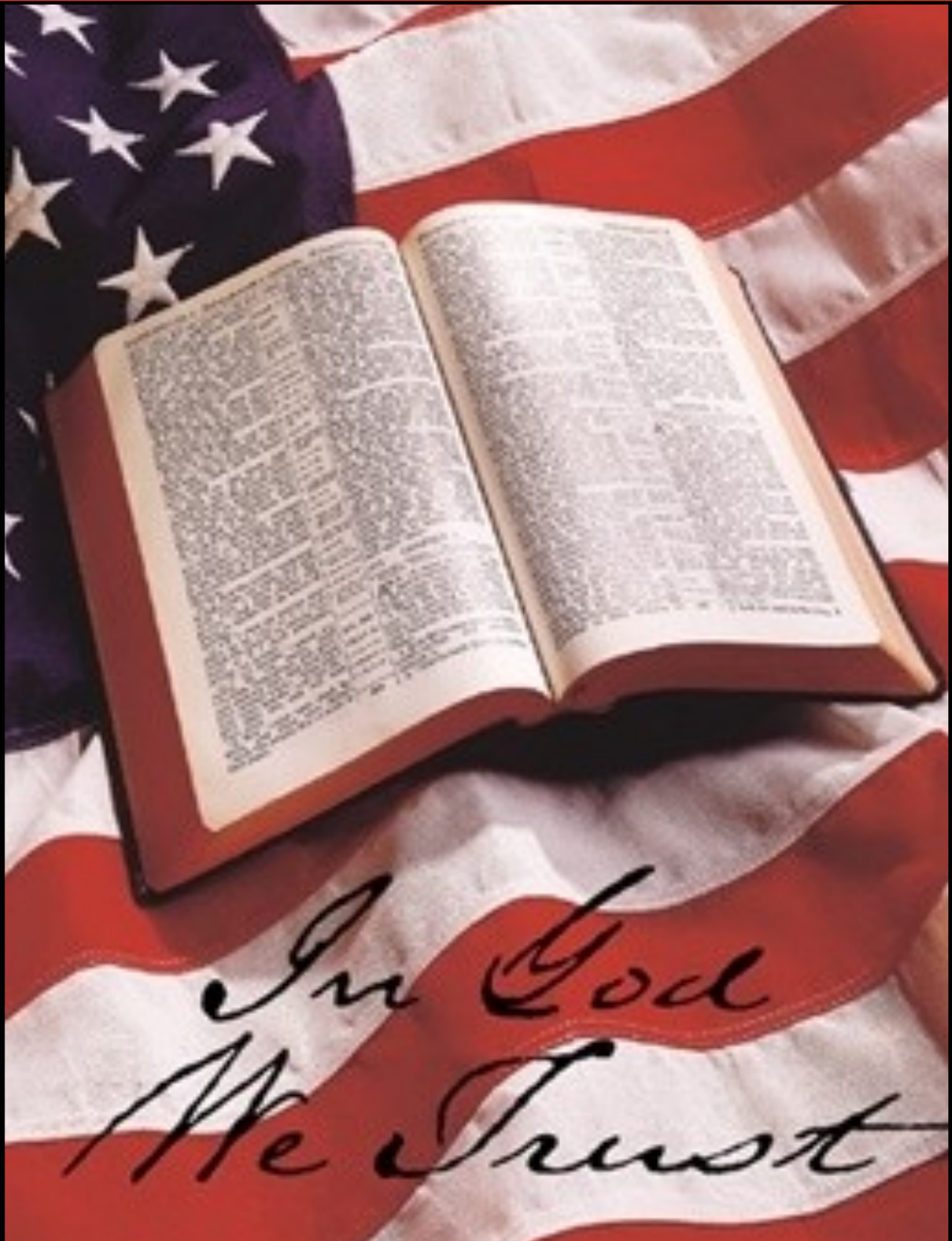


July Connections

Lakewood Baptist Church



Message from Brother M.R.

