisis that they had placed their hope in something other than God and those things are failing them. Their money, technology, government and society have left them with only one hope and that is God.

We the church have a chance through this crisis to be a very real light in this darkness. God can use this darkness in powerful ways as long as His people who are called by His name will fight the good fight and not let go of the hope we have in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4 challenges us to "rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice." Be anxious for nothing and about nothing is God's command and He follows that command with advice. Philippians 4:8 "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these things and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The media today is doing just the opposite of this and look at the state of this nation. Church family, don't forget the promises of God and the power of God which is greater than any crisis. We can be the voice of reason and the light of hope but it requires us to stop just reading the Bible and actually do what it says. What is the truth? God is not dead and every word and promise He has ever made has come to pass. Choose a life of hope based on faith in a God who is good and kind. Choose to focus on the good things, the praiseworthy things, the lovely things, the things that make your life wonderful and start counting your blessings and stop thinking your blessings don't count. Our world needs the church more today than at any time in my life and we don't have to be a very bright light to be seen in this kind of darkness. Don't give up your promise of a life more abundant by listening to those who say there is no hope. Our hope is not built on a healthy economy or the strength of our nation. Our hope is in God who told us He had a plan for us and that plan was to bless us and to give us a hope and a future. Our hope is in God and in this ever changing world He remains the same. Things all around us are certainly changing but the hope in us remains the same. Peace is not the absence of trouble. No, it actually only really exists in the midst of the storm that is unable to touch those protected in the cleft of the rock, for they have peace.

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

It doesn't take a prophet to remind us that America is a sick nation. The daily news is sufficient. We are on a collision course with disaster, and things have to change, or else America will soon join the graveyard of the nations. Because we have caved in to the secularists and anarchists who want to revise our history so as to eradicate any suggestion of our Christian foundations, and because we have replaced biblical principles of law and morality with the demands of a godless society, the seething judgment of God is upon this nation. So what are we going to do about the sordid mess? We need to pray and say with the Psalmist, "Oh God, will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (Psalm 85:6)

You are not going to hear and read in the media the things I am writing in this article, except for a putdown. They are trying to make us look like backwoods, red-necked, ignorant, intolerant right-winged fanatics. They are leading us further and further and further away from our moorings, and yet they say they are unbiased. I don't know any other hope except for God to move and to stir our hearts. We need a miracle for America. We need for God to quicken us, for God to breath on us, for God to move on us. We need revival, the smile of God, the shining of God's face upon our land one more time. Then what must we do?

We need to look up. There is only one who can save us, and He does not have His headquarters in the White House, or on Wall Street, or in the Pentagon, or in the United Nations Building. We must look to God, because He is the only one big enough, wise enough, and strong enough to save us. It's not too late, but if we yield to atheistic anarchists and take God out of government, we deserve the judgment that is certain to come.

We need to confess up. Don't criticize anybody else until first you have sought God and made certain that there is no unconfessed sin in your life. Don't mouth off about what you think so and so should or should not be doing until you are right with God.

We need to speak up. We need to stand up for what is right. It's true that the weight of the media and the might of secular society are against us, but God always hears the prayers of a righteous remnant. We don't need great numbers. We don't need more people. We need more prayerful righteous people. Castro took Cuba with a band of 80 cutthroats. Lenin instituted communism after leading a revolution with only a few thousand. Jesus began the mightiest movement the world has ever known with only 12 disciples. "One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you" (Joshua 23:10).

America is in trouble, and what our nation needs, and what our city needs, and what this church needs, and what every living person needs, is an alliance with Almighty God and a peace conference with the Prince of Peace. The real problem in our country is not those who stir up hatred and filth and violence. It's not with the backroom do-nothing politicians whose major concern is re-election. Look around you, and you'll see the problem: "If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). As long as there is a God in heaven, we refuse to give up hope. If we can't have revival in the world, then let's have revival in America. If we can't have revival in America, then let's have revival in Phenix City. If we can't have revival in Phenix City, then let's have revival in Lakewood Baptist Church. If we can't have revival in Lakewood Baptist Church, then let's have revival in the choir. If we can't have revival in the choir, then let's have revival in your family. If we can't have revival in your family, then let's have revival in you. And when you're praying for revival, you're praying in vain if you're not willing for it start in you.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Reorienting your schedule:

None of us know how much longer the Covid crisis will linger, and yet there is a consensus that we have to get back to some sense of normalcy. As we begin to figure out what the new norm will be, we now have a greater understanding of our own schedules. What once seemed absolutely necessary, and even irreplaceable in our schedules, quickly melted away during the virus crisis. Things like going to the workplace daily, school, ballgames, practices, and travel were suddenly removed, and yet life went on. When life got a little slower, what was your response? Were you bored stiff, or did you begin to enjoy the downtime? As we begin the process of reopening the American economy, and as more and more of the restrictions are removed, we need to ask the question; what do I allow back into my life? Now that we see what we can do without, and now that we've had the opportunity to spend more time at home with our families, wouldn't we be foolish to refill our schedules as before without giving it much thought? Going a step further, shouldn't we reorient our schedules first and foremost through the filter of Christ? Shouldn't everything that consumes our time, talents, and treasure first be seen in the light of the Gospel? How does what my family spends it's time and resources on further my relationship with Christ? How does my schedule show the preeminence of Christ in my life? How does my life reflect the Gospel message and preach it to a lost and dying world? In truth, nothing should enter our lives, our homes, or our schedules without going through Jesus, since we not only call Him Savior, but Lord. As Lord of our lives, He must be Lord of our schedules. Join me in the challenge of reorienting our schedules in and through Christ. Look for ways your family can worship and serve together. I believe we will see Him use our time much more wisely than we ever could!

