

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2019

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FEAST OF THANKS

Sunday, November 3rd @ 6:00pm ~ FAC

Church will provide meat, dressing and gravy,
and cranberry sauce

Bring sides and desserts



shoe
boxes
due
Nov
17

Operation Christmas Child Collection Center

November 18-25

LBC ~ Upstairs Education Building

Volunteers Needed

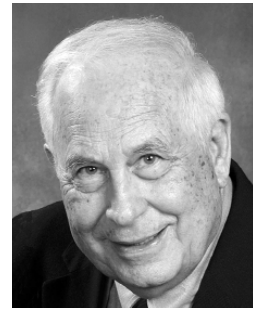


A Message from M.R. Hamilton

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SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

November is a month of anticipation and expectation which makes it magical. The weather really does change in November and the Holidays usher in a whole new spirit not only locally but throughout the entire nation. Television networks change their programming and the Hallmark Channel releases 40 new Christmas movies with the exact same theme and even the same actors and call them new and everyone watches. Towns from the smallest to the largest begin to decorate and the stores gear up for that magic day of the year called black Friday. My wife is traveling to New York City for Black Friday this year to see Daniel performing in Macy's. Oh how the anticipation and expectation of a blessing makes this time of year magical. Have you ever wondered what life would be like if every day was a holiday? Well what makes a holiday so special in the first place is the fact that we associate the holidays with a blessing. We plan to see the people that make our lives so full and we expect to experience great gifts and surprises planned out by those who love us. The more I think about the power of the holidays the more I realize that this is exactly the life more abundant and free Jesus spoke about. I really believe God desires us to live in the spirit we call the holidays every day of our lives. After all expectation and anticipation of a blessing should be our starting point every single day as Christians. God did say that He had a plan for us today and that He planned to bless us and not curse us He plans to give us a hope and a future. You see the anticipation and expectation brought on by the holidays creates in us hope and hope creates in us joy and that truth is the magic of the season. God's promises for those who love Him are meant to bring about that same sense of anticipation and expectation. Think about the truth of your answer to this question. Are you expecting the holidays to bring a blessing in your life this year? Now please answer this question. Are you expecting God to bring a blessing in your life this year? Every day really is a holiday for those who love the Lord and take Him at His Word. Did you get up this morning all excited filled with expectation because God said He had a plan to bless you and you just can't wait to see what it is? Why not? Trust me friends we seldom find what we aren't looking for. If we don't believe or worse yet forget that God promised to bless us we will fail to look for it and miss out. Oh how the world has changed us from the child we once were. As a child you woke up early on Christmas and you searched out every gift with your name on it. Not a single gift did you leave unopened. The truth is after opening every gift you sorted through the mountain of mangled wrapping paper searching and hoping for another gift you might have passed over. Where is that child that loved getting gifts and being blessed? Perhaps we all need to try with everything in us to revive that child-like faith that believed their father when he told them he had plans to bless them in the morning. How can we have more hope in a holiday than we have in the creator of everything good in the world. Every day really is a Holy day for those who love the Lord and take Him at His Word!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

As I write these words, I am in the fifth day of hospitalization in Singapore, and this is only a week or so after four days of hospitalization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I have undergone two emergency surgeries within 10 days, and I'm still in grievous trouble. My condition at one point reached a severe critical stage, necessitating the transfusion of a lot of blood. Even now I am facing uncertainty, even the possibility of a treatment that may demand that I stay in Singapore for another six weeks. Of course, I am praying, along with many others, for divine intervention, and I have no other choice than to trust God.

There were absolutely no physical symptoms to forewarn that this situation would occur. All of us need to be reminded of the frailty of the human body. We are not indestructible. However there were other warnings that I ignored. My wife was very uneasy about my going, particularly for such a long time. A very good friend, who is close to the Lord and sensitive to His voice, told me pointblank that I was not to undertake this mission, or at least all of it. We need to be more attentive to the counsel of trusted believers who have repeatedly demonstrated that they hear from God. So was I in stubborn rebellion in undertaking this mission? Did I have the wrong motives? Was I not absolutely confirmed of God's will? These are questions I have to consider in passionate prayer. Besides questions such as these, Satan suggests other questions concerning God's care, compassion, faithfulness, and character. In times like that, I have found strength in the statement of Charles Spurgeon: "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart." Job never knew the "why" behind his suffering. God never answered any of his questions. We need to learn what it means that "the just shall live by faith."

At this very moment I am in desperate need, and compounding the situation is the fact that I am in a ward with three other men, and they are all sounding like sawmills. I don't have simple answers to my problems or yours, but here are some things I do know from God's word, and God cannot lie:

When you pray, God hears. Jer. 33:3; Psalm 145:18.

When you hurt, God is near. Psalm 34:17.

When you feel attacked, you have an Advocate. 1 John 2:1. God may have been SILENT with Job but He wasn't ABSENT.

When you blow it, God is ready to forgive. Isa. 1:18; 1 Jn. 1:9; Ps.103:12.