As I prepare for this month's letter I find myself wondering where to start. Do I share the progress of the building committee on the completion of the activity center? Do I share all the wonderful reports that have flooded in from our mission team to Belize? How can I not celebrate this year's Vacation Bible School, or perhaps the results of the new 5th and 6th grade Flyte program that has produced several of the 10 baptisms the past few weeks. Perhaps I should speak out openly on the wonderful fellowship that is alive and well here at Lakewood. Is this the time and place to address the fact that our membership has given so faithfully that even though our operating cost has increased, our needs have been met and more. Certainly, I have to address the faithfulness of the church family to pray us through my wife's battle with cancer. Not a day passes that we are not encouraged by the cards and messages that remind us that we are not alone. Each and every one of these blessings are worthy of my time and praise. Every single one is a reason to celebrate the opportunity of living to see this day. All together they are humbling in the reality of so much sorrow and suffering around the world today. I am blessed and I thank God for all of you daily in the reality of where I would be without you. Had I missed the opportunity to serve here at Lakewood my life would be drastically changed. If I had missed this past year I would have missed out on all the things I now celebrate. Those blessings would have passed without my knowing they were possible. The names that now bring me such joy would have meant nothing without the opportunity to get to know the people they represent. It is certainly true that God is the best when it comes to giving gifts.

I pray that regardless of your past or present circumstances, you too know the peace that transcends all understanding, the peace of Christ Jesus. This past year has truly been a blessing in spite of the truth of our circumstances. From the world's perspective I feel certain they would not agree, but of this I am certain, I am blessed. Oh yes, I did have to deal with the reality that I have a heart problem that required surgery and a stent. And yes, my wife also had to deal with the fact that she had cancer that required two major surgeries and 18 weeks of chemo as well as radiation. These events alone were not the whole of our experience since we arrived here. They certainly were not worthy of our focus or attention. You see we have given those matters to the Lord, as He alone can make a difference there. This has allowed us to stay focused on the things in this world that are praise worthy. God has reminded me often of His prescription for peace found in Philippians 4:8 & 9 where we are challenged to focus our minds and take control of our thoughts to have peace in the storms around us. "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent and praiseworthy, think about such things and the God of peace will be with you". So with that promise in mind just where do I start with so much that is praiseworthy happening all around me? What a blessing it is to be so blessed that you just don't know where to start. What a blessing it is to be the pastor here at Lakewood and to be a part of the family and fellowship of this great church. Thanking God for you.

"I will sing to the Lord"

Charles Keown

Music & Senior Adults

Our summer choir rehearsals have been very encouraging to me since the summer brings so many opportunities to be away. **Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ by serving as Worship Leaders on Sundays.** It has been said that there is a ratio in church attendance: for every choir member in the loft there are 10 in the congregation. Regardless, the more of you there singing His praises, the greater the blessing to Lakewood as well as those who watch by TV or internet. What a blessing to have the men sing June 29th. The patriotic music combined with Midnight Cry was a very powerful music service. Many have expressed a desire for the men to lead in worship from time to time and we will plan again for them to fill the choir loft sometime soon.

Chris Helms will be here with us July 27th to fill in for Robert while he is away. Chris not only plays the piano wonderfully but will bless us with his sax that Sunday also. Smith Station Band is very fortunate to have Chris as an Assistant Band Director this coming year.

In the coming months, Kathyjo Spivey Gordon will be here August 10th to sing with the Quartet, the Alleluia Choir will do an "End of the Summer Concert" either late August or early September and the Amen Choir is planning an "at home" choir tour October 7th - 13th with Wade Daniels from Bartersville, Oklahoma as special guest. Watch for details!

Children are a gift from God

The month of June began with “Agency D-3”, our 2014 Vacation Bible School in which the kids learned to “Discover, Decide and Defend” the truths about Jesus Christ and His Word. Our key verse for the week was 1 Peter 3:15-“But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

We had 5 children make professions of faith in Jesus as Lord of their lives, and several more decided that it was time to get baptized and make previous professions public. With a total enrollment of 130 kids, VBS 2014 was a tremendous success, utilizing the time and talents of 70 volunteers who did everything from cooking the meals to registering the children. Worship rally leaders Shaun and Cassie Culligan and Elizabeth Hamilton had the kids on their feet and praising God every night while our kitchen team kept us nourished and energized with their delicious dinners. Julie Pelletier and Beth Hedges and their crafts teams kept our hands busy in the craft lab, and Coach OJ, Josh Henderson and Cullen Favors and the games teams played awesome games in what was mostly favorable weather. A special thanks to everyone who had any part in providing this life-changing VBS to our kids and community-you have been a blessing to many!

As we move into July, we will continue “Wet Wednesdays.” Each Wednesday K-6th graders will have a time of devotion, meeting in the children’s church room at 5:45, and then we will head to some type of “wet” activity. Make sure you wear your swimsuits and bring a towel! If your child is not an accomplished swimmer, a parent or guardian must accompany him/her throughout the activity.

