

# 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](http://www.littletonbaptistchurch.org)  
email: [littletonbaptistchurch@embarqmail.com](mailto:littletonbaptistchurch@embarqmail.com)  
(252) 586-5330



October 2017

Vol. 41 No. 10

## THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

### WHEN TRIALS COME

*Yet when they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
the Lord brought them out of their distress.  
He calmed the storm and its waves quieted down.  
So they rejoiced that the waves became quiet,  
and he led them to their desired haven,  
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his gracious love  
and for his awesome deeds on behalf of mankind. Psalm 107:28-31*

I do not remember a time in my life when there has been such a rapid succession of “natural disasters” as what we have witnessed, beginning with Hurricane Harvey on August 17. I say “natural disasters,” but there seems to be an un-natural nature to them. The winds have been so violent, the rains so intense (sometimes 40, or more, inches in accumulation), and the flooding so widespread that we have become almost immune to the hundreds of photos of destruction.

Just to recall what has transpired, I went to the internet and discovered the following headlines:

- **Hurricane Harvey** made landfall on the Texas coast as a Category 4 storm, destroying homes, overturning vehicles and sinking boats, severing power lines, and forcing tens of thousands to flee.
- The scale of **Hurricane Irma's** trail of devastation across Florida is becoming evident as the remnants of the most powerful storm in Atlantic history limps north into Georgia.
- **Hurricane Maria** hampers Puerto Rico with force not seen in ‘modern history,’ rendering the entire area of Puerto Rico without power. Will Maria hit the US mainland?
- Death toll rises to 225 in **Mexico earthquake**. Horror, desperation follow earthquake in Mexico City.

So far, this hurricane season (and I am writing this on September 20), we have escaped the devastation of a hurricane. That is not to say that is always the case in North Carolina. It isn't. We know about hurricanes and flooding.

My first real awareness of a destructive hurricane was Hurricane Hazel (Category 4) in October of 1954. It cut right through North Carolina with massive devastation. On TV, I have seen thousands on cots in Hurricane Shelters, not knowing what they will be going home to, or what they have left - if anything. Neighbors and first-responders have *laid their lives on the line* to rescue survivors. They have inspired us.

In the midst of such devastation, NC Baptists have responded through **Baptists on Mission**. Among the state Disaster Relief organizations, **NC Baptists on Mission** is one of the best equipped organizations, with the best trained volunteers to be found anywhere. Our Sid and Betty Anne Shearin are among them. **Baptists on Mission** ministries deserve our prayers and financial support.

What do we learn from all of this? In your Christian walk of faith, you will go through some tough times, maybe of hurricane proportions. Remember, however, that storms never last forever. In the midst of your storm, seek the Lord and run unto Him for shelter. He will protect you and help you endure.

Don't dwell on the bad weather, but instead seek peace through Christ. Meditate on His promises and be strong. Draw closer to the Lord with prayer and know that His presence is near. Be still, God will comfort and provide for you. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

Your friend and *Pastor in the Interim*,

*Tom*



# OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship  7:00 Deacon's Mtg	<b>2</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<b>9</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Quarterly Business Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<b>16</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<b>19</b>  7:00 Mission Committee Mtg.	<b>20</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<b>23</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<b>30</b> 8:30 Exercise	<b>31</b>				



I have been calling Littleton Baptist Church my family for 35 years! A lot of things have changed during this time! One thing that has not changed is that the third Sunday of every month has always been designated as Men's Sunday. Years ago the men would cook breakfast. Don't you remember how good the church would smell on those Sundays? Then, there would usually be 15 - 20 men in the men's choir singing their hymn of choice. Over the years our number of men in the men's choir has decreased. Because of this I feel that we will be trying something new on the third Sunday of each month. I plan on having special music...it might be a men's or women's duet, trio, or quartet. There might be an occasional solo or special instrumental on these Sundays. I want to thank the men for their dedication and playing such an important part in our music history! There might be a Sunday in the future that I revive the third Sunday tradition! Who knows???

