

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 2014

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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

The word for this month is *preparation*. Proper preparations are vital and without them everything turns to chaos. Often times in what for most is a hectic season of Christmas, can be heard the question, *Are you all ready for Christmas?* At home there are so many preparations that must be made: shopping, decorations, cooking, and calendar coordination just to make sure nothing slips by the way-side!

At church it seems there are so many preparations to be made as well. After all there is cantata music to rehearse, social's to plan, toys to buy for John 3:16 Center, decorations to put in place, our Nativity Scene to decorate, regular and special worship and mission opportunities for which to ready ourselves, and so much more.

Yet there is an extreme danger in all this busyness of preparation and all the things that demand our attention. If we're not extremely careful in this, we can easily miss the most important preparation of all - *our spiritual preparation* for the season as we once again turn our hearts to the Nativity, the birth of our savior!

Our celebration of Advent is the season to prepare our

hearts and lives to celebrate our Savior's birth at Bethlehem and His coming into our hearts and lives. While all these other preparations are important in this season, a failure to prepare our hearts and lives will make all the rest meaningless and nothing more than hustle and bustle and emptiness.

Amid all the preparations you make to avoid the chaos, take the necessary time in your private meditations to daily prepare your hearts to worship the Savior born in Bethlehem. Perhaps you'll want to find an Advent devotion to focus. Some good ones are available. (<http://d365.org/devotions>) or the ones in the literature provided for you at church and many more options so readily available. Or perhaps take time to slowly and meditatively read through the Biblical texts that focus on the coming of Christ and His birth. (Isaiah 9:2 - 7; Matthew 1:18 - 25, Luke 1 & 2; John 1) You might focus on each of the Biblical characters and imagine their fears, their joys, their worries and the many varying emotions as the birth story happened before their eyes. Read and meditate seeking to know Christ in a deeper way and allow Him to speak to your heart.

In addition, let me encourage you not to forget any of the special opportunities for Christmas worship that are being prepared for your spiritual enrichment. This newsletter names those dates you'll want to put on your calendar. I also invite you to begin to pray for each of them and those involved in participating and leading. Pray that these will be special times of worship, fellowship and an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. I encourage you to be present. And as always, be sure to invite others to join with us in these special times.

In all of this preparation, please remember that my prayer and Christmas wish for each of you is for you to grow in spiritual wisdom and in favor with God and one another! I look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior this month!


Mike

An Advent Prayer

Lord, as the Advent season sweeps over me, keep me calm and enjoying the anticipation of an event so amazing it changed the world. Amen.



DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Called Business Mtg	4	5 8:30 Exercise 5:30 John 3:16 Banquet	6 11 :00 Littleton Christmas Pa- rade
7 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship Budget Adoption 5:30 Youth 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	8 8:30 Exercise	9	10 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	11 7:00 Mission Committee	12 8:30 Exercise	13
14 Food Box 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Lunch/Shopping Trip	15 8:30 Exercise	16	17 8:30 Exercise 5:30 Christmas Caroling No Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 Adult Choir	18	19 8:30 Exercise	20
21 Food Box 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Cantata	22	23	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 Food Pantry	27
28 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	29 8:30 Exercise	30	31 No choir or Bible Study			



Our Christian sympathy is extended to:

Jimmy & Laura Kearney and Family in the death of Laura's father, Claude F. "Pete" Burrows.
John & Chris Skinner and Family in the death of John's mother, Sue Skinner.



I would like to thank everyone for their love and support during these past several weeks. It has been a difficult time but through the love of family, friends, and even strangers it has made it a little easier! During visitation my family said that it seemed like every other person that came through the line was a member of the Littleton Baptist Church! Daddy always knew what a loving church family we have and told me many times how fortunate I was to be a part of it! Mama is doing better and slowly gaining her strength back after her fall. Your prayers have been felt!!!