This month our country celebrates its 238th birthday, relatively young in the history of nations. America was founded on certain basic God-given principles and presuppositions. No other country ever had such a Christian beginning as ours. In 1620 the Pilgrim Fathers arrived on these shores with a specific purpose. As the Mayflower lay at anchor, they gathered in the cabin of the ship and wrote a document called the Mayflower Compact. The document begins with the words, “In ye name of God, Amen.” Later it states the purpose of their coming: “For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.”

The preamble of the Declaration of Independence includes the statement, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.” The fact that God has granted us certain inalienable rights is so obvious that it is beyond argument. Since God gave the rights and not the government, the government cannot take them away. The Declaration of Independence was a declaration of independence from England, but at the same time it was a declaration of dependence upon God.

There are revisionists in our country who want to rewrite history, leaving out some of the aspects of our national heritage. However, no one can change the fact that our nation was born in the heat of a spiritual revival. Of the 55 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, 52 were deeply committed Christians and the other three believed in the Bible as the divine truth, the God of Scripture, and His personal intervention. Immediately after adopting the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of the Bible for the people of this nation.

Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is remembered for his words, “Give me liberty or give me death.” However, the few textbooks that still quote those words fail to include the context in which they were spoken. Here is what Henry said: “An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” The next year Patrick Henry wrote, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” (continued)

In a speech to the General Assembly of Virginia in 1778, James Madison, the architect of our constitution and the fourth president of the United States, said, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves, according to the Ten Commandments of God."

In George Washington's first inaugural address, he declared as his "first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States, a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes." Toward the end of his address, he said, "We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation with disregard to the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained." I wonder how the ACLU would have reacted to these words if they had been present.

In 1782 the United States Congress passed this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools." In 1963 the Supreme Court ruled that Bible reading was outlawed as unconstitutional in the public school system. I wonder if the Congress of 1782 were aware that they were defying the constitution.

In December of 1820, the great statesman Daniel Webster made a speech commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Plymouth colony. In describing the beginnings of our nation, he said, "Let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate and infuse its influence through all of their institutions, civil, political, or literary."

John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States, held views far different from the present Supreme Court. Here is what he wrote in 1797: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is their duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

The sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said in a speech on July 4, 1821, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." Anybody who claims that our founding fathers believed in the separation of God from government is lying!

On June 8, 1845, President Andrew Jackson said, "The Bible is the rock on which this republic rests." That wasn't a preacher talking. It was a president.

In his farewell address to the citizens of Springfield, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln requested fervent prayer that "the great God that assisted Washington shall be with me." Later he said, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to men. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

In a speech delivered on May 7, 1911, in Denver, Colorado, Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the United States, spoke these words: "The Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and needs of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation. America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness, which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scriptures. Part of the destiny of Americans lies in their daily perusal of this great book of revelations. That if they would see America free and pure they will make their own spirits free and pure by this baptism of the Holy Spirit."

Youth & Younger Single Adults

As many of you know that June was a very busy month for us in the student & younger singles ministry and summer has just begun. Thank you for your prayers and support for the Belize mission trip, it was a complete success. We are currently looking at ways that we can assist in getting as many English & Spanish NIV bibles together as they have a desperate need for God's Word there with surprisingly few copies in most churches. Sometimes, the pastor of the church is the only person with a physical copy of the Word in the church or village. Pray that God will provide thousands of bibles so that the gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to be preached.

On Sunday nights I have been teaching a parenting help class that I've entitled "Great Expectations". This four part series is designed to come alongside our parents & grandparents and assist them by enriching the relationship with their young adult, and to become the spiritual leaders in the home that God has called them to be. Below you will see an excerpt from part 2 of these sessions, we will finish the series on Sunday night July 6th from 5:30-7:00 in the Youth Room. We can clearly see that the culture has failed our students and that we as parents and grandparents are called by God to lead our students into spiritual maturity. We also can see through history how we got to this point and we can't simply sit back and wish for the past, instead we must actively engage and make changes in our homes. The main question is how do we do this? First, let me say that it will take lasting commitment, a commitment that doesn't waiver with the busyness of life that is sure to come. We must declare our independence from what is average in today's American home and actively seek to portray Christ in our daily lives. (continued)

Societal view...

1. Life needs to be convenient. Abortion, religion, sex, entertainment are available to me for my comfort, my enjoyment, and my fulfillment. 2. There are plenty of ways to know God, all roads, all religions lead to Him, some people are just on different paths. Don't judge me. 3. There are no moral absolutes and to be against something is intolerance and hatred (Homosexuality, abortion, political affiliation, etc.). 4. Parents are to give their students the best of everything or they will be unfulfilled in life or be found lacking compared to their peers. 5. When it comes to kids the primary measure of success is beauty, power, wealth, and fame. 6. As long as I'm busy doing things for my kids everything is o.k. (games, hobbies, practices, etc).