*Laura*



**QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS MEETING**

Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **October 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!



**DEACONS MEETING**

Our Deacons will meet at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday evening, **October 1**, in the Annex Conference Room. We welcome our two newest deacons, Sidney Gibson and David Tripp. Special thanks to Mike Blanton who completed his term of service in September.

**Special Song and  
Offering  
for the West Family**



Our **October 1** Worship Service will begin with the song "When the Saints Come Marching In" with the words altered a little. Harrison West, who is going through treatments for cancer, is a big fan of the New Orleans Saints Football team so we will be singing (and recording) the song to help cheer him up. We are inviting other churches to come and sing with us.

There will also be a special time to allow you the opportunity to contribute to a love offering to help the family with their travel expenses.

**SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER**



Our church will once again be sending Christmas Cards to our military personnel who will be away from home during the Christmas Holidays. These cards from our church family will cheer them in their distant service. We are also asking you to provide names, addresses, rank, relationship to you (i.e family, friend, neighbor etc.). (Note: If you have family or friends serving in missions somewhere, we will also extend this request for names to include them as well.) Please give the information to Sid Shearin or the church office.



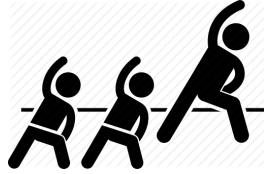
**MISSION  
COMMITTEE**

The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **October 19**, at 7:00 P.M. in the church annex. Members of the committee are: Melinda Harris, Clyde Johnston, Brenda Hudson, Mike Crawley, Lee Myrick and Ann Currin.



**SHOTS**

Flu shots are again being offered at church by Drugco on Sunday, **November 5**, beginning at 9:30 A.M. and following worship, administered by Stephanie Iles. They will be free of charge to those with Medicare, BCBS, or Retired Military. For anyone else they will be at a discount price. Shots at this site are only for those 14 years old and older. Bring your insurance card or a copy.



Recently I attended the annual NC Aging Summit at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, NC. It was interesting to hear the latest health data and fall prevention strategies. This year there was a strong emphasis for exercise which is information we all have heard from our health care providers. But the message also encouraged us to locate a community based exercise program and immediately I thought about Lib Crawley with our church exercise program. I was able to report that our church has an exercise program. Also, I want to recognize Lib for leading the exercise program three days a week and I think I heard she has done this consistently for 18 years! Wow, what a ministry! I give a huge thanks to Lib for her contribution. Check your schedule and come out to exercise. Thank you Lib for making a difference!

Joyfully,  
Brenda Hudson

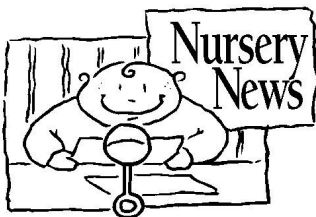


The following is the October flower schedule:

October 1 Carolyn Price  
 October 8 Betty Anne Shearin  
 October 15 Available for Scheduling  
 October 22 Available for Scheduling  
 October 29 Available for Scheduling

Flowers are needed for **October 15, 22 & 26**. If you would like to place flowers on any of these dates please contact a member of the Flower Committee: Carolyn Price, Chairperson - (252) 586-3567, Priscilla Parks - (252) 586-4790, priscillaparks@embarqmail.com or Ann Currin - (252) 586-3370, anncurrin@embarqmail.com. When you place flowers in the sanctuary please contact the church office by email, littletonbaptist@embarqmail.com or written note to let us know how you want it placed in the bulletin.

Thank you for being so faithful in helping with flowers!



