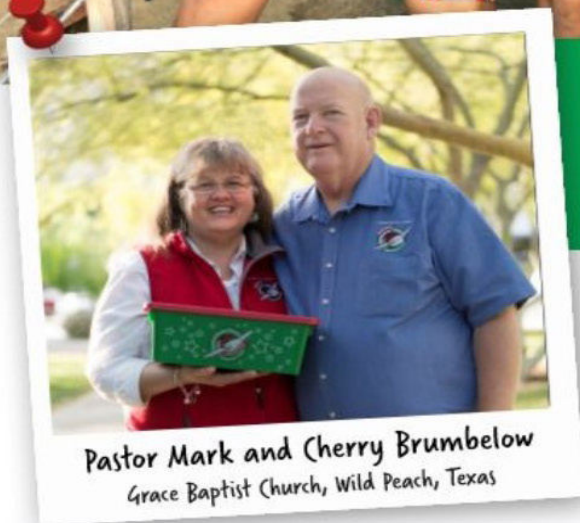


# Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

February 2020

VOL X: ISSUE 2 LBCPC.ORG



**Pastor Mark and Cherry Brumbelow**  
Grace Baptist Church, Wild Peach, Texas

Discover how God is using Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes around the world to change lives!



**Date:** Tuesday, February 18th, 2020

**Time:** 6:30 PM Eastern

**Place:** Lakewood Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

4011 Lakewood Drive

Phenix City, AL 36867

Chattahoochee Valley Team: [occ.chattvalley@gmail.com](mailto:occ.chattvalley@gmail.com)



# A Message from M.R. Hamilton

.....  
SENIOR PASTOR

Many of you will remember me comparing the month of February with the state of Kansas as it is something you just have to get through to get where you are going. Well this year is different as February is the month we have been looking forward to for so many reasons. David Stephens, our new Children's Minister and his wife Lesley along with their four children Rebeka, Micah, Caleb and Eli will be on the field and going strong. We will be seriously taking on the goals set in our 2020 vision statement as the year will actually start to feel like it is really here. The students will begin to dream of summer break and our seniors will be dreaming of graduation. This February will mark the completion of my 7th year as Pastor as I first preached here at Lakewood on my birthday March 10th, 2013. So March 8th I will be sharing one of my favorite messages from Deuteronomy 15 "The Lord's Release" which is based on the teaching that every seven years we should release all debt and forgive our debtors. It was a literal command and God promised to bless anyone who would do this. I plan to start all over and release all my debts and regrets and commit to start all over and to do better this next seven years than I did the first. As I write this note I have been busy making preparations for this week's staff meeting as it will be David's first and I am planning to have the kind of staff meeting I wish I would have had seven years ago when I first came here. These past seven years have taught me a great deal and I hope to use this opportunity to get it done right this next time around. I want to be better prepared because of my experience to head off difficulties and better focus our energy to do the most for the Kingdom. I plan to cast an even clearer vision of where we are and exactly where we need to be so we can all pull towards the same objective. I hope to demonstrate and lead the church to be a Kingdom church full of Kingdom minded believers. I struggle to see the Kingdom beyond my little Kingdom here at Lakewood. Certainly we have much to be accomplished here but only if we hope to accomplish those things to better serve the Kingdom. I plan to encourage you all to join me in a new day and a fresh start brought about by the Lord's Release. Through the forgiveness of debts and regrets we can start brand new and ready for a fresh encounter with a living God. I will be preaching through the study of Experiencing God starting March 15th through the first week of June. I used my few weeks laid up on the sofa to assemble my sermon notes for the first half of 2020 so I have a clear view of where I am going and I pray I can encourage you to join me in the Lord's Release. It only comes every seven years so dare to believe God and forgive all those debts and regrets and see if God won't keep His promise and bless you in all you put your hand to.

## Sunday Night Services in February

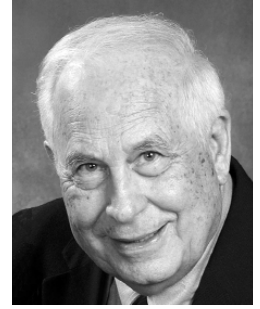
**February 2nd - Chris & Cindy Hess, Daniel Windsor & Mike Helton**

**February 9th - Mike Murry**

**February 16th - Greenwood Baptist Church Choir  
(Kathy Jo Spivey Gordon's church)**

**February 23rd - Angie Idell**

# A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



.....  
MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

February is a month in which the topic of love receives a lot of attention. Of course, Valentine's Day, or in the language of the business world, Hallmark's Day, is the main focus of the subject. Every year Americans will spend more than \$20 billion on cards, candy, and flowers to commemorate that day. The sad part is that most people have absolutely no idea what love looks like or how it's supposed to act. It's no wonder, since an increasingly amoral entertainment industry has distorted the meaning of love, making it synonymous with lust and sex.

