

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



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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

It's hard to believe that the year 2016 is upon us. It seems almost like yesterday 2015 made its entrance, and now that's history. And with each New Year thoughts turn to many ways to fix what's broken about our self and our world. More often than not however our thoughts, dreams, resolutions, and plans fall short. All of our personal efforts to 'fix' ourselves come up way short of the mark.

In the December edition of *Alive* magazine article, "Embracing Mystery," Christine Painter says we are better off replacing resolutions with developing spiritual practices to aid us in the journey through 2016 and life. As we develop these practices they help us better be the people of God He intends us to be. I have chosen a variation of five of her practices for you to consider as you begin 2016.

One: Breathe Deeply. It sounds so simple. Take time daily to reflect upon the breath that sustains your body and your life. Recognize the air we breathe is a gift, it is involuntary. Let yourself be filled with awe and wonder as you marvel at this special gift. Take just a few minutes to focus on your breathing and thank God for this precious gift which sustains us and gives us life. Discover just how blessed we are for this reminder that God is with us with good gifts, even in the very air we breath.

Two: Focus on God's personal direction as we follow His way with each new step. We won't figure out the destination so much as join Him in our journey. Reflect on your journey thus far and where you have seen God lead. Give thanks for the blessings and lessons of our journey through life with Him.

Three: Open yourself to words from God. While it is not likely you will hear any audible voice, God's Spirit directs our ways through His Holy Spirit, His written word, or in the lives of the people we encounter each day. Prepare yourself for where God might direct you in some new way or what you see happening in the moment that needs more understanding. Dare to obey him!

Four: Let go of something you would consider non-essential that may bog you down and keep you from the "main things" that matter most. Consider what is most essential to your well-being as a person, your place in your family, your church, and as a child of God. Only we know what's most important and involves using much discernment as we look at our calendars, financial resources, and investments of our time and resources. Letting go is hard work and demands discipline. This is not done by our sheer will and determination but a focus on God and his way for our lives.

Five: Remember your mortality. Like it or not we only get one life to live on this earth. Thank God for this most precious gift you've been given. A chance to be the one "you" God created you to be. Rejoice in this gift and consider steps how "you" might better be the best you possible. You only live once, make the most of your choices.

You might want to record your thoughts somewhere so you can revisit during the year and add to or prayerfully consider your thoughts in these areas.

I wish for each of you a year filled with joy as you experience Christ's presence.

Mike



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 Exercise	2
3 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth 7:00 Deacons Mtg.	4 8:30 Exercise	5	6 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	7	8 8:30 Exercise	9 7:00 Christian Men At Work
10 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	11 8:30 Exercise	12	13 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Quarterly Business Mtg.	14 7:00 Mission Committee	15 8:30 Exercise	16
17 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth	18 8:30 Exercise	19	20 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	21	22 8:30 Exercise	23
24 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	25 8:30 Exercise	26	27 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	28	29 8:30 Exercise	30
31 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth						



I want to thank the Adult Choir and the Junior Singers for their performance on December 20! I hope it put everyone into the holiday spirit!

I almost feel like the ringers for the Salvation Army. You know, the ones who ring those little bells and are so persistent. You know what they want when you see them. That's kind of like me.....you know that I am persistent in asking for you to come join us in the choir! Easter comes early this year so we will begin working on the Easter Cantata. The first rehearsal is in January! Come join us! I will keep "ringing my bell" and hope my persistence pays off too!

We welcome Ginger Batts to our choir! She heard my bell! There is always room for one more! I would love to have to order more robes!

Happy New Year!

Laura



Our Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **January 14** at 7:00 P.M. as they make preparations for the John 3:16 Center Carnival on April 16. Please mark your calendars as your help will be needed and appreciated! Members include: Melinda Harris, Brenda Hudson, Lee Myrick, Clyde Johnston, Mike Crawley, Ann Currin & Debbie Keeter.



Don't forget to mark a very important date on your 2016 Calendars! The John 3:16 Kid's Carnival will be held on **April 16!**

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



On Sundays in which inclement weather renders it unsafe to conduct Sunday School and Worship Services, our deacons will contact you if our services are postponed in any way.