I hope this message finds you well. For those that haven't heard yet, I am the new chair of the Nursery Committee for 2017-2018. I wanted to say thank you to those individuals that worked in the nursery this past year and tell you that I am looking forward to not only working in the nursery but also to serve as the committee chair. I am currently working on the upcoming schedule. If you are willing to continue working in the nursery (October 2017 -September 2018), please let me know. Also, advise of your availability or if there are particular Sundays that you know you will not be available. If you have not served in the nursery and would like to get on the schedule for this year, please let me know. Lastly, I value your input and would love to hear from you if you have any ideas or concerns about the nursery.

Thanks and God Bless!

*Nichole Pitchford*  
 npitchford@embarqmail.com  
 (252) 586-4991



Littleton Baptist Church is proud of our heritage and faith and once again we will have the opportunity to celebrate this heritage with Homecoming. This year will mark 144 years of ministry and service to the community of Littleton. This will be celebrated on Sunday, **November 12**, at 11:00 A.M.

We will be honored to have Larry Hovis as our guest speaker. Larry has been Executive Coordinator of CBF of North Carolina since 2004. His responsibilities include bringing together the diverse parts of CBFNC (including individual Christians, churches, staff, councils, other volunteer leadership, and ministry partners) into a coherent and efficient whole to accomplish our purpose of "bringing Baptists of North Carolina together for Christ-centered ministry."

Prior to his current position, Larry served as pastor of four congregations: The Memorial Baptist Church, Greenville, North Carolina; First Baptist Church, Mocksville, North Carolina; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia; and Washington Baptist Church, Washington, Virginia.

He has degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia (Doctor of Ministry); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina (Master of Divinity with Languages), and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina (Bachelor of Arts).

Larry has completed numerous extended professional development programs, including the Pastor as Spiritual Guide through the Center for Congregational Health and advanced studies in Fundraising and Nonprofit Executive Leadership through Indiana University. He is also a Certified Christian Leadership Coach.

While Hovis's particular strengths focus on leadership, stewardship, strategic planning, governance and organizational development, his passion is preaching and relating to Baptist congregations. He has been privileged to preach in more than 200 churches in North Carolina and beyond.

Larry is married to the former Kimberly Lee. They have one daughter, Lauren, who works in Washington, D.C. In his limited spare time, Larry enjoys cycling, traveling with his family (especially to historic places) and watching sports (primarily ACC football and basketball).



**Our Annual Church Picnic was a great success! A wonderful time was had by all! Thank you to all that worked so hard to make it happen! You can view more pictures on our Facebook page.**



We have a mission minded church. The needs near and far keep growing. There are so many needs this fall. The hurricane victims continue to need our prayers and donations of money and muscle. Your support will help and bless many.

Thanks for the generous response for the Littleton Area Churches Food Pantry. We took several large bags to the Littleton United Methodist Church. Also, thank you to everyone that helped man the pantry on September 22. Many people, young and old, are helped by your gift of food. We will be working at the Pantry on **December 22**. Your suggestions/ideas for making the grocery bag special for Christmas are welcomed.

Our Missions Committee will meet this month to begin planning for our Children's Carnival. Please pray for this opportunity to show God's love.

Again, thanks for all you do to serve our Lord and Savior. You are His hands and feet.

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

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

Return Service Requested



# OCTOBER

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
2 Elizabeth Neville 3 Gladys Pegram 3 Ashby Burton 8 Mike Crawley 12 Jan Myrick 12 Larry Thomas West (19 yrs) 15 Jeff Burton 18 Louise Gibson 25 Jack Tant 27 Mary Beth Labrecque (17 yrs) 29 Amanda Milton	8 Perry & Casey Myrick (1 yr) 11 Jim & Debbie Sineath (3 yrs) 15 Josh & Samantha Hall (1 yr) 27 Jeff & Paula Burton (27 yrs)	1 Melinda Harris/Nichole Pitchford 8 Kay Tripp/Paula Burton 15 Jan Miller/Mary Beth Labrecque 22 Nichole Pitchford/Chris Skinner 29 Brenda Hudson/Sara Council
		<b><u>TRASH DETAIL</u></b>
		Perry Myrick