

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

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JANUARY 2017

Vol. 41 No. 1

IN MEMORY

Mr. William (Bill) Crawley

*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

After 21 years of writing these columns, I begin by saying thanks to all who have read them. I trust that in some way they have been a spiritual blessing to you and your walk with Christ.

I write this column not as a good-bye but as a special thank you for all you each have meant to me over the many years I've been blessed to serve as pastor of Littleton Baptist Church. I mean that, *truly blessed*. You have loved me and cared for me all these years in the joyous moments and the challenging and heartbreaking moments of my family's life. Likewise we have walked together in those same moments in your lives. God has richly blessed us all, thanks be to God. These special moments we've shared will always be treasured.

This change in my life called retirement also involves change in yours and the church. Here's what I believe are ways you each can make this change both smooth and in keeping with God's ongoing plans for Littleton Baptist Church.

1. *Engage in prayer!* Pray for the leadership of the church on a daily basis. Pray for those leading worship until a new pastor is called. Pray for the deacons and search committee and the direction God gives them as they carry out these highly significant responsibilities.
2. *Serve and be willing* to serve in places of leadership where needed. Many responsibilities will be needed and everyone will be very busy. Serve and support and pray for each other in that service. Be more deliberate in your participation in worship, activities, and in the corporate times of prayer on Wednesday's and other times. If you have prayer requests, write them down specifically so the prayer lists can be kept up to date.
3. *Seek the best vision for the church* as she continues to seek God's will for her future.

I am convinced that the very best days for Littleton Baptist Church are still on the horizon as we seek Him first and foremost in all decisions as we seek to discern His will for the church. God will use you to make this happen through prayerful obedience to His direction.

Remember, it's not good-bye as I'll still live on Halifax Street and do plan to continue my membership at Littleton Baptist. Yet, for this to be a reality and for the health of the church ongoing, my role will be very different. Always a friend but no longer the pastor. For quite some time during the pastor search and the beginning of that person's leadership it will necessitate my absence or distance from the ongoing affairs of the church. This person will be the leader and it will be essential for the new pastor to be the pastoral leader. While I may be able to assist the pastor on some occasions, the leadership can and must be theirs. The very best thing you can do for me is pray for them and allow them that place.

I ask you also to pray for Ann and me in our changing roles. We both will be busy with the work of the Union Mission and seeking to find more time for us to enjoy retirement and a bit of travel.

Know I love you dearly and always will. I will continue to keep you in my prayers and as friends for life. May God richly bless you each, now and always!

With All My Love,

Mike



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Goodbyes and New Begin- nings Lunch	2 8:30 Exercise	3	4 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	5	6 8:30 Exercise Baptist Men Hurricane Re- covery Project	7 Baptist Men Hurricane Re- covery Project
8 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Called Business Meet- ing 3:00 Deacons Mtg.	9 8:30 Exercise	10	11 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Quarterly Business Mtg	12	13 8:30 Exercise	14
15 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	16 8:30 Exercise	17	18 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	19	20 8:30 Exercise	21
22 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 3:00 Ordination Service & Re- ception	23 8:30 Exercise	24	25 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	26	27 8:30 Exercise	28
29 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Youth Pro- ject at Crawley's	30 8:30 Exercise	31				



Our Christian sympathy is extended to
James Kearney & family in the death of his sister, Dorothy Bradley.



2016 was a year full of ups and downs for my family! The wedding of Emily and Nick and the birth of our granddaughter, Adelyn, were definitely the ups and a few emergency room visits, hospital stays and surgeries were definitely the downs! You never know what a year might bring!

2017 will bring changes to our church family. The retirement of Mike will be a big change for us! As I said in the November newsletter he will be missed as a pastor but will remain a friend to all! I am looking forward to Tom and Betty Bodkin joining our church family! They are very special to me and became official members of my family while they were in Warren-ton! Hopefully, we will not only be hearing Tom, but Betty is an accomplished pianist so maybe we will hear from her as well!

Another big change is that we are losing 2 more choir members! Greg and Beverly Fussell have meant so much to our church in so many ways but to me the most important way of helping the church was their dedication to our choir. I could always count on them on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. I will miss their enthusiasm, their voices, and their smiling faces! You are loved and you will be missed!

I told the Fussells that before they could leave they would need to find replacements for their seats in the choir! So, if you would like to volunteer for the job, now is the time!! We will begin working on Easter music this month so as Bob Barker used to say, "Come on down!"

I am someone who doesn't like too much change! But, as time moves on, change occurs. Let's work together and make 2017 a wonderful year for our church and make the most of these changes!

Happy New Year!

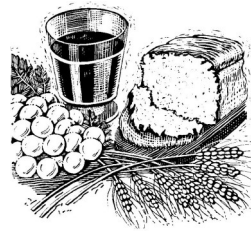
Laura



We welcome to LBC our newest member, Bryant Pitchford. His address is 2631 Weavers Chapel Road, Littleton, NC 27850. His phone number is (252) 586-4991. We are so happy to have Bryant join our church family.



