

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2018

VOL VIII: ISSUE 8

LBCPC.ORG

August Events

August 5th @ 6:00pm Hymn Sing with Frank Jones

August 19th @ 6:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert

August 24th Lifeline Screening FAC



Wesleys Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

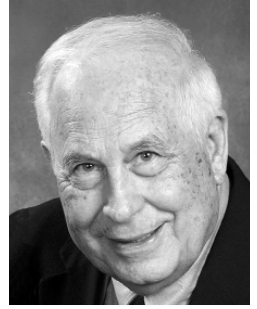
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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

August was the most dreaded month of the year for me as a child because August meant it was time to go back to school. I can remember always enjoying a trip to the store when I was young because they had all kinds of neat toys and some stores even had guns and fishing gear. That joy would turn to dread in August because the stores would start putting out the yellow displays announcing it was time to get those back to school supplies. It was horrible. I wanted to run straight to the sporting goods department but my mother would lay down the law believing in some way that I should take part in the selection of the very tools that would be used all year to torture me. That reality stuck with me all my life, and I can remember when Daniel was young and Katie forced him to do the very same thing. I felt like I was taking an inmate on death row to the store to buy his final set of clothing so he could choose how he dressed for his execution. Katie and Elizabeth they just loved it and went from one thing to the next all excited as they made plans on what they would wear the first day (Katie was a high school English teacher at that time so she was going back to school as well). Right then and there something strange happened and I was transported back to the days of my childhood as Katie turned to Daniel and asked "which of these backpacks would you like for this year"? I could stand it no longer and before I could catch myself my words came right out of my mouth as I explained "None of them, he doesn't want to go back and he certainly doesn't care how he looks just get one and get it over with"! So, to all you great moms out there who are reading this note I hope you have enjoyed a look at back to school from a boys perspective.

I have shared this story because I want to drive home a point. God is good and He made the month of August, and he made our lives to have challenges that have to be overcome, and that is also very good. The only thing wrong with August was my perspective. It was my perspective that made it so bad. It was my perspective that caused me to live my life filled with dread as I anticipated the worst and counted only my losses. Praise God He has finally changed my perspective so I can look forward to the days before me. I no longer dream of getting through it and this year I am actually starting to look forward to it. How many of us can learn a lesson from our own back to school experiences in life. How fast our world would change if only we stopped dreading the days before us. If only we could wake each day expecting a blessing and not a curse, we would have a life filled with hope for our future just like God promised us it would be. Isn't it funny how God's Word turns out to actually be true when we finally look at life (and August) from His perspective.

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

I recently heard a pastor testify that when he got to heaven, he would consider himself to be the luckiest man there. I assure you, if he gets to heaven, it will be by the grace of God, not luck. At a certain event not long ago, I heard a fervent prayer in which the petitioner asked the Lord to keep everybody in good health and to grant them good luck. I guess he figures that God would rather zap us with good luck rather than waste blessings on us, but I've got news for him. God and luck don't go together.

Just before the worship service at a church where I was to preach, I overheard one choir member tell the soloist, "Good luck as you sing." Evidently the singer didn't need divine anointing as long as she could depend on luck.

I recently read the account of a man's rescue after his sailboat had capsized and he was adrift in the open sea. According to him, "In a situation like that, you get real religious, so I started praying. But about that time I got real lucky, because I saw on the horizon a ship headed straight toward me." Who needs God when you're lucky?

Some years ago I preached at a church on the pastor's last Sunday there, so they were having a farewell lunch for him after the service. They were quite embarrassed to bring in the special cake they had ordered for the occasion, because in my message I had commented on how most Christians find it easier to talk about sports, politics, the weather, or any other topic than about spiritual matters. As an example, I asked a rhetorical question, "Why do Christians find it easier to say "good luck" than "God bless you?" At the lunch they reluctantly brought in a cake with a lovely floral decoration of a horseshoe inscribed with the words, "Good luck, Sam."

