

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

email: littletonbaptistchurch@embarqmail.com

(252) 586-5330



DECEMBER 2016

Vol. 40 No. 12

IN MEMORY

Mr. Ray Cole

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

John opens his gospel with a description of Jesus, "In the beginning was the Word and the word was God." He writes in versus 14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Luke gives the most detailed account of the first Christmas as he describes Jesus miraculous birth in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph in a stable because there was no room in the inn. Since early times following his birth, Christians have found diverse ways to celebrate this holy birth; sometimes in significant and holy ways; and at other times in ways much less holy and significant.

The Season of Advent to Christmas is the appropriate time to do a self check regarding just how we celebrate the birth of our Savior and its meaning to us, our families, and our world. How do you define Christmas by what you say and what you do?

Spirituality writer Henri Nouwen once defined Christmas this way: "Songs, good feelings, beautiful liturgies, nice presents, big dinners, and sweet words do

not make Christmas. Christmas is saying yes to something beyond all emotions and feelings. Christmas is saying yes to a hope based on God's initiative, which has nothing to do with what I think or feel. Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not mine." {Henry Nouwen, New Oxford Review (Nov. 1986)}

I wonder if we were to write a definition of Christmas, what might it include? I'm sure for many it would be filled with the birth of Christ and our eternal hope for salvation and testimony regarding a loving God who sent His One and only Son into our world to bring salvation for all people. These words are not only important, but the essence of Christmas.

However Christmas is defined not only by words on a page, but most importantly by the way we live and celebrate this great truth in our lives. "If someone were to write a definition of Christmas by your action during this holiday season, just what would that definition include?" My fear is much of it could likely be filled with things like activity, greed, hurry, stress, and busyness. How tragic!

My prayer for each of you during this season is that your celebration of this holy season will not be defined by such things, but more by His presence being "fleshed out" through worship, giving, serving, proclaiming this good news to all we have opportunity.

While activity is vital to our Christmas celebration as we express our great joy through worship, music, doing good deeds and devoting ample time for family and Christian fellowship, let us always remember the why of Christmas! Christmas is "saying yes to a hope based on God's initiative," and "believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not mine." Christmas means making room for Him to enter our hearts and lives and to lead us down Christ's path of truth and life. Christmas allows this truth to permeate everything we say and do before others as we express this heartfelt love and devotion for our Christ who loves us so.

Just what will your "fleshed out" definition include during Advent and Christmas, 2016?

Mike



'Tis the Season

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:30 Exercise 5:30 John 3:16 Banquet	3 11 :00 Littleton Christmas Parade
4 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	5 8:30 Exercise	6	7 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	8	9 8:30 Exercise	10
11 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Toy Shopping	12 8:30 Exercise	13	14 8:30 Exercise 5:30 Caroling 6:30 Adult Choir No Prayer & Bible Study	15	16 8:30 Exercise	17 11:00 Christmas Outreach Party at John 3:16 Center
18 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Cantata	19 8:30 Exercise	20	21 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	22	23 9:30 LACTS Food Pantry	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service
25 No Sunday School 11:00 Christmas Morning Worship	26	27	28 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	29	30 8:30 Exercise	31



It seems like Christmas rolls around so fast! But, that's okay with me because it is the most wonderful time of the year! I am looking forward to spending it with our family especially Addie, who will be celebrating her first Christmas!! What a fun Christmas it will be!

The Adult Choir will be presenting Emmanuel...Celebrating Heaven's Child on December 18th at 5:30. This passionate Bethlehem experience has touched the hearts of our choir and hopefully our congregation in wonderful ways. Souls will be stirred by unforgettable life-changing experiences such as: the incomparable and majestic carol medleys: the tender moments with Mary and her newborn Son, Jesus: and the passionate invitation to us all to allow the infant King of all kings to call our hearts His home. We hope you plan to be with us for the magical night! The Junior Singers will also be sharing with us as well as a few surprises!

My wish for you is to have a magical Christmas season!

Merry Christmas,

Laura

NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY

In the spirit of Christmas, we will again have a lighted Nativity Scene for display for our community. Set up will begin during the first week of December. I encourage you to view the scene and meditate on the message and meaning of Christmas. Please invite others to view it as we remember the first Christmas when our Savior was born.



*Merry Christmas
from your
Church Staff!*

Christmas Breakfast



Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 18**, beginning at 9:00 A.M. This breakfast will extend into the Sunday School hour. After breakfast we will take some time for celebration and thanksgiving. We hope you will be present for this time of fellowship hosted by the Missions Committee.