The world view that says, "If it feels good, just do it," leads to the assumption that love is some mysterious thing that just happens and over which you have no control. Therefore, we are at love's command; love is not at our command. The Bible, on the other hand, gives a very different picture of love. It shows that love is not the victim of our emotions; it is the servant of our wills. Love is not a fireworks display. Love is something that we do. 1 Corinthians 13 presents vivid characteristics of love, both positive and negative. None of them corresponds to the world's idea of love as some magical rose-colored-glasses kind of warm cozy feeling. Love is primarily commitment, not primarily a feeling. It's a choice.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44 to love our enemies. I don't know about you, but I find it impossible to get all aglow with a warm fuzzy feeling about people that I don't like. They just don't inspire that kind of feeling in me. But I know that God would not ask or command us to do something we cannot do, so it must mean that love is a choice. 1 John 4:7-8 declares that love comes from God because God is himself love. There is no mystery here. God's word clearly defines love.

Jesus also taught, in John 13:35, that people will know that we are his disciples if we love one another. When we understand the nature of love and then choose to operate in it, we declare ourselves as followers of Christ. It isn't the t-shirt we wear or the little fish symbol on our cars. They'll know us by our love. I confess that the only way I can tell one fruit tree from another is by the fruit they bear. The fruit tells me if it's an apple tree or a peach tree. Galatians 5:22 lists the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Is it any wonder that love is the first attribute on the list?

**If you know someone who is homebound  
and you think they would like monthly visits  
from our sweet homebound ladies**

**Please Call Betty Burrows**

**@334-298-5854**

**or call the church office**

**@ 334-298-6433**





# A Message from Andrew Spires

.....  
MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

It's February, the month of love, and visions of hearts, flowers, and cupids will be dancing in the collective heads of Americans everywhere. With Valentine's Day on the horizon, it's always a great time to teach our students and young adults about what God's Word teaches us about love, sex/sexuality, and dating. This somewhat sensitive subject is one of the most important topics on which the Church can teach. However, it tends to be the one that is least discussed, often seen as taboo, and is therefore usually ignored. Not too long ago I watched a Billy Graham sermon from back in the late 1960's on this subject, where he lamented the Church's willful neglect of this topic corporately. As I watched, I couldn't help but think that not much has changed within the Church over the last 50 or 60 years!?! The world's temptations and vices have become more readily available over that timespan, with most now available at our fingertips, and as sexual sin has infected and grown malignant within our society, the Church has become more and more quiet, if not entirely silent on the matter. We have lost the moral high ground, and we are now seen as old-fashioned, narrow minded, and bigoted. Even worse, some churches/denominations have completely embraced the worldly views of these things, adapting to the culture, and totally ignoring the Word of God. A pastor friend of mine calls the sin of lust the 'elephant in the room' of every church, and he and his staff spent an entire month of Sundays teaching on this subject from the pulpit. Most surveys now show the majority of American church-going parishioners struggling sinfully in this area, but few want to talk about it, and even fewer want to deal with it. When did any problem ever get better by ignoring it? If the Church doesn't teach on these things, the world certainly will, and that thought defines the battle that we are up against when it comes to the young adults among us. They are consistently, and intentionally bombarded with a lust-filled and highly sexualized society, that displays its own form of morality (or the lack thereof), and most of our young people are buying into it hook, line, and sinker. Many of our students and young adults find themselves embroiled in lust, lustful relationships, addicted to pornography, or struggling with homosexual thoughts/tendencies. Does this surprise you? It shouldn't, because it's also true of the single adults, the married adults, and yes, even the senior adults in the Church as a whole. With so much of the bible dealing with sexual sin, it is impossible for us to ignore God's clear standard and calling in this area. Each Wednesday night, during the month of February, we will be engaging this topic in a mature, serious, and teachable way. We will not be seeking to pile guilt upon the listeners, as guilt doesn't come from the Lord but from the enemy, but we will seek to study God's word diligently on the matter and allow Him to convict us as He will. We will display sex as a gift from God that is good, right, and perfect when it is used at the right time. We will biblically prove that God created only two genders, and that there's no wiggle room there. Also, we will be clear that lust and love are not related in the least, but are two totally opposite paradigms. Because some parents can feel uneasy about what might be taught please know and understand several things; 1.) I take this topic very seriously and have given a lot of thought and months of preparation in how to best present it to an audience of mixed maturity levels/ages, 2.) I believe after observing all, and counseling many of our students, none of them are too immature or naïve to be taught in this area, as they likely know, and are likely struggling more, in this area than you can imagine, 3.) finally, part of my role in the ministry is to help equip and come alongside you, especially in the tough and delicate matters of life, so that you can be more aware of the struggles your children face and be proactive to help them. All that said, we always have an open door policy, if any of our parents or grandparents wish to be present they are welcome to attend this teaching series, and we can even seat them in a separate room if they'd be more comfortable. My hope is that each parent and grandparent encourages their student/s to be present each Wednesday night during the month of February (7pm-8:30pm in the FAC) for this salient topic. Please join me in prayer that as the Holy Spirit convicts, we will listen and respond, and that God will set the captives free from bondage to this sin. Also pray that our convictions will line up with what is outlined in Scripture by the end of this series. May God richly bless the teaching and preaching of His Word  
God Bless,