Whether you believe it or not, God knows what is best. Jer. 29:11. Concerning his troubles, Joseph said, with hindsight: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good..." Gen. 50:20.

Whatever is going on in your life, God is in control. Ps. 37:23. Don't forget, "I have never seen the righteous forsaken or His seed begging for bread." Psalm 37:25

When you feel alone, God is there. He has sent us a comforter in the Person of the Holy Spirit, and He has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us. Heb. 13:5. I don't know where I will be when you read this article, but I pray and fully expect that I will be actively in your midst, completely healed and restored in health. Meanwhile, I want to express my grateful appreciation for your prayers and the many expressions of love that Annie and I have received.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

For the last 29 weeks our students have been studying the book of Acts on Sunday mornings during bible fellowship. During this time, we have noticed some repetitive themes throughout the book. First, to become a true disciple of Christ it will cost you everything! While salvation is a free gift from God, Jesus' perfect life graciously exchanged for our sinful one, we've noticed that the earliest believers often gave up everything for the sake of the Gospel. They willingly gave up their old way of life, sometimes their actual names changed, they lost jobs, families, friends, fortunes, all to stand for Christ. They joyfully laid down the old, and modeled out what a new creation in Christ looks like. Second, to become a true disciple of Christ you must be a disciple who makes other disciples. The earliest believers spread their faith far and wide, walking and talking Jesus to everyone they met. Even when they faced persecution, they would not remain silent, and God changed the world through their faithfulness. Their faith was infectious, even non-believers remarked at their faithful way of life. Third, the earliest of believers actually ran towards hardship and persecution, rather than away from it! Paul, of course, is the greatest example, but many early Christians gave up their lives, or were imprisoned, tortured, and mistreated for Jesus name. Finally, we noted that true disciples adopt a life of sacrifice. They sacrificed their possessions for one another, they brought people into their homes, they assisted those who were working to advance the Kingdom of God, and they gave to meet the needs of the poor. The earliest believers immediately recognized that the blessing of this life, were to be used for eternal purposes. The book of Acts serves as a road-map or guidebook that we can refer to so that we may examine our own hearts and lives. Have we truly been transformed into that new creation in Christ? Are we in the disciple making business? Do we run towards the cross in hard times or away from it? Have we ever been persecuted for our faith, and joyfully endured? Are we faithful stewards of what God has given us? And are we sacrificial with our resources towards the needs of others? I thank God for giving us His Word, for recording the actions of His early Church, and I pray that all of our lives mimic theirs, more and more each day.

A Message from Gina Fusillo



CHILDREN, LBC

AWANA/FLYTE got off to a bang this year! The season opened with 71 kidz and 27 workers. As of the writing of this newsletter, we had 82 kidz and 37 workers. What a great ministry! I would like to say “thank you” to each and every volunteer. The program is dependent on your service and you are truly answers to our prayers. Shoebox packing is planned for AWANA night on November 6th. Make sure your kidz attend this night as it is more fun than you can imagine. It is awesome to see the blessings of our own kidz choose items as they fill the Operation Christmas Child boxes that will travel the world before reaching very special children. Parents are encouraged to help in this ministry. The goal is set to pack 300 boxes this year.

The Awana Store dates this year are December 11th and 18th during the regular Awana time. Sparks and T&T groups participate as a means to reward the kidz for their accomplishments. Points are awarded for multiple things that they do and the store is the place for Prizes. This team is led by Tammy Smith as organizer with Amanda Owens and Beth Hedges in charge of purchasing items for the stores. Offerings toward store items are welcomed.

Parents Night Out is Friday, December 6th. The cost is \$10 per child. Think ahead about your “Date Night” and plan to drop off the kidz. Birth – 6th graders can be dropped off at 6:00 pm at the Family Activity Center, and picked up by 9:00 pm. A fun filled night with supper, crafts, games and songs is planned for the kidz enjoyment. Volunteers are needed for this event so that parents of our young children can relax and enjoy their dates. Please pre register your children so we can plan for their supper and snacks.

Encourage your child to bring a friend to Sunday School, Church or Awana! Teach your children about being a testament to the Word of our Almighty God. The Children’s Ministry offers the following for all kidz:

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

Awana/Flyte 5:45 – 7:00 (Sept – May)
Wet Wednesdays 5:45 – 7:00 (Summer)

Our Ministry is in need of volunteers in several areas. Please call the Church office or email Gina Fusillo to get set with our kidz ministries. Make a difference in a child’s life. Share your spiritual gifts.