I want to tell you, gently but firmly, the word "luck" has no place in a Christian's vocabulary. Why? Because luck eliminates God. According to the dictionary, "luck" means "advantage or success that happens by chance." There's nothing wrong with wishing someone success in the future, but when you attribute that success to luck, you are implying that successful events happen randomly as a result of chance. We cannot believe in a God who is in control of our future while also believing that things happen randomly by accident or without design.

Did you know that luck is an idol? An idol is anything one turns to instead of God. So if there is such a thing as luck that is uncontrolled by God, and it causes events to happen, then luck must be a god too. Luck is an insult to God, because at its root it is a denial of the sovereignty of God over the details of daily life, a reluctance to trust Him completely, and a refusal to give Him glory and honor and thanks in everything.

I have heard it taught that the actual word "luck" stems from Lucifer. That is not a fact, because the word is from an old Teutonic word meaning "fortune." However, the concept itself is of pagan origin. Isaiah 65:11 speaks of people forsaking the Lord and turning to Gad, the god of fortune, and to Meni, the god of fate or destiny. The Romans worshipped a deity named Fortuna, the goddess of luck, fortune, and fate. The Greek name for the same goddess was Tyche.

So what are you saying when you wish someone "good luck"? You are saying, "I hope that the gods of chance and fortune will bring great benefit to you." That's exactly what you are saying, or at best you are saying, "I hope that random chance events outside of everyone's control, including God's, will bring you success." Why do you want to express yourself as the pagans do, when you know that it's only through God that we receive blessings of goodness? Why not honor God with your words? Instead of saying, "Good luck," say, "May God bless you," or if you're afraid that people will think you're a religious fanatic for uttering those words, say something like, "I hope all goes well for you."

You're probably thinking right now that you don't mean anything like what I said through your innocent utterance of "good luck." Then why don't you say what you mean? It would mean far more to the person you are addressing and bring honor to God for you to say simply, "God bless you." I challenge you to clean up your language. It really doesn't take much effort. By the way, I'm writing this article on Friday the 13th, and I want you to know that I disregarded all advice on what to do to avoid "bad luck" today. I just did what I do every day, entrusting myself not to good luck, but to the care of a loving heavenly Father, knowing that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17).



A Message from Andrew Spires

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

What an awesome summer we had in our student and young adult ministries! We've just returned from completing all three of our summer mission trips and each one was amazing in its own way. First, at the end of May and the first of June we went to North Carolina and served with our ministry partners at Snowbird. We were able to build a wheelchair ramp on a home for a senior adult named Mrs. Reeves. She was nearly homebound and had to have help going up and down her steps to leave her home each day, and she couldn't afford to pay someone to build a ramp. Once we had completed the ramp she was moved to tears as it was such a blessing to her. We were also able to add a new coat of white paint to the exterior of her home while we were there, which also was a desperate need as some of the wood had begun to rot from exposure. I want to thank all those who sponsored students to go and serve and to thank Greg Ojendyk (painting) and Beau Reimink (ramp) as they led the workplace service projects, we couldn't have done it without them. Second, at the end of June we returned to serve alongside our missions partners in southern Belize, International Servants and Dr. Paul Whisnant. For the first time in several years we had the opportunity to work in a new village, in a small school, at the base of a mountain. The small school, which was comprised of several small ramshackle buildings and huts, were so welcoming and excited to have us come each day and invest in their kids. The children absolutely loved our Shipwrecked VBS theme and sang the songs constantly even when worship wasn't going on. God was truly at work in their hearts and minds daily. I am also thankful for our sister church Bethesda Baptist in Harris County, and to their leader Michael Barnett, who went along to serve for the second year in a row. Finally, just last week, we returned from Romania. The weather was amazing with most days in the 70's and most nights in the 50's, but that wasn't the best part. From the second we began VBS we knew it was something special. The city school we worked in (literally called school #4) opened their whole campus to us to use for the week. We averaged 150 kids per day and even had over a 100 on Saturday (keep in mind school had been out for weeks). The children of Romania also loved the Shipwrecked theme and so did our Romanian translators who were students from Golgotha Baptist Church, our mission partner in Bistrita, Romania. Everyone played their part so well and the Lord moved on those city kids' hearts and minds. Each afternoon we took a winding road to a small village in the hills called Sieu. This was a new church plant area for our friends at Golgotha, and the school we worked in was a very old hunting castle. The village kids also responded so well to our VBS program and this will be an open door of ministry for the local church in the future. For our last week in country we went high up in the mountains and stayed at a rustic camp with students from our partner church. We had worship morning and night and wow did God move. Many of our students one by one (even the most shy) began to share their testimonies and struggles and we found that many of the Romanian students also struggled in many of the same ways. God used our personal stories and the power of the Gospel to break down walls in both the American and Romanian students' lives. It was an incredibly real and special time that I'll never forget. Now, summer is coming to an end, but the missional call marches on. We've encouraged everyone who went on missions this year to continue to spread the Gospel as they return to school, college, or the workplace, and many can't wait to follow the Lord wherever He leads next year. It is my hope and desire that Lakewood would be known as a missional church, that our entire church body would be missions-minded, that the Gospel would be preeminent in our daily lives, and that we will live our faith out loud wherever we go. Thank you once again to all who answered the call to be zealous senders this year, you share in the eternal rewards of lost souls coming to know Jesus Christ, and in the seeds of the Gospel that were planted. In 2019, my hope is to have more zealous goers, that we get more students, more young adults, more young married adults, more middle-aged adults, and more senior adults to answer the Master's call to go and serve, both here and abroad. After all, God saved us for His glory, let's allow Him to show forth His glory in and through us!