drew  
John 3:30

# A Message from David Stephens



## CHILDREN

My crew and I are here officially and we are thrilled to now get to know ya'll in a much more personal way. We have closed a door in our lives in Phoenix with the O. Our family and friends gave us a great send off. I know our travel was covered in prayer. Please accept my sincere Thank You. Our God is good.

I want to talk about the concept of being an ambassador for Jesus. This concept has been developing in me over the past couple of months and I want to share my thoughts with you.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We Plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

When you look at this verse, you may not fully grasp the charge that we as believers are given. I know I have not. Here are some thoughts.

What is an Ambassador?

My definition, take it or leave it.

An Ambassador is a dignitary, whose full-time job is to live for a period in a foreign land, intentionally building relationships with the people and purposefully representing to those people the desires of his king.

Ok, now we have a working definition. How can we break this down and apply it to our lives as Christians.

Dignitary:

A dignitary is a person considered to be of importance in their home country usually because of their high rank or level of experience related to foreign affairs specific to a given region of the world. If the U.S. were to send to a different country an ambassador with no authority, no knowledge, no rank they would not be taken seriously. The same is true of you and I. We are all dignitaries of our King. We are children and heirs adopted into the family of the Most High God (Romans 8:16-17). He is the one who created all that is, and we are his children. There is no higher rank that we should desire.

Living in a foreign land for a period:

The ambassador will relocate to a foreign land where they are assigned. This is not a commuting position. It is not a between semester summer job. This requires a person to establish residence in a foreign country with a new everything. This is the same for us as well. Think about it like this. The earth is not our home. In scripture, we are described as aliens and strangers here. We are here to live for a period, but it is not where we belong. We belong and desire heaven with our Father. We know that at any moment we can be called home. As ambassadors, we go into our job knowing it will not last forever, and we will return to our home country.

What is our job? I am so glad you asked.

Build Relationships:

The ambassador must build relationships with the people in the foreign land if he is going to be good at his job. There are different cultures and traditions to understand. The native people won't respond well to the outsider without having a relationship with him. If we are going to be effective ambassadors in this world we must build relationships with people. What is it that motivates them? What are their needs, their families, and their occupations? What do they do for fun? What are their dreams? We can truly learn about a person and know them when we discover and experience these answers with them. This builds relationships that last, and helps us with our next step.

What is our next step? So glad you asked.

Represent the desire of our King:

Our job as ambassadors is to not stop at just building relationships with people. These relationships have a purpose. When we become ambassadors for Jesus, our relationships are so that we can express the desire of our King. We need the people to understand that God loves them and wants them to be whole. They need to know that they are not whole outside of Jesus. We need to convince as many as we can that the creator God of the universe has their best interest in mind. This ambassador will be on fire for Jesus, and those in the foreign land will be drawn to the Holy Spirit that is at work in them.

As a family, we are building ambassadors for Jesus in our children. When our children know the word and can talk about their faith with others they are ambassadors. It does not have to be all-super theological. Our children will affect people in this foreign land in ways you and I as adults will never dream of.

Let's build our homes, our church into a place where our children are developing qualities of great ambassadors.

Date Night PC ~February 15 - 5:30-8:30pm - \$5 per child

Come join us!

Sunday Morning

Wednesday Evening

Kidz Worship 9:00 – 10:00 ~ Bible Fellowship 10-10:45 ~ Kidz Worship 11:30-12:00

Awana/Flyte 5:45 – 7:00

# Lakewood Happenings

## February 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						VIP 1
6:00pm Hess, Helton & Windsor  VIP 2	10:30am Amen Choir 3	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 4	10:00am VK/WMU 5	6:00am Men's Coffee & Conversation 6		11:00am HHMinistry FTH 8
6:00pm Mike Murry 9	10:30am Amen Choir 10	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 11	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 12		Valentine's Day 5:30pm Game Night Pizza, Salad & Dessert 14	5:30pm Date Night PC F/H 15
6:00pm Greenwood BC Choir 16	10:30am Amen Choir 17	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 18	7:00pm Finance Meeting 19	6:00am Men's Coffee & Conversation 20		11:00am Y&YA FTH 22
6:00pm Angie Idell 23	10:30am Amen Choir 24	10:00am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Alleluia Choir 25	7:00pm CDC Meeting 26	7:00pm JEG/BW 27		