Of course, music has helped me through this time as well! Our Adult Choir will be presenting The First Noel on **December 21** at 5:30 P.M. It is a beautiful musical filled with classic carols, hymns, and favorite Christmas songs of the season! We will be having two special choir members joining us...Moira Underwood and Charles Wilson! The Junior Singers will also be helping us celebrate the season during this time! Please make plans to join us on this special night!!!

There will be no choir rehearsals on **December 24** and **December 31**! We will resume on **January 7** at 6:30.

Merry Christmas to you and cherish the memories you have had of loved ones and the memories you have yet to make!

Laura



The Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, **December 11** at 7:00 P.M. in the church annex.



Christmas Breakfast

Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 21**, 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 CAROLING

On Wednesday, **December 17** you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 5:30 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our homebound.

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.





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



Thanks to all who have ordered poinsettias for the church in memory and honor of loved ones for Christmas. These will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday Dec. 14 and remain in sanctuary until after the Christmas Eve Service. Please make arrangements to have yours picked up at that time. Remember, if you've not yet paid or given your information please get this to one of the committee members asap. Thanks for this valuable gift to our church helping make our sanctuary a festive place for the season.

The Flower Committee
Sandra Lynch, Ann Currin, Debbie Keeter

PRAYER MEETING & ADULT CHOIR

There will be no Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 17**. Choir will meet at 7:00 P.M. There will be no choir on Wednesday, **December 24**. Neither our Adult Choir nor Prayer & Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, **December 31**.

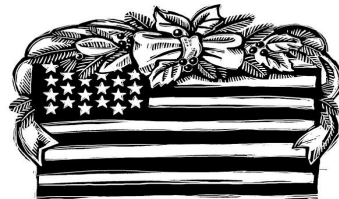


John 3:16 Center

On **December 14** 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.



Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be **Wednesday, 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.



Christmas Cards
for those who serve!

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 30, December 7 & 14**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.

Thank you!





The Youth sponsored Christmas Card Mailbox for you to “mail” your Christmas cards to church members “in house” begins Sunday, **December 7**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We’ll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



“THE FIRST NOEL”
DECEMBER 21, 2014
5:30 PM

ADULT CHOIR CANTATA

DIRECTED BY LAURA KEARNEY

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

Budget Discussion and Adoption Meetings

Thank you for your support in giving to Littleton Baptist Church during 2014. Your support enables us to do so many ministries and missions in the name of Christ; ministries and missions that we would never be able to accomplish without your regular, faithful, sacrificial giving to our Lord.

Copies of the Proposed 2015 Budget and information have been mailed to resident members. Additional copies are in the vestibule. There will be a special Called Business Meeting of Littleton Baptist Church on Wednesday night, **December 3**, at 7:30 PM to provide opportunity for discussion, questions, and /or comments concerning this Proposed Budget. On Sunday, **December 7**, there will be a second Called Business Meeting to vote upon acceptance of the Proposed Budget. That vote is by secret ballot as previously decided.

Prayerful consider your personal giving for the 2015 budget as we again work together for the cause of Christ in our community and world!



**JOHN 3:16 CENTER
 MATCHING GIFTS**

An anonymous donor will match any undesignated cash donation to the John 3:16 Center up to \$55,000. However, the gift must be made before **January 1, 2015**! Contact Shannon McAllister at the Center (586-1800) for more information.

You can learn about John 3:16’s ministry and the donation challenge at the annual fund raising banquet **December 5**. The supper is free! If you would like to attend contact Sid Shearin!

Thank you!!



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 21** 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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December

Return Service Requested

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
7 Kay Beaver 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha West 15 Pamela Morris 16 James Kearney 16 Claire Council (1 yr) 22 Libby Crawley (Leon) 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 25 Mabel Wilson 26 Carly West (15 yrs)	21 Tom & Til Tremper (40 yrs)	7 Sandra Lynch/Louise Gibson 14 Sarah Iles/Billy Blanton 21 Brenda Hudson/Mary Beth Labrecque 28 Brenda Hudson/Sarah Iles
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	7 Ryan Hockaday 14 Lunch & Shopping 21 Cantata 28 No Youth	David Iles