

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. Tom Bodkin, Pastor in the Interim

Website: www.littletonbaptistchurch.org

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APRIL 2017

Vol. 41 No. 4

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Ann Mathieson

*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*

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

My first words to you as I begin to serve as your *Pastor in the Interim* are THANK YOU! I count it a special privilege to serve in this place and to follow my good friend, Mike Currin, who has served our Lord and this church in an outstanding manner, and with solid leadership, for 21 years. That long a tenure says a great deal about Mike and about you. During that time, you have shared a wealth of experiences that involved laughter, tears and inspiration. Like a good marriage, you have grown closer with the passage of time. Mike has been blessed to have you as his church family and you have been blessed to have Mike as your pastor. Our extra blessing is to have Mike and Ann to continue as a part of our church family. We wish them well in retirement and pray God's richest blessings upon them.

For a number of years, Betty and I have been convinced that our God is a God of surprises. I went on the internet and found the following definition:

sur-prise – an unexpected or astonishing event, fact, or thing

“the announcement was a complete surprise”

synonyms: shock bolt from the blue bombshell revelation

Much more is given on the internet, but this much makes my point. Just when Betty and I think we know what is ahead for us, God says, “**Surprise!**” Indeed, His “surprises” have been “unexpected,” not unlike a “bolt from the blue,” but always pleasant and a source of continuing joy for us.

After twelve and one-half years, at the end of June, 2011, I retired as Associate Pastor of Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh. I thought I would do some supply preaching at churches in the area. Well, for three months we enjoyed my “retirement” while attending HBBC, but then the phone started ringing. Opportunities started coming in and I have been preaching ever since.

The first post-retirement “surprise” came in Warrenton. I started an interim period at Warrenton Baptist Church. That lasted for one year before I was called as pastor. For two more years and two months, I served in the position of pastor. Betty and I grew to love Laura's family, along with the other families in the church, and continue to feel very close to them.

Our first introduction to Littleton Baptist Church came in the 1970's when our dear Uncle Herbert and Aunt Ruth came here. It was to be his last pastorate before his death at age 66. The way this church family loved them during that time endeared you to us as well. Both my cousin, Jim, and I have enjoyed participating in revivals here.

(continued on page 3)



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Church Council 7:00 Deacons Mtg.	3 8:30 Exercise	4	5 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Lenten Lunch 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer &	6	7 8:30 Exercise	8 8:00 John 3:16 "Run the River" 5k
9 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth	10 8:30 Exercise	11	12 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Quarterly Business Mtg	13 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	14 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Good Friday Service	15 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
16 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:30 Outdoor World 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	17 8:30 Exercise	18	19 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	20	21 8:30 Exercise	22
23 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth	24 8:30 Exercise	25	26 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	27	28 8:30 Exercise	29
30 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship						



Our Christian sympathy is extended to
The Tom Hicks, Sr. family

(Continued from 1)

On November 13, 2016, I had the privilege of bringing the message at your Homecoming Celebration, and enjoying renewed fellowship with you. That led to the invitation to return for two Sundays in January, and two in February, 2017. February led to all four Sundays, and you voted to call me as *Pastor in the Interim* on March 12. Once again—**"Surprise!"**

Please know how thrilled Betty and I are to be here. You are a loving *Family of Faith* whom God has blessed, immeasurably, throughout your history. It will be our privilege to love you and serve our Lord in Littleton Baptist Church.

In closing, let us all pray, daily, for the Pastor-Search Committee. Let us pray that God will lead them to the one He has prepared to shepherd this flock. This committee has a challenging, and highly significant, responsibility. May God's blessings be upon them and Littleton Baptist Church as He guides them in their task.

Your friend and *Pastor in the Interim*,

Tom



Our world is full of champions! New England Patriots are Super Bowl Champions. Phil Mickelson is a Masters Champion. The Duke Blue Devils are ACC Champions. The list could go on but there is one true Champion . . . Jesus Christ. He is the one true Champion of Love.

The Adult Choir will present "*Champion of Love*" during worship service Easter morning. This compelling cantata will hopefully move you closer to the One who carried our cross, bore our sin, suffered our punishment, and then conquered our death. It tells of the amazing grace and courage it took to redeem us. We hope you will join us in the journey that will lead your heart from Calvary to the empty tomb, from wonder to worship, and from adoration to the proclamation that Jesus lives! Because of this, there is life eternal for all who put their faith in the *Champion of Love*.

Laura



We welcome Rev. Tom Bodkin as our Pastor in the Interim.

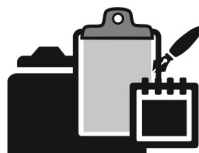
His contact information is:

Address: 7904 O'neal Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

Home Phone: (919)786-2708



Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **April 2**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Church Annex. Please continue to pray for our deacons as they pray and consider the spiritual welfare of our church and her ministries.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet on Sunday, **April 2**, following Morning Worship.



MAUNDY THURSDAY - Join us on Maundy Thursday, **April 13**, at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and meditate upon our Lord's last hours with his disciples.

GOOD FRIDAY - Lakeside Lutheran Church invites our congregation to participate in a special Good Friday Service, **April 14**, from 12:00 - 3:00 P.M.

EASTER EGG HUNT - All children 6th grade and under are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, **April 15**, at 10:00 A.M. Participants will meet in the fellowship hall for an Easter message, craft & snack. The Egg Hunt will follow on the church grounds. Children may be picked up at 12:00 noon.