Our Deacons will meet on Sunday evening, **January 3** at 7:00 P.M. in the church annex.



Quarterly Business Meeting

Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **January 13**, at 7:30 P.M. These quarterly meetings are vital to the church and her ministry as we report, discuss, plan and consider the ongoing needs that will strengthen us as the people of God. You are encouraged to be present and to always be prayerful about our church's ministries!



LORD'S SUPPER

On Sunday, **January 3**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. At the conclusion of worship, you will be given opportunity to contribute to our church's Fellowship Fund for local benevolent needs.



Happy New Year!



We are so thankful we are part of a group who show their love to us in so many great ways! From the pat on the shoulder and a quiet “great job” to the financial gift you presented at the Christmas breakfast! We are so blessed!

Many thanks!
Laura, Kay and Bill



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our church ministry this past year! Your contributions enable us to minister in numerous ways throughout our community and world. The 2016 offering envelopes are in the vestibule to be picked up and have been prepared for all who contributed in 2015. If you need envelopes for children or if you cannot locate yours, please contact the church office or Gladys Pegram, and we will happily provide them for you.



THANK YOU!

The Flower Committee would like to thank everyone who put poinsettias in our church during the Christmas Holiday. They were beautiful and added so much to our worship services.



HAPPY NEW YEAR to each of you! You have proven to Ann and I during her illness what being part of the family of God is all about. We thank you for your many expressions of love, support, prayers and gifts! You are each special to our family, and you have proved this in so many wonderful ways to us , among our church family, and in the community. Thank you for the financial love gift from the church for Christmas. We thank you for your many remembrances this Christmas and always. Continue to keep Ann and I in your prayers and I commit to do the same for each of you. We wish each of you a Christ-filled 2016!

Love,
Mike and Ann



The following is the flower schedule for January:

January 3	Lord's Supper
January 10	Open for Scheduling
January 17	Open for Scheduling
January 24	Open for Scheduling
January 31	Open for Scheduling

Thank you to all that helped make our sanctuary even more beautiful with flowers in 2015!

If you would like to place flowers in the church for a Sunday in 2016, please sign up as soon as possible on the calendar on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact one of the Flower Committee members - Sandra Lynch (252-586-1112), Debbie Keeter (252-676-9941) or Ann Currin (252-586-3370, anncurrin@embarqmail.com). Also, please let us know the information you would like placed in the bulletin for the flowers.

Thank you!!

Ann, Sandra & Debbie



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE MILITARY

Thank you for participating in our church's project of sending Christmas joy to folks in the military that may be away from home during the holidays.

Two of the cards went to relatives of Al & Alice Riddick of Littleton. The Riddicks are active at Oak Grove Baptist and Al is on the board of directors at the John 3:16 Center. Alice's nephew's wife, Marva Walker is serving with the Air Force and is stationed in England. Al's niece's husband, James Bennet is serving with the Navy and is stationed in Jacksonville, FL.

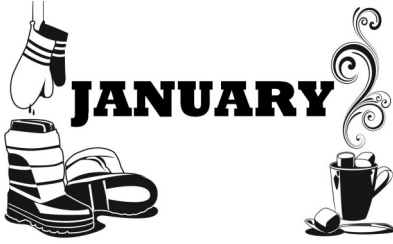
Of course Ryan Hockaday is a member of our church and is stationed at Camp LeJeune. Ryan will be home for Christmas and then leave for California. The card that had no specific person attached to it was sent to Ryan and he was instructed to give the card to someone who needed cheering up during the holidays.

A special thanks to Betty Blanton for providing pictures of this area that were sent with the cards.

Sid Shearin

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>
17 Barbara Topping 17 Daniel West 20 Brenda Holloman 24 Mike Conner 25 Jack Mathieson 26 Betty Ann Shearin 28 Sandra Felts	22 Tony & Pam Morris (28yrs)	3 Melinda Harris/Eric Hockaday 10 Sarah Iles/Louise Gibson 17 Betty Blanton/Jan Miller 24 Carol West/Carly West 31 Brenda Hudson
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	3 Eric Hockaday 10 No Youth 17 Nora Labrecque 24 No Youth 31 Sheryl West	Jimmy Kearney