Christmas Caroling

On Wednesday, **December 14**, you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 5:30 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our home-bound.

DEACONS MEETING

Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **December 4**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Annex Conference Room.



When you receive those 2017 Calendars for Christmas remember to mark **MAY 6** for the John 3:16 Center Kid's Carnival!



Thanks to all who have ordered poinsettias for the church in memory and honor of loved ones for Christmas. These will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday **December 11** and remain in the sanctuary until after the Christmas Service. Please make arrangements to have yours picked up at that time. Remember, if you've not yet paid or given your information please get this to one of the committee members as soon as possible. Thanks for this valuable gift to our church helping make our sanctuary a festive place for the season.

Our **2017** Flower Calendar is on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Please sign up for your dates as soon as possible!

Thank you!

The Flower Committee
Sandra Lynch, Ann Currin &
Debbie Keeter



Mission Opportunity

Mission opportunities are everywhere. Pray that God will lead you to where you can best serve. One opportunity is helping at the food pantry at the Littleton United Methodist Church on Friday, **December 23**. It is a busy time but there are many in our community that depend on this gift of food, caring and prayer. Come help your fellow church members that morning from 9:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon as we wish a Merry Christmas to our neighbors.



Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Saturday, **December 24**, at 5:30 P.M. Bring family and friends and join us for this service as we light the Christ candle and celebrate the good news of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY AND ADULT CHOIR

There will be no Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 14**. Choir will meet at 6:30 P.M. following Christmas Caroling at 5:30 P.M. There will be no Choir or Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 21** or **December 28**.



Toys for the John 3:16 Center

On **December 11** our Youth will be shopping for toys to be shared with children through the John 3:16 Center. We will leave after worship that morning for lunch and shopping. If you would like to help this drive with a contribution, you may give your cash or check to our youth as you leave worship on **November 27** and **December 4 & 11**. We will also receive your purchased toys for the center. Last year's contributions helped the center serve around 150 children during the Christmas season.



CHRISTMAS CARDS * FOR THE MILITARY *

Again this year our church will be sending cards to cheer up people who will be away from home Christmas. If you know of anyone in the community who has family or friends that will be away from home such as military personnel or missionaries, please give their name and address to Sid Shearin or Brenda Hudson. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on **December 4 & 11**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.



EMMANUEL

Celebrating Heaven's Child

DECEMBER 18, 2016

ADULT CHOIR CANTATA

**DIRECTED BY
LAURA KEARNEY**

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE, JOIN THE
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
FOR A TIME OF FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP**

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Youth sponsored Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins Sunday, **December 4**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP



This year Christmas Day falls on Sunday. Because it is such a busy family day there will be no Sunday School. Worship will be at **11:00 A.M.** You are encouraged to come and bring your family and guests for the special 45 minute service. Come as you are (no pajamas please) and celebrate the birth of our Savior on this special day!

DISASTER RECOVERY



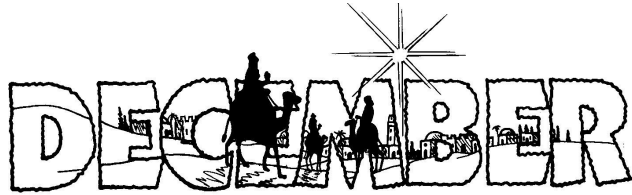
The church is sponsoring workdays with the NC Baptist Men's Disaster Recovery Unit January 6 and/or January 7. Details will be in the January newsletter! Please mark your calendar now!

CBF *Offering for* GLOBAL MISSIONS

Again this year we will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering in support of CBF Missions around the world. The offering will be received at a special ingathering on **December 18** as we place our offering on the Chrismon Tree near the conclusion of morning worship. All during December there will be highlights about Global Missions to better inform you how the message of Christ is being carried around the world by CBF Missionaries and Affiliates. Please use the prayer guides to pray diligently and give generously. Your support makes a world of difference!

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

Special Standard A U. S. Postage Paid Littleton, NC Permit 3



Return Service Requested

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
7 Kay Beaver 9 Carol Meyer 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha Hall 15 Pamela Morris 16 James Kearney 16 Claire Council (3 yrs) 22 Libby Crawley (Leon) 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 24 Virginia Lee 25 Mabel Wilson 26 Carly West (17 yrs) 31 Joyce Morrow	21 Tom & Til Tremper (42 yrs)	4 Sandra Lynch/Louise Gibson 11 Sarah Iles/Billy Blanton 18 Brenda Hudson/Mary Spivey 25 Brenda Hudson/Sarah Iles
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	4 To be determined 11 To be determined 18 Cantata 25 No Youth	Sid Shearin