

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

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org



FEBRUARY 2015

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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Sometimes I save quotes I read for later reflection. The following is one I saved recently, but failed to note the source. I share it with you now. *"How many moments of my life today can I fill with conscious awareness of and surrender to God's presence? Then I try to deliberately imagine myself doing that at home, at work, in my car, when I'm online, when I'm watching the news, when I'm with others. Can I do the "with God" life all the time? I've been trying to make this the goal of my day as opposed to a list of things I have to get done. Can I just keep God in my mind today, regardless of what I'm doing?"*

That's a big challenge for all of us I think. A constant awareness that we are with God and He is with us at all times. C. S. Lewis wrote, "We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito." Yet we easily become so preoccupied with the to-do list and so overwhelmed by the pace of life that we forget to look for God sightings in our day. While we can't get rid of our to-do lists and all the other things that occupy and sometimes preoccupy our time, we can make more deliberate attempts to be aware of God's presence. Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk calls us to "Practice the Presence of God" who is all around us. Lawrence said "I make it my business to rest in His [Christ's] holy presence which I keep myself in by a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God. This often causes in me joys and raptures inwardly, and sometimes also outwardly, so great that I am forced to use means to moderate them, and prevent their appearance to others."

Does this in any way reflect your practice of the presence of God? While none of us are perfect at this, we are called to be practitioners learning more and more with each day passing day.

In her "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook," Adele Ahlberg Calhoun suggests options to help us practice the presence. I share several of them here:

- Dedicate some task you are doing to the Lord. Talk to Him about the task before you begin and again when you are done. Do you become more aware of God in the process? How?
- Offer all of yourself to God for the day ahead. Throughout the day ask yourself if you are still living your intention to be in God's presence. Do not be discouraged when you stray from your intention. Simply begin again. God loves for you to turn your heart back to Him.
- Decide to stop several times throughout your day to pay attention to God and practice His presence. Set up reminders for that time to read a scripture, pray or just be with Jesus. Reflect on what that means to you. A few intentional minutes throughout the day can make a big difference.

Remember there is no "one" right way to be with God. What works best for you is what you should practice and keep practicing. God is very near, we just need to notice and be available. When we do, our spiritual life is changed. Celebrate God's presence!

On the Journey,

Mike



FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship</p> <p>3:00 Winter Bible Study 5:30 Super Bowl/ Movie Bash</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p> <p>7:00 Deacon's Mtg</p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>7:00 Mission Committee Mtg.</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship</p> <p>3:00 Winter Bible Study 5:30 Youth</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>  <p>Valentine's Day</p>
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Church Council</p> <p>5:30 Youth</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>8:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>



I am sitting here wondering what to write for this month's newsletter. I am also staring at a pillow Mama gave each one of my brothers and me for Christmas. Written on the pillow are these words...Being a part of this family means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life. It dawns on me that these words are also true of our church family. I feel so blessed to be a part of this family, too!

I would love for you to join our choir family! We are working on new selections as well as our Easter Cantata! It's never too late to be a member of this family!

Laura



The following is the flower schedule for the month of February 2015.

- February 1 Roy Spain
- February 8
- February 15 Don & Kay Beaver
- February 22

Flowers are needed on February 8 and 22. If you would like to place flowers on either of these dates, please contact Sandra Lynch, Debbie Keeter or Ann Currin.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



On Sunday, **February 15**, "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. If you would like to help with the luncheon please contact Betty Anne Shearin. 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.)



Join us Sunday, **February 1 & 8**, as we continue our study of the book of Ezekiel. This study will be held from 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Refreshments and good Christian Fellowship and discussion are very much a part of this study.



The Church Council will meet at 12:00 Noon following worship on **Sunday, February 22**.

Deacons Meeting



The Deacons will meet on **Monday, February 2**, at 7:00 P.M. in the annex.



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
OF NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED

The 2015 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.

Youth Super Bowl/Movie Bash!



The Super Bowl/Movie Bash for our youth will be on Sunday evening, **February 1** 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.

Community

Lenten Lunch and Devotion Series

Each Wednesday February 18 – March 25
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

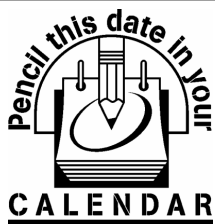
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location*</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
February 18	Littleton United Methodist Church	Rev. Beverly Huck St. Alban's Episcopal Church
February 25	Littleton Baptist Church Littleton Presbyterian Church (host)	Rev. Rusty Campbell Lakeside Lutheran Church
March 4	St Alban's Episcopal Church	Rev. Kevin Brunk Littleton Presbyterian Church
March 11	South Street Baptist Church	Rev. Stan Lewis Calvary United Methodist Charge
March 18	Roanoke Chapel Baptist Church	Rev. Mike Currin Littleton Baptist Church
March 25	Weaver's Chapel United Methodist Church	Rev. Arthur Warren Littleton United Methodist Church

** Host church will provide music for each luncheon!*

They begin at Noon and conclude at 1:00 P.M. Each person should bring a bag type lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided by the host church. The devotion will begin by 12:30 P.M.

Our theme is exploring the moments leading up to the crucifixion from the perspective of those that first witnessed it and asking ourselves the question, "Why would I go to the cross?"

*Come as you are and invite someone to join you for
a time of community fellowship and devotion!*



SPRING MISSIONS INITIATIVE APRIL 18, 2015

Our Spring Missions Initiative is scheduled for Saturday, **April 18**. 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.



All missions need volunteers and money. Here are other ways to support missions and share Christ's love!

Union Mission – 1310 Roanoke Avenue
Roanoke Rapids, NC
(252) 537-3372

1. Donate cardboard, rags, clothes, food, household items, furniture
2. Shop in the Thrift Store on Roanoke Avenue (across the street from the Mission)

Donations of clothing, household items, boxes, etc. are accepted in the rear of the Thrift Store:

Monday-Friday: 8:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M., 12:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Saturday: 8:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M., 12:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

John 3:16 Center – 407 East End Avenue
Littleton, NC
(252) 586-1800

1. Donate items to their yard sales held Memorial Day Saturday and Labor Day Saturday
2. Shop at the yard sales.
3. Donate school supplies and school uniforms

Take donations by the Center on Friday & Saturday from 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
or contact them to schedule another time.

Habitat for Humanity – 14 East 2nd Street
Roanoke Rapids, NC
(252) 537-2556

1. Donate construction supplies, tools, furniture, appliances
2. Shop at Restore on Hwy 48 South of Roanoke Rapids

Habitat volunteers will pick up items or you may take it to the Restore Monday & Thursday
from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. or the 1st of the month.

Angel's Closet – 47 U.S. Highway 158
Roanoke Rapids, NC
(252) 326-3236

1. Donate clothing, shoes, toys, furniture, food.
2. Shop their excess at \$5.00 per bag sale the first Saturday every month except December.

Take donations to their warehouse located on Hwy 158 near the Hwy 48 intersection
Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon

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

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Return Service Requested

<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 (55 yrs) 17 Julian & Indie Parks (64 yrs) 24 Mike & Ann Currin (8 yrs)	1 Sandra Lynch/Brenda Hudson 8 Elizabeth Hockaday/Ryan Hockaday 15 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 22 Sarah Iles/Kay Tripp
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	1 Super Bowl/Movie Bash 8 Ryan Hockaday 15 No Youth 22 Sheryl West	Sidney Gibson