God bless,
Drew

A Message from Gina Fusillo



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CHILDREN, LBC

We say goodbye to Wet Wednesdays on August 1st and thank you to everyone who invited the Kidz to their pools, and the CDC for the water slide. We invite everyone to join us on the front lawn for WET FEST FAMILY FIELD DAY on Wednesday August 22nd starting at 5:45 pm. We hope to see new and old faces. Bring friends, lawn chairs, and wear comfortable shoes and clothes you won't mind getting wet. There will be lots of water gun play and other wet games. All Kidz must be accompanied by an adult who will remain with them throughout the event. This is a family event.

Twelve kidz and three adult chaperones from Lakewood attended MERGE Camp in Shocco Springs last month. This was the first time our Kidz attended the camp and the turnout was great. Many fun stories have been told about the camp. The generous donations afforded reduced expenses to the attendees and we are very thankful for the support. Attending "away" camps is encouraged for our elementary kidz to prepare them for the missions they will become involved with upon promotion to Youth Ministries. We look forward to MERGE again next year.

Our AWANA/FLYTE Ministries resume Wednesday, September 5th with weekly meetings in the Children's Building at Lakewood. This is a community outreach for all Kidz age 3 through 6th grade at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. AWANA/FLYTE gives children the opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus, no matter their background. Awana provides opportunities for kids to put their trust in Jesus Christ and learn to faithfully follow Him. Through engagement with a child's developmental stage in mind, leaders play a role in the beginning phases of discipleship, while teaching key Biblical concepts, sharing the gospel and building relationships. Our leaders hold the spiritual beliefs found in the Bible, setting themselves as examples of His word. The year is planned with captivating and enjoyable curriculum, songs & music, and game activities. Club vests may be purchased for preschoolers, and K-2nd graders, and shirts for 3-4th graders --- a great way for Clubbers to wear their awards with pride. Come and bring friends. The love for Jesus will change the world.

In order for the Kidz to learn their weekly scripture verses and earn their deserved awards, we are in need of several volunteers to assist with the groups. Volunteers need be able to engage with the Kidz and other adult workers so that the best environment is provided for the participants. If you feel led to serve God in the Children's Ministry through the AWANA/FLYTE or any program, please contact Gina Fusillo as soon as possible.

Promotion Sunday in Bible Fellowship is August 5th.

