

LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation

"Our mission is to make Christ known, by providing spiritual nourishment, ministering to physical needs, and sharing the Gospel."

Rev. Michael O. Currin, Pastor

FEBRUARY 2014

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org



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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

February is the "official" season of love. I have chosen to repeat this article from an earlier edition of the LBC News because I believe it says so much about our needed expressions of love. I personally don't think we can say it enough. Today our homes and world needs our continual expressions of love as much or more than ever. While I don't know the author of this article, the message is a timeless treasure demonstrating the importance of love for one another.

"My grandparents were married for over half a century, and played their own special game from the time they had met each other. The goal of their game was to write the word "shmily" in a surprise place for the other to find. They took turns leaving "shmily" around the house, and as soon as one of them discovered it, it was their turn to hide it once more.

They dragged "shmily" with their fingers through the sugar and flour containers to await whoever was preparing the next meal. They smeared it in the dew on the windows overlooking the patio where my grandma always fed us warm, homemade pudding with blue food coloring. "Shmily" was written in the steam left on the mirror after a hot shower, where it would reappear bath after bath. At one point, my grandmother even unrolled an entire roll of toilet paper to leave "shmily" on the very last sheet.

There was no end to the places "shmily" would pop up. Little notes with "shmily" scribbled hurriedly were found on dashboards and car seats, or taped to steering

wheels. The notes were stuffed inside shoes and left under pillows. "Shmily" was written in the dust upon the mantel and traced in the ashes of the fireplace. This mysterious word was as much a part of my grandparents' house as the furniture.

It took me a long time before I was able to fully appreciate my grandparents' game. Skepticism has kept me from believing in true love - one that is pure and enduring. However, I never doubted my grandparents' relationship. They had love down pat. It was more than their flirtatious little games; it was a way of life. Their relationship was based on a devotion and passionate affection which not everyone is lucky enough to experience.

Grandma and Grandpa held hands every chance they could. They stole kisses as they bumped into each other in their tiny kitchen. They finished each other's sentences and shared the daily crossword puzzle and word jumble. My grandma whispered to me about how cute my grandpa was, how handsome an old man he had grown to be. She claimed that she really knew "how to pick 'em." Before every meal they bowed their heads and gave thanks, marveling at their blessings: a wonderful family, good fortune, and each other.

But there was a dark cloud in my grandparents' life: my grandmother had breast cancer. The disease had first appeared ten years earlier. As always, Grandpa was with her every step of the way. He comforted her in their

yellow room, painted that way so that she could always be surrounded by sunshine, even when she was too sick to go outside. Now the cancer was again attacking her body. With the help of a cane and my grandfather's steady hand, they went to church every morning. But my grandmother grew steadily weaker until, finally, she could not leave the house anymore. For a while, Grandpa would go to church alone, praying to God to watch over his wife. Then one day, what we all dreaded finally happened. Grandma was gone.

"Shmily." It was scrawled in yellow on the pink ribbons of my grandmother's funeral bouquet. As the crowd thinned and last mourners turned to leave, my aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members came forward and gathered around Grandma one last time. Grandpa stepped up to my grandmother's casket and, taking a shaky breath, he began to sing to her. Through his tears and grief, the song came, a deep and throaty lullaby.

Shaking with my own sorrow, I will never forget that moment. For I knew that, although I couldn't begin to fathom the depth of their love, I had been privileged to witness its unmatched beauty. S-H-M-I-L-Y ~ See How Much I Love You."

I encourage you to share your own SHMILY with those you love this month and all the time. And don't forget - I love you and am privileged to serve as pastor of such a loving people.