God bless,
drew



A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



Last month I initiated the concept of how we as Christ followers need to get out of the high chair and start walking. This time we will look at getting down from the high chair and start walking in genuine encouragement. We all need encouragement sometimes, RIGHT? And, if we are being completely honest with ourselves we need encouragement A LOT of the time. It does not matter how secure and confident we appear on the outside. We all need to be reassured, comforted, and built up. We need it daily. Are we not called to serve each other daily with encouragement? 'But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today' (Hebrew 3:13). This tells us we are supposed to be meeting others need for encouragement. How do we do this well?

Real encouragement requires for us to be 'others' focused. 'We must consider others better than ourselves. We must not only look on our interests, but also to those of others'. My paraphrase of (Philippians 2:3-4). How can we encourage others when we cannot even look outside of our own needs? How can we truly understand the needs of others when we are stuck on me, me, I,I,I? The answer is simple. We can't! We show fake sincerity, our smile is not genuine, our words are not life giving, because it is not rooted in a heart that is focused on the other person. Our encouragement is just headline memorization of niceties.

We must get out of the High Chair and be true encouragers of people. We are the conduit of the Holy Spirit's power to the world. This Spirit is an encouraging spirit; we are called to this. As a father I like this scripture on encouragement. 'For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ENCOURAGING, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.' (1Thessalonians 2:11-12).

As I look at my children I get excited when I see them growing and developing in new things. When they were little and began to crawl, I crawled with them, speaking and acting out encouragement. When they started to walk then run, I chased them around the house praising their accomplishment and participating with them in their growth. As my sons become way more technology savvy than I am, I applaud them and participate. When my daughter goes to rehearsal to sing, begins to train as a runner. I speak words of life, beauty, and encouragement as I participate. These are things that I will never be able to do at the level of my children, but as I participate my worth is never threatened by their progress and skill. My desire is for my children to love God with all their heart, mind and soul, and to be become better than me in everything. When my children fall down I pick them up and encourage them with full confidence of their future successes.

We are far from perfect fathers and mothers, but we do have a spiritual Father who is perfect. This Heavenly father desires intimate relationships with his children, and we have been adopted into his family. This knowing and being known by Jesus will include encouragement from all kinds of different people. With our faith firmly entrusted in to the hands of God our walk is much easier as we join hands with others and walk together. This is participating in encouragement.

Get out of the High Chair and start being Encouragers!

[*See Children's Summer Ministry events at bottom of Memory page*](#)

In Memory of:

Jimmy Elder for Amen Choir from Billy and Cathy Greene
Jimmy Elder for Amen Choir from Stephen and Nancy Stainsby

George Maxwell for Food Bank from Margie Jackson
George Maxwell for Budget from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

James Keyt for Mercy Med from Gail Brantley

J. P. Benton for Builders for Christ from Gentry and Belle Lee
J. P. Benton for Builders for Christ from Fred and Margaret Van Horn

Bill Tidwell for Food Closet from Terry and Clara Grimes
Bill Tidwell for Budget from J.D. and Diane Whitehead
Bill Tidwell for Student Missions from Steve and Margie Argo

Hank Stewart for Budget from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

Rilda Martin for Amen Choir from Fred and Margaret Van Horn

In Honor of:

Betty Burrows for Homebound from J.D. and Diane Whitehead
Frank and Jackie Dow for Food Closet from Terry and Clara Grimes

Children's Summer Ministry Calendar

VBS (free event)
2020 Vision "Seeing Clearly Through Christ"
July 12 -16 ~ 5:30PM – 8:30PM
Supper at 5:30 worship rally starts at 6PM

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Theme: Building Kingdom Ambassadors
3 teaching sessions; (respect, connect, impact)
Lakewood Baptist Church Campus
July 31 – August 2
Cost \$50
(Friday & Saturday overnight)

Lakewood Happenings

July 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ALL ACTIVITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED AS THEY BECOME POSSIBLE			1	2	Office Closed 3	Independence Day 4
6:00pm Church Conference 5	7-9pm GriefShare 6	7	8	9	10	11
5:30-8:30pm VBS Begins 12	7-9pm GriefShare VBS 13	VBS 14	VBS 15	VBS Ends 16	79	18
6:00pm Justin Belew 19	7-9pm GriefShare 20	21	22	23	24	25
6:00pm Soloists 26	7-9pm GriefShare 27	28	29	30	31	

May Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
5/3	\$17,940.22	\$350.00	\$505.96	n/a	\$18,796.18
5/10	\$20,767.42	\$600.00	\$1,436.96	\$214.00	\$23,018.38
5/17	\$15,481.54	\$130.00	\$1,626.86	\$2,483.00	\$19,721.40
5/24	\$16,663.00	\$250.00	\$681.06	\$1,125.00	\$18,719.06
5/31	\$19,528.74	\$340.00	\$834.96	\$1,628.00	\$22,331.70

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/FLYTE
- 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

JULY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

7/1 7/8 7/15 7/22 7/29

WNS WILL RESUME SOON

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

July Greeters

Roy McHargue
Gail Brantley

WELCOME
NEW MEMBER
BROOKLYN LEE



For more info go to LBCPC.org
Click on the rotator about
online giving

MINISTERIAL STAFF

MR Hamilton
PASTOR
BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG

Charles Keown
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS
CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

Andrew Spires
STUDENTS & SINGLES
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

David Stephens
CHILDREN
DAVID@LBCPC.ORG

Jerry Horner
DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH
JHORNER@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

OFFICE STAFF

Onezima Everitt
FINANCE ASSISTANT
ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG

Carol Breault
OFFICE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA
LINDA@LBCPC.ORG

Tammy Stephens
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.
TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG

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

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