

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."

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FEBRUARY 2017

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REFLECTIONS ...

This month's newsletter may sound a little different than previous ones. After many years of serving as pastor of Littleton Baptist, Mike Currin retired on January 1st. I am filling in this month with reflections on a big event in my personal life this past month and where I plan to go from here (if it's God's plan).

As many of you know, I have been attending Littleton Baptist Church since I was sixteen years old. I went to Campbell University, graduating in 2013 with a BA in History. I plan to graduate this May from Campbell University Divinity School with a Master of Divinity degree. When I first came to Campbell, I planned to become a pharmacist (like many who go to Campbell), but I knew deep down that I hated chemistry. I became a history major and sometime during my sophomore year, I became uncomfortable with where my faith was and the direction my life was going. I enjoyed history and loved God, and yet something was off. The more I thought about it, I began to realize I enjoyed missions and service work. Maybe God was calling me to go to Divinity School. Like Jacob, I wrestled with God. I did NOT want to become a preacher. I hate speaking in front of large groups and while I enjoy studying and learning, I did not like the sound of having to prepare a sermon every week. I decided instead of becoming a history professor, God must want me to be a Church history or Bible professor. In order to do that, one has to know Greek and Hebrew, so I took both (and now I only remember the basics).

My trajectory in ministry changed in the summer of 2015 when I completed what is called a Clinical Pastoral Education internship at WakeMed in Raleigh. I served as (and learned how to be) a hospital chaplain in an eleven week intensive unit. I had so many wonderful experiences and quite a few tragic ones while there. I met a family whose matriarch was battling dementia and starting to have more bad days than good ones. Going door to door making hospitality visits on a slower than normal day, I entered a seemingly healthy patient's room right after the doctor walked out from giving a terminal cancer diagnosis. I watched doctors unsuccessfully perform CPR on a grandfather as his daughter and granddaughter wept and pleaded with God for their loved one to be brought back to life. I sat with a single mother in the wee hours of the night/early morning as she grieved the loss of her child. I attempted to be present at the bedside of a man who fell asleep at the wheel while he heard the horrible noises of the doctors trying to resuscitate his friend who had been riding in the passenger seat.

Amidst the tragedy, there was the man given a second chance on life after driving his truck into a ditch. There was the love of a worried mother, working to get all of the help she could for her son whom she had found hours earlier after an attempted suicide. There was the immigrant child whose father found him at the bottom of the pool after being under the water for 15 minutes. There was the attempting to explain that the police were coming to figure out the details, and having to run back and forth from the family to the other traumas that continued to come into the hospital. There was the miraculous recovery as the child who in no way should have lived or have brain function was sitting up coloring, eating breakfast, and talking to his mother three days later.

These experiences, along with the guidance of my supervisor and peers, helped me to find my gifts and my passion for chaplaincy work. On Sunday, January 22nd, I was ordained into the Christian ministry in a beautiful worship service at Littleton Baptist, and I am so thankful to all who participated and those who helped with the reception. I am thankful for the love and prayers for me from all of you. I am thankful for the church family who helped to make my family feel welcomed into the Littleton Baptist Church family. I ask for your prayers as I hear back from hospitals on February 22nd about their year-long residency positions as I take the next step in the journey of becoming a hospital chaplain. Pray that as I follow God's call to ministry as one "set apart," I continue to grow as a Christian and as a minister.

Jordan Tripp



FEBRUARY 2017

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



Our Christian sympathy is extended to
Paula Burton & family in the death of her mother, Clara O. Barfield
Carol West & family in the death of her mother, Margaret Harrison



The Adult Choir presented me with a book entitled The Book of Favorite Quotes for Those Who Love Music as part of my Christmas gift and I would like to share some of the quotes with you this year as part of my "column."

The first one is, "Music is the universal language...no matter where we come from, even when there are no common words, the expression of music touches the heart." This quote is my tribute to Bill Crawley. Bill loved music...in any form. He and I would share a lot of conversations about music...the good and the bad! He was always there for me when I had questions. He was there for me when I needed a truthful answer about how the choir sounded during a rehearsal or a worship service. Thank goodness his answers were always encouraging and made me very proud! Bill did so many things for the church that no one would know about because that's the way Bill wanted it. I am going to miss Bill very much. Not only was he valuable to the church, he was valuable to me as a friend with an ear always ready to listen. My love and prayers continue to be with Lib, Mike, and family.

Laura



The Deacons will meet on Sunday, **February 5**, at 7:00 P.M. in the annex.



We welcome to LBC our newest member, Nichole Pitchford. We are so happy to have Nichole join our church family.