Mike



FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
2 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Super Bowl Party	3 8:30 Exercise 7:00 Deacon's Mtg	4	5 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	6	7 8:30 Exercise	8
9 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon 7:00 Church Council	10 8:30 Exercise	11	12 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	13	14 8:30 Exercise 	15
16 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 3:00 Winter Bi- ble Study 5:30 Youth	17 8:30 Exercise	18	19 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	20	21 8:30 Exercise	22 1:00 Youth Defy Gravity Event
23 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 3:00 Winter Bi- ble Study	24 8:30 Exercise	25	26 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	27	28	



The first time I played the organ for a church service was when I was 14 years old. I filled in for our organist at the Warrenton Baptist Church, Nellie Gardner. Nellie was well known for her musical ability and was another "mother" to me. Filling in for her was a little overwhelming, but she always left me little notes on the organ of encouragement when I filled in for her. She passed away over 22 years ago but I still feel her presence with me on Sunday mornings.

I inherited some of her music after she passed away but recently inherited 4 big boxes of organ music from her family. I have been like a kid at Christmas going through the boxes and pulling out what I think I can use. A lot of the music you hear and will be hearing is from these boxes....some of the books are over 60 years old! Nellie helped me to have faith in myself that I could "fill her shoes" and I still feel her love and faith every time I play from this treasured collection! She was a true inspiration to me and is one of the reasons I love being organist at our church!

Laura



The Church Council will meet at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, **February 9** in the annex.

DEACONS MEETING

The Deacons will meet on **Monday, February 3**, at 7:00 P.M. in the annex.



"Defy Gravity" YOUTH TRIP
Saturday, February 22, 2014
1:00 P.M.

We'll leave the church at 1:00 P.M. to travel to Durham for the "Defy Gravity" experience.

We should return between 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Cost for the one hour admission is \$12.00 and money for supper will also be needed.
Place to be determined.

Youth are invited to bring a friend. Everyone in attendance must have a completed permission slip form to participate.

See the pastor for the forms and let the pastor know by **February 16** if you plan to attend and also if you are bringing a friend.



Littleton Baptist will again serve as the host site in our parsonage during February. Our church will serve as hospitality host February 3-9 and other area churches will offer their hospitality the rest of the month.

Needed during our week are LBC volunteers for serving meals, helping with transportation, and serving as overnight hosts. To volunteer see or call Ann Currin at 252-586-3370.

Again, thanks to all who helped in November. It made a huge difference to those in need.



**Soup
& Sandwich
Luncheon**

On Sunday, **February 9**, "Share Our Love Sunday" will focus on demonstrating our Christian love. The worship will be followed by a "Soup and Sandwich Luncheon" served with love by our Hospitality Committee. This annual event is always an enjoyable time for all. Consider ways you can share your love with someone - a visit, a card, a gift, or time spent with someone you'd not ordinarily spend time with in the course of your week. (Don't forget the HELLO Ministry as a possibility at this time.)



The 2014 Offering for Older Adults emphasis will be held during the month of February. Baptist Retirement Homes are one of the few organizations in North Carolina dedicated to nurturing senior residents in body, mind, and spirit, and the chaplains in each community are the heart of that ministry.

Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc. operates facilities at the following locations: Brookridge Retirement Community, Winston-Salem; Taylor House, Albemarle; The Gardens of Taylor Glen, Concord, NC; and Western NC Baptist Home, Asheville.

During February you will be able to contribute to this vital ministry and to engage in faithful prayer for its leaders and ministry with older adults.



The following is the flower schedule for the month of February 2014.

February 2 Billy & Suzanne Pearce
 February 9
 February 16 Don & Kay Beaver
 February 23

Flowers are needed on February 9 and 23. If you would like to place flowers on either of these dates, please contact Priscilla Parks, Josie Myrick or Sandra Lynch.

Thanks for the Shoes!



Our church family donated over 120 of the 5,000 pairs of shoes that were collected for the "Footwork For Main Street" project. The shoes that were collected will be re-purposed in countries in need. These shoes will be (given to) used for children who could not attend school unless they had shoes to wear, parents who could barter so they can feed and clothe their families. Some can trade shoes for goats so they can have milk for their infants and children. Thank you for helping these children!