SUNRISE SERVICE - This year our Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 7:00 A.M. on **April 16**, at the rear of our church near the three crosses that have been constructed there. We hope to make this a witness to the community and invite others to join us. A fellowship breakfast by our Mission Committee will be served inside the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

EASTER WORSHIP - Join us on Easter, **April 16**, at 11:00 A.M. as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord through worship and our Adult Choir's presentation of the cantata "*Champion of Love*".



The following is the flower schedule for the month of April.

April 2	Available for scheduling	April 9	Available for scheduling
April 16	Easter Lilies	April 23	Available for scheduling
April 30	Available for scheduling		

Flowers are needed for April 2, 9, 23, and 30. If you would like to place flowers on any of these dates, please contact Ann Currin (252-532-4881, anncurrin@embarqmail.com) Debbie Keeter (252-676-9941) or Sandra Lynch (252-586-3495). When you place flowers in the sanctuary please contact our church office by email (littletonbaptist@embarqmail.com) or written note to show how you want it to be placed in the bulletin.

DEACONS' FAMILY MINISTRY

Littleton Baptist Church's deacons' primary function is to minister to our church family. Our deacons have been assigned people in our church family to find out their needs and try to help them on our life's journey with Christ. A person does not have to be a church member or a full time resident of the Littleton area to be on our deacons' ministry list. The ministry list has been posted on the bulletin board next to the fellowship hall. If you know someone who needs prayer, a visit or other help, please notify your family deacon. Thank you and we need your help to share Christ's love to the world.

RECYCLE PLASTIC BOTTLE LIDS



Sylvia Alston has asked us to help a teacher friend of hers recycle plastic bottle lids for a great art project. She is planning for roughly 650 students so she needs lots of lids!!! She can use all sizes, types, and colors. Don't think just soda bottles....think of all the screw on plastic cap products you use. Instead of tossing them in the trash can, please place them in a container and leave them on the annex porch so Sylvia can pick them up. Let's help this teacher with her creative project that will cause students to remember the lesson long after the project is completed!



MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

If there are maintenance concerns in or around the church, annex or parsonage that need addressing please notify Matthew Council, Maintenance Committee Chairperson at (252) 578-8232 or mcouncil84@yahoo.com.



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Our Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **April 12**, at 7:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to be with us. Committee and organizational leaders should bring reports of their work to be shared at this time.

Run The River 5K

Taking Steps Together to Prevent Child Abuse

A Fundraiser Benefiting CARE/The John 3:16 Center

APRIL 8 | ROANOKE CANAL TRAIL | ROANOKE RAPIDS



The John 3:16 Center will be hosting "Run the River," a 5K benefiting the Center's education programs. The John 3:16 Center works closely with area organizations to prevent child abuse and neglect while helping to eradicate generational poverty. This run/walk event will be held at the Historic Roanoke Canal Trail in Roanoke Rapids on Saturday, **April 8**, at 8:00 A. M. This

family friendly event is open to all age groups and athletic abilities.

Runners who would like to make a fundraising commitment and solicit run sponsors are eligible to receive special prizes in the categories of most sponsors and most funds raised for both youth and adults. Don't miss your chance to get active and give back while taking in the sights and sounds of the Roanoke Canal Trail. Register online at <http://bit.ly/2jZBD81>. Use promotion code FLYERS5 to save \$5.00 off your registration fee. Questions? Call 252-586-1800. Registration is \$40.00.



SPRING MISSIONS INITIATIVE

May 6 is the big day for our annual Mission Initiative. Please be in prayer for this "**BIG EVENT**" and volunteers who will assist us with a Children's Free Carnival and Health Screenings at the John 3:16 Center! 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 and gently used books

are being collected to give to the children. Check your bookshelves, yard sales and book stores for books to donate for the carnival. Your help is also needed by giving two liter drinks to serve during that day. All kinds are needed - fruit, diet, cola and clear types. Please keep the carnival in your prayers. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Search Committee Update



Your Pastor Search Committee would like to keep you updated on our progress as we seek the Pastor God has called for our church.

During our initial meeting with Mike Cogdill he helped us with our direction and organization. A part of that session was looking at the phases of our search process. A complete list of those phases he provided is posted in the vestibule for your review. Using this guide we hope to keep you informed of our progress during our search. We are close to completing phase two.

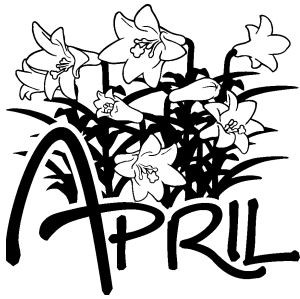
We greatly appreciate your participation in completing the survey we distributed. It is helping us develop our Pastor profile and Church profile that we will be using.

We will soon begin receiving resumes. We covet your prayers for the committee and our church during this time.

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>
1 Billy Pearce 8 Jan Miller 9 Wyatt Pegram 12 Claude Lynch 20 Casey Myrick 26 Peggy King 27 Caitlyn Phillis (4 yrs.) 27 Suzanne Pearce 27 Til Tremper 28 Laura Kearney	8 Lee & Jan Myrick (38 yrs) 10 Jimmy & Laura Kearney (35 yrs) 10 Jack & Virginia Tant (69 yrs) 15 Billy & Suzanne Pearce (45 yrs) 22 Bryant & Nichole Pitchford (11 yrs) 23 Larry & Sheryl West (26 yrs)	2 Earl Spivey/Mary Spivey 9 Sarah Iles/Brenda Hudson 16 Sandra Lynch/Jan Miller 23 Josie Myrick/Brenda Hudson 30 Sarah Iles/Brenda Hudson
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	2 No Meeting 9 Youth (Mike & Ann Currin) 16 No Meeting 23 Youth (Eric Hockaday) 30 No Meeting	Matthew Council