

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 2016

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org

Vol. 40 No. 2



PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Some columns are worthy of repeating. While the author is unknown I used it in 2004. The message is timely for the love month, and a timeless treasure in how to demonstrate our 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 the 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.

Mike

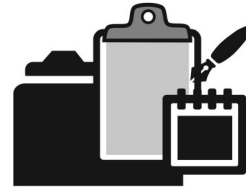


FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Church Council Mtg	<i>8</i> 8:30 Exercise 7:00 Deacons Meeting	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Lenten Lunch 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Soup & Sandwich Lunch 	<i>15</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Lenten Lunch 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth	<i>22</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Lenten Lunch 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth	<i>29</i> 8:30 Exercise					



February 14th is Valentine's Day as we know but it is also the 5th anniversary of losing my dear friend and a friend to so many, Glenda Summerford. I learned so much about leading the choir from her. Whether it was from being a choir member for the eight years she directed or the many phone calls I made to her with millions of questions, she taught me so much. It's hard to believe I am approaching my 11th year of directing the choir. I know she would be so proud of the direction our choir has gone. I would like to think she would be proud of me, too!



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet following morning worship on **Sunday, February 7**. Members include: Sid Shearin, Deacon Chairperson & Maintenance Committee Chairperson; Kay Beaver, Finance Committee Chairperson; Laura Kearney, Director of Music; Betty Anne Shearin, Hospitality Committee Chairperson; Melinda Harris, Mission Committee Chairperson and Mike Crawley, Director of Sunday School.

Deacons Meeting



The Deacons will meet on Monday, **February 8** at 7:00 P.M. in the annex.

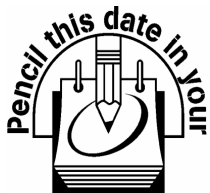
Prayer Matters



All of God's people are invited to join the fellowship of believers who gather each Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. for Prayer and Bible Study. During this special service we review our church prayer list concerns and spend time with specific intercessory prayer for those needs. In addition we have some time for Bible Study. It is important for a church to be at prayer together and you are encouraged to join us as often as you possibly can. Your presence for prayer really matters!

LITTLETON AREA CHRISTIANS TOGETHER SERVING (LACTS)

Littleton Baptist Church will man the food pantry on Friday, **March 25**. Come join us for a morning of fun and fellowship as we give to those that need help. There is a need for sugar-free items and protein rich foods that include peanut butter and tuna fish.



CALENDAR

SPRING MISSIONS INITIATIVE APRIL 16, 2016

Don't forget to mark a very important date on your calendar! The John 3:16 Center Kid's Carnival will be held on Saturday, **April 16**. We need your help on that date so we can provide a fun, God filled day for area children. We have some needs that can be fulfilled now. Books are always a big hit with the children. Please donate books that children from one to thirteen would enjoy reading. New or gently used books are needed for 225 children. Keep your eyes open for low prices on two liter drinks and donate some for the carnival. Drugco has a special of \$.99 but you can only purchase four at a time. So next time you are there, pick up some and donate them. We need all kinds - colas, fruit, diet, citrus, etc. Please keep the carnival in your prayers. Thank you for your support!

Community Lenten Lunch and Devotion Series

Each Wednesday February 10 – March 16
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location*</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
February 10	Littleton United Methodist Church	Rev. Beverly Huck St. Alban's Episcopal Church
February 17	Littleton Baptist Church	Rev. Rusty Campbell Lakeside Lutheran Church
February 24	South Street Baptist Church	Rev. Stan Lewis Lake Gaston Methodist Charge
March 2	St. Alban's Episcopal Church	Rev. Kevin Brunk Littleton Presbyterian Church
March 9	Weaver's Chapel United Methodist Church	Rev. Mike Currin Littleton Baptist Church
March 16	Littleton Presbyterian Church At Littleton United Methodist Church	Rev. Wendy Bishop Lake Gaston Methodist Charge

* 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 symbols associated with the Passion narratives including the ashes, 30 pieces of silver, the crown of thorns and robe, the nails, the casting of lots and the tunic, and the spear.

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



*Flower
Calendar*

The following is the flower schedule for the month of February 2016.

February 7	Open for Scheduling
February 14	Open for Scheduling
February 21	Kay Beaver
February 28	Open for Scheduling

If you would like to place flowers on any of the open dates please contact 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.

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon



On Sunday, **February 14**, "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.)



MAKING LIFE FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Best of Times

The 2016 Offering for Older Adults emphasis will be held during the month of February and will look at the dynamic partnership relationships that have been developed by Baptist Retirement Homes and local churches and associations to provide essential services to frail older adults. 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.

In addition to this year's "Offering" Emphasis, the Baptist Retirement Homes organization is trying through a special project (*Reach Out Campaign*) to help frail Older Adults (85 years of age and older), with very limited financial resources, experience quality living situations both at home and in an institutional setting. The way that the "Homes" is trying to do this is by providing this very vulnerable group with the kind of "assisted devices" that they need to accomplish such basic tasks as going from Point A to Point B. There are campaign cards and envelopes in the vestibule to use if you would like to make a special donation to the "Reach Out" campaign.

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 their ministry with older adults.

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 20 Lib Crawley (Charles) 21 Louise Barrett 27 Roman Martinez	14 Charles & Priscilla Parks (56 yrs) 17 Julian & Indie Parks (65 yrs) 24 Mike & Ann Currin (9 yrs)	7 Sandra Lynch/Brenda Hudson 14 Elizabeth Hockaday/Eric Hockaday 21 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 28 Sarah Iles/Kay Tripp
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	7 No Meeting 14 No Meeting 21 Youth (Mike Currin) 28 Youth (Emily Adkins)	Sidney Gibson