Biblical Christ-centered world view...

1. Life is not about me, we exist to serve others. My entire life revolves around and is focused on what I'm doing to advance the gospel of Christ. I exist to bring glory to God. 2. There's only One Way, One Truth, and One Life found in Jesus Christ alone. I should show this to everyone else by the way I love and serve others. 3. God's Word is absolute and is to be the basis of my world view. I should apply its truths' to all areas of my life. In basic terms, if God's Word says it's wrong, then it's wrong. If there's no teaching or there's liberty then I ask two questions; is it necessary, and will it cause another to stumble. To be against something is not hatred **it is conviction**, we can be against something without ugliness or violence and can love the person and still be against the sinful action. 4. Parents who give their students the best of everything are robbing their kids of work ethic, real life experience, and are setting up a false world view for their students. To build a well-rounded student you must give them increasing areas of responsibility that are balanced with trust, reward, and consequence. 5. The primary measure of success as a parent is to live out your faith in front of your child, so much so that they emulate your walk, they desire what you have, and they will hold you in high esteem. 6. I can be busy doing many things but only what's done for eternity will last. My schedule and my student's schedule will be skewed towards service, worship, and family growth projects.

Application...you're on a mission!

1. Be involved in your student's lives. Don't take no for an answer. Know their; friends, their relationships (BF, GF), their coaches and teammates, their schedule, their hobbies, who they talk to, text, social media, computer, etc. Not nosy but involved. 2. Show your walk. You can't expect your child to do something you are not. Let them see you pray, read God's Word, do missions, serve others, and see you putting a priority on worship. You are the example setter. 3. Show your love! If you don't express your love and acceptance to them someone else will. Students, more so than adults, naturally gravitate towards acceptance. If they don't feel unconditional love at home they will seek it elsewhere. Dad's play with your children, show affection, and vocalize your love for them. This doesn't mean we abdicate our leadership and accept sin in their lives but we do love them in spite of their failures. Have an open-door policy, they can come to you about anything, and nothing will change your love for them. Help remove the fear factor. 4. Discipline the right way. Discipline should be love-based. If you're angry, take a break before the penalty phase kicks in. Reinforce love afterwards. Balance punishment with infraction. 5. Teach teamwork within the family, chores should be based around this idea. Instill the importance of commitment and giving/keeping ones word. Show excellence, anything worth doing is worth doing right and to the best of our ability. Share a skill you possess. Build up self-esteem, compliment instead of tearing down. Create positive friendships between your students and their peers and with other trusted adults. 6. Set your student's schedule (and your own). Help them choose one sport, one hobby, one extra-curricular. When we are overloaded in our schedule the family structure breaks down and we have the opportunity to get testier. At home, plan family time; it can be a family outing, dinner around the table, watching a movie together, or a family bible study. Spend at least 30 minutes per day of face-to-face time with your kids. 7. Put the phone down, turn the game off, laptop/tablet off, limit TV time. See what really happened in your student's day, invest. Talk about your day, be REAL, and talk about your struggles and the challenges in daily life. Have a conversation don't give lectures.

Belize Mission Team 2014



In Memory of:

Jody Kelly for Budget from Mallory and Candice Forbes
 Jody Kelly for Budget from Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Carter

Voncile Miller
 For Amen Choir from Johnny Miller
 For Amen Choir from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

Edna Howard for Budget from Susan Binns

Dr. Vincent Currier for Challenge to Build from Myra Currier

Jimmy Ray for Budget from Melvin and Sherry Scroggins

In Honor of:

Chris Bankston for Food Closet from St. Paul UMC, Columbus, Ga.

Beth Scott for Belize from Terry and Clara Grimes

Frances Siquefield for her birthday for Amen Choir from Janice Nobles

Sympathy to the families of:

Elias Martin
 Ray Quintana

Welcome New Members

Abby Bedwell
 Logan Beckman
 Noah Beckman
 Larry Kay
 Allie Hedges

Happy 90th Birthday

to
 W. C. Brown

Senior Adult Game Night

July 25th 5:30 - 8:30
 Come and bring a friend
 for fun, food and games.