★ **Thank You!** ★
★ **THANK YOU!** ★

Thank you to our Hospitality Committee for Pastor Currin's Retirement Lunch. Thank you to all that volunteered to work in Tarboro with the Baptist on Missions helping with flood victims. Thank you to all that helped with Jordan Tripp's Ordination Service and to those that are willing to serve on the Pastor Search Committee! We are so blessed to have a church family that works great together!



We will continue to have our Wednesday night Prayer Meetings at 7:30 P.M. Each week one of our deacons will be leading the service. During this special service we will be praying for our church, reviewing, updating our church prayer list concerns and spending time with specific intercessory prayer for those needs. If you have any additions, deletions, updates and/or corrections please get a note to Kay Tripp or send her an email to littletonbaptist@embarqmail.com or kdjtripp@yahoo.com. It's important for our 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!



The youth will meet on **February 12** at 4:00 P.M. at the church to prepare love kits for shut-ins and to visit and share our love! On **February 26** the youth will meet at the home of Sid and Betty Anne Shearin at a time to be announced. As always, youth are encouraged to bring a friend. Everyone is encouraged to pray for our youth daily.

Searching for a NEW Pastor



Our Pastor Search Committee was appointed on Wednesday, January 11, at our quarterly business meeting. The members of the committee are Clyde Johnston, Chairperson; Mike Blanton, Paula Burton, Sara Council and Betty Anne Shearin with alternates Mike Crawley and Melinda Harris. Please lift them in prayer as they seek God's guidance for LBC. The Committee will have an open church-wide discussion time following the Soup & Sandwich Luncheon on **February 12**.



SPRING MISSIONS INITIATIVE MAY 6, 2017

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, **May 6, 2017**. 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 or more children. Thank you for your support!



Flower Calendar

We cannot believe that February 2017 is here and it is time to update the flower schedule. We want to **THANK EVERYONE** for helping with flowers last year. Everyone enjoyed the poinsettias during the Christmas holidays. Thank you for your part. We think the church was beautiful during the Holiday Season with all the Christmas decorations, candles in the windows, poinsettias and the Chrismon tree with lights. We hope you worshiped with us during this Holy Season.

We know we have new members that joined LBC during the past year and they may not know about our flower ministry. Tradition is for anyone who would like to place an Easter Lilly in Church on Easter Sunday or a poinsettia during the Christmas season may do so.

We also have a flower schedule for every Sunday during the year. We have placed the flower schedule on the bulletin board at church. Several people have placed their names on the schedule for special dates but there are a lot of empty dates available. If you would like to place flowers in our sanctuary on any given Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one please let us know.

The following is our flower schedule for February.

February 5	Available for Scheduling
February 19	Don & Kay Beaver
February 12	Sarah Iles
February 26	Available for Scheduling

Flowers are needed on February 5 & 26. If you would like to place flowers on any of these dates please contact Sandra Lynch (252-586-1112), Debbie Keeter (252-676-9941) or Ann Currin (252-532-4881, anncurrin@embarqmail.com). 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.

Thanks again for your help.



Thank you seems so inadequate but we say "Thank you" with all our hearts for the support we received during the illness and death of Bill. We appreciated the prayers, food, visits, cards and all the other Love Gifts provided for our family. The lunch served to us and our friends was so delicious and much appreciated. Our church family is so very special and we extend our love and appreciation to each of you.

Blessings to each of you.

Lib Crawley & Family



SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON

On Sunday, **February 12**, "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.)

Following the meal the Pastor Search Committee encourages the church family to stay for an open time of sharing about the future of our church.



Same Story New Chapter

Still Making Life for Older Adults The Best of Times

The 2017 Offering for Older Adults emphasis will be held during the month of February and will look at the Baptist Retirement Homes efforts to keep institutional care both exceptional and affordable...making it accessible financially to as many frail Older Adults as possible through the use of technology and the generosity of North Carolina Baptists. 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 (*Medicine from the Heart*) to help frail Older Adults (85 years of age and older), with very limited financial resources, pay for medications. There are campaign cards and vials in the vestibule to use if you would like to make a special donation to the "Medicine from the Heart Campaign".

Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc. operates facilities at the following locations: Brookridge Retirement Community, Winston-Salem; The 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
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<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
11 Don Beaver 20 Lib Crawley (Charles) 21 Louise Barrett 24 Sydney Merritt (4) 27 Roman Martinez	14 Charles & Priscilla Parks (57 yrs) 17 Julian & Indie Parks (66 yrs) 24 Mike & Ann Currin (10 yrs)	5 Sandra Lynch/Brenda Hudson 12 Elizabeth Hockaday/Brenda Hudson 19 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 26 Sarah Iles/Kay Tripp
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	5 No Youth 12 Youth 19 No Youth 26 Youth (Sid & Betty Anne Shearin)	Thad Harris