## December Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
12/1	\$17,726.48	\$590.00	\$700.00	\$3,019.82	\$22,036.30
12/8	\$24,571.58	\$770.00	\$8,894.27	\$1,954.33	\$36,190.18
12/15	\$11,979.07	\$453.67	\$3,661.23	\$1,243.58	\$17,337.55
12/22	\$16,286.29	\$65.00	\$11,069.74	\$2,078.83	\$29,499.86
12/29	\$15,369.47	\$1,370.00	\$4,329.34	\$358.83	\$21,427.64

### 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

## In Memory of:

Esther Benton:

Jack and Pam Tinkler for Food Closet  
Bread Breakers Missional Community, Wedgewood Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, TX for Challenge to Build

Kenneth Jones for Homebound Ministry  
Clara Jean Watson for Benevolence

Bill Benton for Homebound Ministry:

Wanda Jones Amos

Ann Tomlinson

Mr. & Mrs. James Blair

Merri J. Evans

Gary Griffin

Clara Jean Watson

David Savage

Clint Collins

Lakewood Baptist Church

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Tomlinson

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson

Wilson Williams Lodge

Jerry & Sheila Barbaree for Challenge to Build

Gail Brantley for Bus Maintenance

Billy & Cathy Greene for Lottie Moon

Carolyn Pruski for Challenge to Build:

Lakewood Baptist Church

Nancy Boyd

Clara Jean Watson

Janice Noble

Joseph Cason and Sue Malone

Merri Evans

Presteen Miller

Brenda Slappey for Belize Feed the Children

Terry & Clara Grimes for Food Closet

Gail Brantley for Bus Maintenance

Billy & Cathy Greene for Builders for Christ

Myra Currier for Food Closet

Howard Underwood:

Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Redmond for Budget

Mr. & Mrs. John O'Conner for Budget

Clara Jean Watson for Challenge to Build

Wilbur Kilcrease from Jerry & Sheila Barbaree for Challenge to Build

Bennie and Maxine Cole from Clara Jean Watson for Homebound Ministry

Fran Perry from Clara Jean Watson for Benevolence

Montie & Clide Miler from Clara Jean Watson for Lottie Moon

Korbin Atchley from Clara Jean Watson for Children's Ministry

## In Honor of:

J. P. Benton from Billy and Cathy Greene for Belize Feed the Children

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

## FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

### 2/5

SPAGHETTI  
CORN  
GARIC BREAD  
SALAD  
DESSERT

### 2/12

CHICKEN  
BROCOLLI  
CASSEROLE  
LIMA BEANS  
ROLLS  
SALAD & DESSERT

### 2/19

TACO SALAD  
DESSERT

### 2/26

CHICKEN POT  
PIE  
GREEN BEANS  
ROLLS, SALAD &  
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at [carol@lbcpc.org](mailto:carol@lbcpc.org) or call 334.298.6433.

**THE DAYCARE**  
**is in URGENT**  
**need of a CDL**  
**licensed bus**  
**driver**

**Call Cabbi Evans**  
**334-298-6461**

### February Greeters

Merita Norris  
Sarah Bush

**Check**  
**Bulletin**  
**Board**

FOR  
THANK YOU NOTES  
EVENTS, NEWS  
ALSO OUR WEBSITE:  
[lbcpc.org](http://lbcpc.org)

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

**MR Hamilton**  
PASTOR  
[BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BROTHERMR@LBCPC.ORG)

**Charles Keown**  
MUSIC & SENIOR ADULTS  
[CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG)

**Andrew Spires**  
STUDENTS & SINGLES  
[ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG)

**Beau Reimink**  
MAINTENANCE  
[BEAU@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:BEAU@LBCPC.ORG)

**David Stephens**  
CHILDREN  
[DAVID@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:DAVID@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](http://LBCPC.ORG)  
HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM  
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

**Jerry Horner**  
DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH  
[HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:HORNERJERRY@HOTMAIL.COM)

OFFICE STAFF  
**Onezima Everitt**  
FINANCE ASSISTANT  
[ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:ONEZIMA@LBCPC.ORG)

**Carol Breault**  
OFFICE ASSISTANT  
[CAROL@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CAROL@LBCPC.ORG)

**Linda Keown**  
MUSIC ASSISTANT & MEDIA  
[LINDA@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:LINDA@LBCPC.ORG)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Cabbi Evans**  
DIRECTOR  
[CABBI@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:CABBI@LBCPC.ORG)

**Tammy Stephens**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.  
[TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG](mailto:TAMMY@LBCPC.ORG)

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

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