Wednesday Menus

7/2

Taco Salad,
 Mexican Corn,
 Spanish Rice & Dessert

7/9

Scrambled Dogs,
 Cole Slaw,
 Baked Beans,
 Salad & Dessert

7/16

Hamburger Steak,
 Rice & Gravy,
 Green Beans, Rolls,
 Salad & Dessert

7/23

Pork Roast,
 Baked Potatoes,
 Steamed Broccoli,
 Rolls, Salad & Dessert

7/30

Fried & Baked Chicken,
 Yellow Ride, California
 Vegetable Medley
 Salad & Dessert

Ministerial Staff:

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
 brothermr@LBCPC.org
 Charles Keown, Minister - Music & Senior
 Adults charles@LBCPC.org
 Andrew Spires, Minister - Students and
 Singles andrew@LBCPC.org
 Patrick Thornton, Minister - Children
 patrick@LBCPC.org
 Jerry Horner, Minister - Discipleship &
 Outreach
 hornerjerry@hotmail.com

Office Staff:

Onezima Everritt, Finance Ministry Assistant
 onezima@LBCPC.org
 Carol Breault, Office Ministry Assistant
 carol@LBCPC.org
 Linda Keown, Music & Media Ministry
 Assistant linda@LBCPC.org
Child Development Center
 Cabbi Black, Director
 cabbib@LBCPC.org
 Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
 tammy@LBCPC.org

May Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
5/4/14	\$17,744.19	\$491.00	\$2,722.59	\$1,856.00	\$22,813.78
5/11/14	\$18,206.03	\$306.00	\$2,821.25	\$4,079.86	\$25,413.14
5/18/14	\$9,609.36	\$56.00	\$1,810.98	\$1,461.32	\$12,937.66
5/25/14	\$6,558.25	\$136.00	\$2,136.70	\$2,330.37	\$11,161.32

July 2014

Check out our website for up to the minute changes @ LBCPC.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	4 Office Closed	5
6 Lord's Supper Dr. Horner's Class @ 9:30	7 Amen Choir @ 10:30	8 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	9 Deacon Meeting @ 7:00	10 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	11 ----- Youth Camp-----	12
13 Dr. Horner's Class @ 9:30 -----	14 Amen Choir @ 10:30 ----- VIP-----	15 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	16 Finance Meeting @ 7:00 ----- Youth Camp-----	17 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	18	19
20 Dr. Horner's Class @ 9:30 Youth Ch @ 5 Church Conf	21 Amen Choir @ 10:30	22 Bus trip to Yoder's / Peaches 9:00am Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	23	24 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	25 Breakfast Club 10-2 Braves Game @ 3:00 Senior Adult Game Night 5:30-8:30	26 Feed the Homeless 11-2
27 Dr. Horner's Class @ 9:30 Belize Report	28 Amen Choir @ 10:30	29 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	30	31 Loaf Closed Clothes Closet Closed Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30		

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
10:45 AM Blended Worship Service
10:45 AM Bible Fellowship
11:15 AM Kidz Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Bible Study
5:45 PM Wet Wednesday / Flyte
Youth Get Real
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Thursday

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM LOAF

* All times are Eastern.



VALLEY INTERFAITH PROMISE, INC.

An affiliate of Family Promise®



V.I.P. WEEK JULY 13-20

We are so grateful to all of you who have committed to serve this week. It is exciting that there are so few spots left to fill for this worthy ministry. LBCPC.org/vip gives more information about Valley Interfaith Promise and the assignment chart is also posted there. At this writing we need Saturday brunch, a Sunday driver, and 4 overnight hosts. You can sign up at the Media Desk in the Sanctuary, email linda@lbcpc.org or call 706-718-4240. By serving them, we are serving HIM.

SAVE THE DATE!

All V.I.P. volunteers are invited to an Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday October 7th at 6:30 pm at Morningside Baptist Church. Every volunteer from every participating Church will gather for a wonderful meal and testimonies from VIP families. Door prizes will also be given away. Turn your reservation for this free event to linda@LBCPC.org or call Linda @ 706-718-4240.

First Place Bible Study is a weight loss program that leads us to Christ first spiritually, physically, and emotionally. The class lasts 6 weeks and the workbook is \$16.

A new class will be starting August 3rd until September 14th from 4:00 - 5:30.

We meet in Homer Gray's Bible Fellowship class in the top floor of the Senior Adult building. We will not meet on August 31st.

Make lifestyle changes that can help you spend the rest of your life healthy and fit!

4 first place health

discover a new way to healthy living



Contact Information:

Lakewood Baptist Church

Website: LBCPC.org
4011 Lakewood Drive,
Phenix City, AL 36867
Main Office: 334.298.6433
Fax: 334.298.4873
Hours: M - Th 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
F - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Child Development Center

Website: LBCPC.org/cdc
334.298.6461
Hours: M - F 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

July
2014

Volume VI

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