

# 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*

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## THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY WHEN TO GIVE THANKS

When you were young and being taught how to do the polite thing, how many times did you hear the instruction: “Don’t forget to say ‘Thank you.’”? Maybe it was in response to some gift, complement, or other kindness. Most likely the instruction came from a parent because something was going to, or had happened to us that would make those words most appropriate. Gratitude should always be a part of who we are – regardless of our age. How well I remember Betty Anne and Sid Shearin’s uncle, Bob Overby, who had a license plate that consisted of one word – *Grateful*. It was such a beautiful testimony for all to see, and he really meant it.

When writing his final instructions to the Christians at Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

*And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, **give thanks in all circumstances**; For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:14-18).  
(The bold type is mine.)*

Paul is calling for none other than a life of thanksgiving –each day and in all circumstances. It is not to be just one day each year dedicated to that purpose. It’s good to be thankful on the fourth Thursday of November each year but it’s even better to live a life of thanksgiving.

Every day should be Thanksgiving Day, so why has one day in the year been designated specifically as “Thanksgiving Day?” Well, the Pilgrims came to America to make a home in the wilderness. They came to this country looking for freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. They had their first harvest in 1621. So, at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the fall of 1621 a little handful of devoted people, in the midst of many perils and great hardships, set apart a day for thanksgiving to God. And on that day they feasted and gave thanks.

President Lincoln appointed the fourth Thursday of November, 1864, as Thanksgiving Day. Now the Thanksgiving Day tradition is firmly established in America.

Every person who has a grateful heart should devoutly thank God, take stock and count their blessings. Actually, Thanksgiving Day should simply get us in the mood and in the spirit to be thankful throughout the entire year.

In this year of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and forest fires—all of historic proportions, hundreds have lost their homes and many their businesses, along with all their possessions. For some, because of the loss of a loved one, it may be difficult to be thankful. But on every hand, because they have survived, I hear them vow to start over, to rebuild. That attitude and a spirit of thanksgiving make us all able to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, 2017. *Count your many blessings* and don’t forget to say, “Thank you.”

Your friend and *Pastor in the Interim*,

*Tom*



# NOVEMBER 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  5:30 John 3:16 Banquet 6:45 Youth at Camp Willow Run	<i>4</i>  2:00 Stallings Baby Shower  Youth at Camp Willow Run
<i>5</i> 9:30 Flu Shots 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth return from Camp 12:00 Flu Shots 7:00 Deacon's 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 Homecoming Worship 12:00 Homecoming Meal	<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  7:00 Community Thanksgiving Worship Service	<i>20</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 8:30 Exercise  No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	<i>23</i>   <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<i>27</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 8:30 Exercise  6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>30</i>		



Our Christian sympathy is extend-

ed to:

Gladys Pegram in the death of her sister, Eleanor King



Where does the time go? Thanksgiving already? You know that means Christmas is right around the corner! Please mark December 17th on your calendar! It is the night of our annual Christmas Cantata! There will be more to come about the Cantata in the December newsletter!

Happy Thanksgiving and one of my favorite hymns is Count Your Blessings....and I do every day!!!

Laura



You are invited to a baby shower given by family and friends to honor Tyler & Bonnie Stallings on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in our Fellowship Hall

It's a girl!

Blakely Rae Stallings

Registered at Target & Babies-R-Us

SPREAD



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Our church will be sending cards and photos to cheer up people who will be away from home during Christmas. If you know of anyone in the community that have 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 by November 26. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on November 26, December 3 & 10. Sid wants to remind everyone you are not allowed to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.

Deacons Meeting



Deacons will meet on Sunday, November 5, at 7:00 P.M. in the Annex Conference Room.



Daylight Savings Time ends November 5. Be sure to set your clocks back on Saturday night so you'll arrive for Sunday services at the correct time!



John 3:16 Center Annual Fundraising Banquet

The Annual Fundraising Banquet for the John 3:16 Center will be held on Friday, November 3. It will be held at the Kirkwood Adams Community Center in Roanoke Rapids. The silent auction and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:30 P.M. and dinner is at 6:30 P.M. Dinner is free, but this is the Center's biggest fundraiser which keeps it operating for the coming year. Our church and Roanoke Valley Insurance are jointly sponsoring eight people to attend. If you would like to attend please contact Clyde Johnson for tickets. Thank you!



Super High Youth Retreat November 3 - 5, 2017 Camp Willow Run

Seven Youth and two adults will be participating from LBC. Pray for our youth and this Friday night through Sunday lunch retreat experience.



On November 5, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship. As you leave the service, you will be given the opportunity to contribute to our Fellowship Fund for local benevolence.



## JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The John 3:16 Center will again be doing a Toy Drive for children at Christmas as well as collecting winter hats and gloves for children who do not have them. Some specific needs are items for babies/toddlers (items marked for those that are under age 2 & 3) and for those 11 - 16 (jewelry, makeup kits, watches, art sets, music, inexpensive MP3 players, etc.) They also need books, games (card & board), ethnically diverse dolls, puzzles, balls, craft & model kits, and cars/trucks (standard & remote control). Any of these can be left at the church for distribution.