If you would like to share Christ's love with others during times of disasters, the NC Baptist Men will be having training sessions **February 21 & 22** in Wilson County and **March 7 & 8** in Franklin County. There are many needs during a disaster that your help is needed for no matter what your talent may be. Go to the website (www.baptistmission.org) or see Sid and Betty Anne Shearin. They are planning to attend the training in Franklin County and would love to have you join them.



The Super Bowl Bash for our youth will be on Sunday evening, **February 2** at 5:30 P.M. at the pastor's home. All youth will bring "super" snacks and cheer their favorite team to victory. You are encouraged to invite a friend.



SPRING MISSIONS INITIATIVE MAY 3, 2014

Our Spring Missions Initiative is scheduled for Saturday, **May 3**. Please be in prayer for this "**BIG EVENT**" which will include a Free Children's Carnival at the John 3:16 Center and Health Screenings! We need books for this event! Again this year we are collecting new and/or gently used preschool, children & middle school books for use with our goodie bags given to each child in attendance. If you have extra books you'd like to donate or know of a source for such books please let the person or us know as we need many books to supply this important need.



Flower Calendar

We cannot believe that February 2014 is here and it is time to update the flower schedule. We want to THANK EVERYONE for helping with flowers last year. Everyone enjoyed the poinsettias during the Christmas holidays. Thank you for your part. We think the church was beautiful during the Holiday Season with all the Christmas decorations, candles in the windows, the Christmas tree with lights, and poinsettias. We hope you worshiped with us during this Holy Season.

We know we have new members that joined LBC during the past year and they may not know about our flower ministry. Tradition is for anyone who would like to place an Easter Lilly in Church on Easter Sunday, or a poinsettia during the Christmas season may do so.

We also have a flower schedule for every Sunday during the year. We have placed the flower schedule on the bulletin board at church. Several people have placed their names on the schedule for special dates but there are a lot of empty dates available. If you would like to put flowers in the LBC on any given Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one please let us know. We will contact you to remind you that your date is coming up.

Please contact our church office at (252) 586-5330 or Priscilla Parks by phone - (252) 586-4790 or email: priscillaparks@embarqmail.com if we can assist you.

Thanks again for your help.

The Flower Committee,

Josie Myrick, Sandra Lynch & Priscilla Parks



Winter Bible Study

Join us for our study of Paul's First letter to the Corinthians using the Smyth and Helwys resource by Don and Anita Flowers titled "Growing Through Adversity." This four week study will be held from 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. on select Sunday's in February and March. February Dates are **February 16 and 23.** Refreshments and good Christian Fellowship and discussion are very much a part of this study.

The publisher says this about the study book. *Many dangers can arise from reading a letter written to someone else, and epistles—scriptural letters—are no different. Don and Anita Flowers present this comprehensive study of 1 Corinthians, filled with scholarly insight and dealing with such varied topics as marriage and sexuality, spiritual gifts and love, and diversity and unity. The authors examine Paul's relationship with the church in Corinth as well as the culture of that city to give context to topics that can seem far removed from Christian life today. These sessions direct learners toward the blessings the modern church can glean from this letter to an early church from the most recognizable and prolific ancient theological writer. Although not written to us today, the authors reveal how profoundly 1 Corinthians is written about us.*

The Study Book is available to all participants. Plan to join us for this focused time of study on 1 Corinthians.

Littleton Baptist Church
P. O. Box 216
Littleton, NC 27850

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<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
11 Don Beaver 18 Francis Royal 20 Lib Crawley (Charles) 21 Louise Barrett 27 Roman Martinez	14 Charles & Priscilla Parks (54 yrs) 17 Julian & Indie Parks (63 yrs) 24 Mike & Ann Currin (7 yrs)	2 Sandra Lynch/Sara Council 9 Elizabeth Hockaday/Ryan Hockaday 16 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 23 Sarah Iles/Kay Tripp
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	2 Super Bowl Party 9 No Meeting 16 Youth (Carol West) 23 No Meeting	Roman Martinez