

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

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org



DECEMBER 2013

Vol. 37 No. 12

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Have you noticed that it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go! From the shopping centers, in our homes all decked out in beautiful array, to the very church in which we worship each Sunday! It's a special time of year! Enjoy it!

As we begin this month, a "one of a kind" Nativity Scene will grace our church yard and a beautiful Chrismon Tree our sanctuary, along with an Advent wreath, a beautiful Christmas banner, and beautiful decor. While much of our attention of Christmas will focus on shopping for gifts for one another and friends gathering for parties and food; Christians know that Advent and Christmas are a different time of year. At church the decor and the special worship are designed to turn to the message of Christ and His great love for us!

Spirituality writer Henri Nouwen once defined Christmas this way: *"Songs, good feelings, beautiful liturgies, nice presents, big dinners, and sweet words do not make Christmas. Christmas is saying yes to something beyond all emotions and feelings. Christmas is saying yes to a*

hope based on God's initiative, which has nothing to do with what I think or feel. Christmas is believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not mine."

(Henry Nouwen, New Oxford Review (Nov., 1986))

I wonder if we were to write a definition of Christmas, what would it include? I'm sure for most, it would be filled with the birth of Christ and our eternal hope for salvation and testimony regarding a loving God who sent His One and only Son into our world to bring salvation for all people. These words are not only important, but the essence of Christmas.

Unfortunately for most in our world however, is that Christmas is not defined by words on a page, but rather by the way Christians live and celebrate this great truth in their lives. "If someone were to write a definition of Christmas by your action during this season, what would that definition include?" My fear is much of it would likely be filled with things like activity, greed, hurry, stress, and busyness. How tragic! My prayer for each of you during this season is that your celebration of this holy season will

not be defined by such things, but by His presence being "fleshed out" through worship and in all your relationships.

While activity is vital to our Christmas celebration as we express our great joy through worship, music, doing good deeds and devoting ample time for family and Christian fellowship, let us always remember the why of Christmas! Christmas is "saying yes to a hope based on God's initiative," and "believing that the salvation of the world is God's work and not mine." Christmas means making room for Him to enter our hearts and lives and to lead us down Christ's path of truth and life. Christmas allows this truth to permeate everything we say and do before others as we express this heartfelt love and devotion for our Christ who loves us so.

Just what will your "fleshed out" definition of Christmas include this year?

May you each have a blessed Christmas!

Mike



DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth - Lunch & Shop- ping Trip 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	2 6:00 Room at the Inn Begins in Littleton	3	4 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	5 7:00 Mission Committee	6 8:30 Exercise	7 11 :00 Littleton Christmas Pa- rade
8 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 2:00 Piano Re- cital	9 8:30 Exercise	10	11 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	12	13 8:30 Exercise	14
15 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth Christmas Party	16 8:30 Exercise	17	18 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Christmas Caroling No Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 Adult Choir	19	20 8:30 Exercise	21
22 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Cantata	23	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28
29 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	30 8:30 Exercise	31				



That wonderful time of the year has rolled around once more! The delicious food, the aroma of Christmas trees, families getting together, and of course, Christmas music are things I love about this special season!

The Junior Singers will be singing for us during our worship service on **December 15!**

The Adult Choir will be performing The Gift Goes On by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin on **December 22** at 5:30 P.M. Once upon a silent night, God gave a priceless Gift in the form of a Baby! Over two thousand years later we continue to celebrate this wonderful gift because The Gift Goes On still today! We hope you can join us!

The last choir rehearsal for this year will be on **December 18**. It will resume on **January 8!**

Merry Christmas to all the members of the Littleton Baptist Church!

Laura

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Youth sponsored Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins Sunday, **December 1**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Wednesday, **December 18**, you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 6:00 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our homebound.



Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 22**, beginning at 9:00 AM. This breakfast will extend into the Sunday School hour. After breakfast we will take some time for celebration and thanksgiving. We hope you will be present for this time of fellowship hosted by the Missions Committee.