Another option is to support our youth in their project. For many years our youth have collected money and have done the toy shopping for our church members. If you'd like to contribute to the "shopping spree," they will be collecting after the worship service at the door on **November 26** and **December 3**. Your support of these projects will be greatly appreciated by our youth, the center and the children who receive your gifts. We'll be shopping on **December 3**, and we thank you in advance for your support.

The Center could really use your help with several volunteer opportunities! (Please call or email [bsinka@john316center.org](mailto:bsinka@john316center.org) to sign up)

- Help by answering the phone & welcoming/directing families applying for the program in November.
- Shop with Shannon for the clothing for the children (more people with carts and lists means she can get more done in fewer trips).
- Parents will have the opportunity to choose the presents for their children this year. Volunteers are needed to "shop" with the parents in the store that will be set up at Littleton United Methodist Church December 4 - 8. Volunteers need to sign up for at least a two hour period on one or more of these days and need to attend orientation at The John 3:16 Center.
- Wrap presents/help set up for the parties December 12 -16 (16th should be more set-up related)
- Assist with parking, serving food, assisting Santa, mingling with the families, etc. on **December 16**.



## NOTES FROM THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

We are so excited to have this opportunity to serve our Lord! The new flower chart for 2018 has been placed in the fellowship hall. If you wish to place flowers on the altar please call or email one of us with the date needed and let us know what you want in the bulletin.

This year we plan to grace the altar with White Poinsettias during the Christmas Holidays. We place them in the church on the Sunday the Chrismon Tree is decorated. We do not have prices yet, but we will inform you as soon as we have them. I can't believe we are already talking Christmas. We already have orders for Poinsettias. It's not too early to place your order! Let us hear from you. When the orders are placed, please make your check payable to Littleton Baptist Church and label it - poinsettia. Please bring your order & check to a member of the flower committee, church office or mail it to P.O. Box 216, Littleton, N.C. 27850 with "in honor of" or "in memory of" information so orders can be placed.

Thank you for adding to our LBC worship experience!

Carolyn Price	phone: 252-586-3567	
Priscilla Parks	phone: 252-586-4790	<a href="mailto:priscillaparks@embarqmail.com">priscillaparks@embarqmail.com</a>
Ann Currin	phone: 252-532-4881	<a href="mailto:anncurrin@embarqmail.com">anncurrin@embarqmail.com</a>



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Our Community Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday, **November 19**, at Littleton United Methodist Church at 7:00 P.M. The ecumenical service will feature special music, and Rev. Bodkin will present a sermon giving thanks to God for his goodness. You will also have the opportunity to donate a food and/or money offering to support our local hunger needs during the holidays with food resources.



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 Larry'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).

Plan now to join us for this special day in our church. A covered dish meal will be served Homecoming Style after the service!

### **SHARING HOPE ... CHANGING LIVES** **Thanksgiving Offering - Baptist Children's Homes**

Each year, North Carolina Baptists show their love and support for children by participating in the annual Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Children's Homes.

The vision for 2017 is "**SHARING HOPE ... CHANGING LIVES**". Children and families receive the blessings of Christ every day through Baptist Children's Homes. Children, who are ministered to across the state, often come from heart-breaking situations. Because of the care of dedicated house parents and staff and the love shown by our churches and supporters, children and families are discovering new hope.

Giving to BCH's Annual Offering is not only important in helping to meet the tremendous needs of boys and girls. It's essential! You'll find envelopes and more information in your LBC November 5 bulletin.

*"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."// Luke 19:10*

### **Our Church Has An AED!**



So what is an AED? It is an abbreviation for an Automatic External Defibrillator. It is an emergency device to be used when someone is possibly having a heart attack. We want everyone to know where it is located, and we have a number of members trained in its use. Sid Shearin built and installed a shelf above the water cooler in the rear hallway to store it. (Thanks Sid!) Please make plans to locate the AED the next time you are at church. If you have any questions please contact Clyde Johnston.

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

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Return Service Requested



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
1 Tom Bodkin 1 Ann West 2 Priscilla Parks 5 Betty Neville 10 Jim Sineath 11 Mary Virginia Kearney 20 Harrison West (15 yrs) 20 Arlene Merritt 21 Chris Skinner 22 Bentley Iles (6 yrs) 24 Larry West 25 Thad Harris 28 Brenda Hudson 29 Mary Lois Spivey 30 Andrew Crawley	6 Matthew & Sara Council (7 yrs) 7 Sidney & Louise Gibson (52 yrs)	5 Jan Myrick/Nichole Pitchford 12 Josephine Myrick/Sara Council 19 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 26 Mary Spivey/Earl Spivey
	<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	3 Super High Youth Retreat 5 Return from Youth Retreat 12 Homecoming	Matthew Council