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.



On Sunday, January 1, 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.



Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 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!



Don't forget to mark a very important date on your 2017 Calendars! The John 3:16 Kid's Carnival will be held on May 6!



Happy New Year!



GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Reverend Mike Currin will be stepping down from the pulpit of Littleton Baptist Church upon his retirement **January 1, 2017**. On New Year's Day Mike will bring his last message as pastor of our church. We would like this to be a memorable Sunday for Mike and Ann as well as the congregation. We hope that as many as possible can join us and have a part in this special time of "Goodbyes and New Beginnings".

Following the service that Sunday morning, we will have a meal in the fellowship hall. This will be a great time of fellowship and sharing memories together.

We know that Mike's ministry at Littleton Baptist Church has touched the lives of you and your family as well as the community. Please invite any who would like to be a part of this special time to join us for "Goodbyes and New Beginnings."



Littleton Baptist Church is blessed by having excellent speakers leading our Sunday Morning Worship Service this month. Retired Pastor, Tom Bodkin, who spoke at our Homecoming, will be leading us in worship on January 8. On January 15, Mike Cogdill, the retired Dean of Campbell's Divinity School, will be speaking. On January 22, Larry Wilson, who grew up in Littleton Baptist Church and now a retired pastor will be our guest pastor. The last two Sunday Morning Services in January will again be led by Tom Bodkin. Please be in prayer for our church and those leading our worship.



Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **January 8**, at 3:00 P.M. in the church annex.



Our Youth Group will have a special project on Sunday, **January 29**, to assist the Crawley Family with some special needs. The project will begin at 4:00 P.M. and will be followed by dinner at the Currin's.

All youth are encouraged to be present and bring a friend for this special service project.



Thank you so much for the financial gifts presented to us for Christmas. Thank you also for the many words of encouragement you share with us throughout the year. We feel so blessed to be part of such a thoughtful, loving church family.

Many thanks!



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 2017 offering envelopes are in the vestibule to be picked up and have been prepared for all who contributed in 2016. 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.



The following is the flower schedule for January:

January 1	Lord's Supper
January 8	Mike & Ann Currin
January 15	Available for Scheduling
January 22	David & Kay Tripp
January 29	Available for Scheduling

We 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. Also, thank you to all that helped make our sanctuary even more beautiful with flowers in 2016!

If you would like to place flowers in the church for a Sunday in 2017, 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 - Ann Currin (252-532-4881) anncurrin@embarqmail.com), Sandra Lynch (252-586-1112) or Debbie Keeter (252-676-9941). When you place flowers in the sanctuary please contact the church office by email or written note to let us know how you want it placed in the bulletin.



On Friday and Saturday, **January 6 & 7**, volunteers are needed for Baptist Men hurricane recovery efforts in the Tarboro area. Sid & Betty Anne Shearin are heading this project and welcome people to help, either or both days. Tarboro is only a one hour drive and volunteers can return home each day. Meals will be provided by Baptist men. Work will start around 8:30 A.M. or when we arrive.

Tarboro, like many towns in Eastern North Carolina, has many recovery needs which will take different groups and projects to provide the long term recovery necessary to people to resume residence in their homes. A quick drive through the areas around Tar River near Tarboro reveal the devastation by the piles of rubbish outside home after home. This project will involve tear-outs which remove the soaked floors and walls in the homes subject to mold. People of all abilities can be used in the tear outs and clean ups and one need not be a skilled person in these endeavors. There is something for everyone.

Contact Sid for more information and to volunteer. The more the merrier and the more we can serve Christ and our fellowmen in this project.



Jordan Tripp's Ordination Service

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **January 22**, at 3:00 PM, as we celebrate the ordination of Jordan Tripp into the Gospel Ministry with a special worship service. There will be many guest ministers participating in the service. Additionally Jordan will have many family members and friends join us for this momentous occasion. Please come and plan to participate!

God has called Jordan into Gospel ministry, and the church voted in November to proceed with the ordination process. On **January 10**, an ordination committee will examine Jordan at Benson Baptist Church. Upon the committee's recommendation, Littleton Baptist Church will proceed with his ordination as he prepares for ministry as a hospital chaplain following his graduation from Campbell University Divinity School in May. The service will be followed by a reception in the Littleton United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

What a joy this is for our church to participate in this milestone event in Jordan's life. What we can do now is pray for Jordan and for these events. We also can affirm our support to him with prayers and encouragement as he serves God and the people he will have opportunity to serve in his many years of ministry.

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>
16 Bryant Pitchford 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 (29 yrs)	1 Melinda Harris/Eric Hockaday 8 Sarah Iles/Louise Gibson 15 Betty Blanton/Jan Miller 22 Carol West/Carly West 29 Brenda Hudson/Mary Spivey
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	1 Goodbyes & New Beginnings Lunch 8 No Youth 15 No Youth 22 Ordination Service 29 Youth (Ann Currin)	Perry Myrick