Christmas Eve Service



Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Tuesday, **December 24**, at 5:30 PM. Bring family and friends and join us for this service as we light the Christ candle and celebrate the good news of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY

In the spirit of Christmas, we will again have a lighted Nativity Scene for display for our community. Set up will begin during the first week of December. I encourage you to view the scene and meditate on the message and meaning of Christmas. Please invite others to view it as we remember the first Christmas when our Savior was born.



PRAYER MEETING & ADULT CHOIR

There will be no Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 18**. Choir will meet at 7:00 P.M. Neither our Adult Choir nor prayer meeting will be held on Wednesday **December 25** or **January 1**.



We can't believe that December is here and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas.

Christmas means decorating our beautiful sanctuary with Chrismons on our Christmas tree and Poinsettias placed everywhere.

We will be placing poinsettias in our church sanctuary beginning Sunday, **December 8**. If you would like to place a poinsettia in church "in Memory of, or Honor of" a family member or loved one, please contact Priscilla Parks, Josie Myrick, or the church office.

Priscilla will be glad to pick one up for you if you will let her know. Her number is 586-4790 or you may e-mail her at priscillaparks@embarqmail.com.

We will be purchasing poinsettias from Lassiter's again this year.

Prices are:

6" (Small) Wrapped Poinsettias	\$ 8.50
8" (Large) Wrapped Poinsettias	\$ 19.00

Thank you!



Toys for the John 3:16 Center

On **December 1** our Youth will be shopping for toys to be shared with children through the John 3:16 Center. We'll leave after worship that morning for lunch and shopping. If you'd like to help this drive with a contribution, you may give your cash or check to our youth for this project as you leave worship. We'll also receive your purchased toys for the center. Last year's contributions helped the center serve around 150 children during the Christmas season.

Deacons Meeting



Our Deacons will meet on Sunday evening, **December 1** at 7:00 PM in the Annex Conference Room.



CHRISTMAS CARDS ★ FOR THE MILITARY ★

Again this year our church will be sending cards to cheer up people who will be away from home 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. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on **November 24, December 1 & 8**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.



The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **December 5** at 7:00 P.M. in the church annex.



from your church staff!



“THE GIFT GOES ON”

**DECEMBER 22, 2013
5:30 PM**

**ADULT CHOIR CANTATA
CREATED BY SUE C. SMITH
& RUSSELL MAULDIN**

DIRECTED BY LAURA KEARNEY

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
SERVICE, JOIN THE HOSPITALITY
COMMITTEE FOR A TIME OF FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP**



Room At The Inn

Room At The Inn, a ministry to provide housing for women who are without a home during the winter, moves to Littleton in December with our church hosting the event to provide meals and overnight supervision the first week of December. Contact Ann Currin to participate.

Additionally our church parsonage is being offered for use by other churches the rest of the month to host the event through the Eastern North Carolina Poverty Network, led by Leah Reed.

Pray for this ministry in December and throughout the winter.

CBF *Offering for* GLOBAL MISSIONS

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

Again this year we will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering in support of CBF Missions around the world. The offering will be received at a special ingathering on **December 22** as we place our offering on the Chrismon Tree near the conclusion of morning worship. All during December there will be highlights about Global Missions to better inform you how the message of Christ is being carried around the world by CBF Missionaries and Affiliates. Please use the prayer guides to pray diligently and give generously. Your support makes a world of difference!

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>
7 Kay Beaver 7 Jill Neville 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin (60 yrs) 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha West 15 Pamela Morris 16 James Kearney 22 Libby Crawley (Leon) 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 25 Mabel Wilson 26 Carly West (14 yrs) 26 Mary Jane Jenkins	No Anniversaries	1 Sandra Lynch/Sara Council 8 Sarah Iles/Billy Blanton 15 Brenda Hudson/Mary Beth Labrecque 22 Brenda Hudson/Sarah Iles 29 Kay Tripp/Paula Burton
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	1 Lunch & Shopping 8 No Youth 15 Youth Party at Pastor's Home 22 Cantata 29 No Youth	David Iles