Toddlers - Brooke Whitmer	2 Year Olds - Brie Bourgeois
3-4 Year Olds - Jim Ormond & Susan Graham	Kindergarten - Robbin Brasfield
1-2nd grade - Becky Hawkins & Martin Kinzalow	
3-4th grade: Julie Pelletier & Whitney Faulk	
5-6th grade: Shelrea Funderburk	

If you are interested in substituting for any of these age groups, or assisting with the 1st -2nd graders, please contact Gina Fusillo.

August 1 - Last Wet Wednesday (water slide)
August 26 - Baby Dedication (11:00 service)
August 5 - Promotion Sunday
August 22 - Wet Wed Fest (Church front lawn)

Lakewood Medley

In Memory of:

Vicky Persons for Budget from Glenda Medley

Jeanne Gordy
For Amen Choir from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins
For Amen Choir from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

Bill Phillips
For Builders for Christ
from Terry and Clara Grimes
Fred and Margaret Van Horn
Melvin and Sherry Scroggins
Brenda Slappey
Eddie and Judy Ezell
Ben McCosh
Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department
For Children's Ministry from Margaret Wilson
J.D. and Diane Whitehead
Jerry and Sheila Barbaree

Pat Devlin
for Student Missions from Bill and Merita Norris
for Student Missions from Billy and Cathy Greene

Janie Maxwell
For Amen Choir from
Ben and Myra Preston
Melvin and Sherry Scroggins
Brenda Slappey
Ronnie and June Rice
J. D. and Diane Whitehead
Terry and Clara Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hughes
Rev. & Mrs. T. Grant Parker, Sr.
Merri Evans
Betty Gilbert

Glenn Anderson
For Amen Choir from Terry and Clara Grimes
For Flower Committee Margaret Wilson

In Honor of:

Rick and Becky Aderhold for the Clothes Closet

Tommy and Onezima Everritt's 50th Wedding Anniversary from Bill and Judy McCarley

Billy and Cathy's 50th Wedding Anniversary from:
Ken and Janice Noble
Margaret Wilson
Bill and Judy McCarley

Lakewood Happenings

August 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am VK/WMU	7:30pm YA Bible Study	10:00am Final Breakfast Club	
			1	2	3	4
6:00pm Frank Jones Hymn Sing	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner Class	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm Deacon Meeting	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC		11:00am Helping Hands Ministry
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Dr. Horner Class	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 7:00pm Back to School Worship	7:00pm Finance Meeting	7:30pm YA Bible Study - FAC		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
6:00pm Alleluia Choir Concert Faith Day - Braves	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir	7:00pm CDC Meeting	7:00pm JEG/BW 7:30pm YA Bible Study FAC	9:00am Lifeline Screening	10:45am S&YA Feed the Homeless
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Amen Choir to Ft. Valley PM	10:30am Amen Choir	6:30pm Alleluia Choir		7:30pm YA Bible Study FAC		
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
6/3	\$15,305.02	\$623.00	\$1,138.20	\$532.00	\$17,598.22
6/10	\$14,916.09	\$530.00	\$5,937.62	\$1,164.78	\$22,548.49
6/17	\$9,006.99	\$50.00	\$3,441.51	\$2,657.94	\$15,156.44
6/24	\$12,706.85	\$120.00	\$16,423.73	\$320.00	\$29,570.58

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

JULY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

8/1

BAKED SPAGHETTI
CORN,
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

8/8

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES
GREEN BEANS
BISCUITS
SALAD & DESSERT

8/15

HOT DOGS W/CHILI
BAKED BEANS
COLE SLAW
SALAD & DESSERT

8/22

MEATLOAF
MASHED POTATOES
LIMA BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD & DESSERT

8/29

SWEET & SOUR
CHICKEN
RICE, BROCCOLI
SALAD & DESSERT

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

Welcome New Members

Travis "Geno" Kelley

August Greeters

BECKY SANDERS
SHEILA BARBAREE

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS
&
OTHER INFO

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

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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