Upcoming Events:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| November 6 th | Operation Christmas Child Box Packing Night |
| November 27 nd | No AWANA/FLYTE |
| December 6 th | Parents Night Out |
| December 11 th | AWANA Clubs visit Nursing Home |
| December 18 th | Birthday Party for Jesus |
| December 25 th | No AWANA/FLYTE |
| January 1 st | No AWANA/FLYTE |

In Memory of:

Buddy Helton:

Jerry and Sheila Barbaree for Food Bank
Fred and Margaret Van Horn for Challenge to Build

Lester Little:

Jerry and Sheila Barbaree for Food Bank
Fred and Margaret Van Horn for Amen Choir

David McHargue for Food Bank from Roy and Betty McHargue

Robert Holland for Food Bank from Pat Holland

Bennie and Maxine Cole for Circles of Influence from Donnie and Tammy Smith

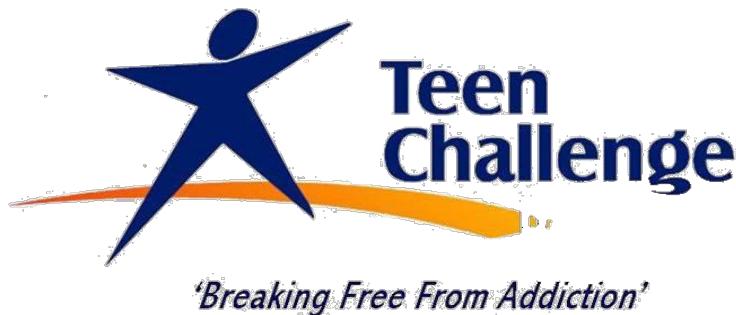
Natalie Hollon for Youth Ministries from Janet Turner

In Honor of:

David and Pansy Slocumb for Food Bank from Terry and Clara Grimes



Circles of Influence Spotlight



Transformation – Not Treatment The biggest difference between Adult & Teen Challenge and a traditional recovery center is our focus on Christ. Our programs depend on the power of the Holy Spirit and God's word to provide our students with a guiding light. Treatment is important, but transformation is key.

Discipleship & Evangelism Through our Bible-based curriculum, students learn how to apply God's Word to their lives. They also learn to recognize the Holy Spirit's work in their lives, invite God to help them overcome their life-controlling problems, and become more like Christ.

Long-Term Residential Programs Most of our programs last an average of 12-18 months. This timeframe provides ample opportunity for adults and teens to confront their destructive choices, their self-sabotaging behavior, and their unhealthy views. It then gives them a safe place to establish a new "normal" – assured of the love of God and under the guidance of Biblical principles.

Lakewood Happenings

NOVEMBER 2019

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | 8:00am Men's Breakfast & Work Day |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Time Change Fall Back 6:00pm Feast of Thanks | 10:30am Amen Choir | 6:30pm Alleluia Choir | 10:30am VK/WMU | 6:00pm Craft Class-OCC Boxes | 5:30pm Game Night | 11:00am H/H Ministry FTH |
| VIP 3 | VIP 4 | VIP 5 | VIP 6 | VIP 7 | VIP 8 | VIP 9 |
| | Veteran's Day 10:30am Amen Choir | 9:00am Building & Grounds Meet 6:30pm Alleluia Choir | 7:00pm Deacon Meeting | | 6:30pm Rex Carter Class OCC Boxes | |
| VIP 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | 10:30am Amen Choir | 6:30pm Alleluia Choir | 7:00pm Finance Meeting | 7:00pm JEG/BW @ Aderhold | Youth Fall Retreat | Youth Fall Retreat |
| 17 | OCC/DropOff 18 | OCC/DropOff 19 | OCC/DropOff 20 | OCC/DropOff 21 | OCC/DropOff 22 | OCC/DropOff 23 |
| Youth Fall Retreat 3:00pm Turkey bowl | | 6:30pm Alleluia Choir | No AWANA or FLYTE | Thanksgiving | Christmas Tree Lot Opens | 11:00am S&YA FTH |
| OCC/DropOff 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

September Giving

| | BUDGET | CTB | MISSIONS | OTHER | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 9/1 | \$15,105.38 | \$360.00 | \$669.58 | \$1,371.93 | \$17,506.89 |
| 9/8 | \$19,844.59 | \$725.00 | \$941.74 | \$270.83 | \$21,782.16 |
| 9/15 | \$18,385.04 | \$343.67 | \$3,482.48 | \$1,341.21 | \$23,552.40 |
| 9/22 | \$15,853.41 | \$425.00 | \$1,153.30 | \$350.38 | \$17,782.09 |
| 9/29 | \$9,580.87 | \$145.00 | \$934.74 | \$2,125.83 | \$12,786.44 |

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

NOVEMBER WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

11/6

BEEF VEGETABLE
SOUP, CORNBREAD
SALAD &
DESSERT

11/13

FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED
POTATOES,
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS, SALAD,
DESSERT

11/20

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD,
SALAD & DESSERT

11/27

THANKSGIVING
BREAK

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

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
GAME NIGHT
NOVEMBER 8TH
5:30PM**

November Greeters

MERITA NORRIS
SARAH BUSH

Check Bulletin Board

FOR
THANK YOU NOTES
EVENTS, NEWS
ALSO OUR WEBSITE:
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