

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 2015

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IN MEMORY

Mrs. Frances Kearney Harris

*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*

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Spiritual 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." {Henri 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.

Unfortunate 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 concern 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.

As I read the Christmas story and the Bible in general, I hear the expression, "fear not" over and over again. When Zachariah was told by the angel God would


give his elderly wife a son, (John the forerunner of Jesus), he told him to "fear not". When the angel came to Mary the mother to announce she would be the mother of a son whose name was Jesus, and she had many questions about this seemingly impossible scenario, she was told to "fear not", you have found favor with God. When the shepherds were keeping watch in the fields by night, the angel appeared to announce the saviors birth and so startled them, the word again was "Fear Not."

In a world where terror and fear is being inflicted upon us from many fronts, may we as followers of Christ who are celebrating the greatest of all gifts, hear the words of Scripture repeated time and time again, "Fear not for I bring you good news of great joy to all people." Now that's a great definition I think. Because of Jesus coming at Christmas, no matter the many things that can potentially lead us to fear, we have a Savior who comes reminding us that no matter what, the external circumstance, our response is faith and not fear. He is near and he loves us. Just what will your "fleshed out" definition include?

Mike



DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	3	4 8:30 Exercise 5:30 John 3:16 Banquet	5 11:00 Littleton Christmas Parade
6 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Toy Shopping 7:00 Deacon's Meeting	7 8:30 Exercise	8	9 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	10	11 8:30 Exercise	12
13 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	14 8:30 Exercise	15	16 8:30 Exercise 5:30 Caroling 7:00 Adult Choir No Prayer & Bible Study	17	18 8:30 Exercise	19
20 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Cantata	21	22	23 No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	24 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25  Merry Christmas	26
27 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	28 8:30 Exercise	29	30 No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	31		



Wow! Once again the wonderful Christmas season is upon us! It is a joyous time of the year when we remember the birth of our Savior and Lord!

The Adult Choir will be presenting "Breath of Heaven" on **December 20** at 5:30 P.M. This is a beautiful cantata which gives us a fresh perspective of Christmas by taking a closer look at the compassionate heart of Mary. It is one that I think you will really enjoy! We will also be treated with some Christmas music by our Junior Singers....as well as a solo or two! Make sure to join us!

We will be caroling on Wednesday, **December 16**! We will meet at the church at 5:30 P.M. This is open to EVERYONE of all ages in our church....not just our choir members! The Adult Choir will meet for rehearsal when we return to church!

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Laura

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.



Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 20**, beginning at 9:00 A.M. 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.

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY AND ADULT CHOIR

There will be no Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 16**. Choir will meet at 7:00 P.M. There will be no Choir or Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 23** or **December 30**.



On Wednesday, **December 16**, 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.

DEACONS MEETING

Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **December 6**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Annex Conference Room.



When you receive those 2016 Calendars for Christmas remember to mark **APRIL 16** for the John 3:16 Center Kid's Carnival!



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 **December 13** and remain in the 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 as soon as possible. Thanks for this valuable gift to our church helping make our sanctuary a festive place for the season.

Our **2016** Flower Calendar is on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Please sign up for your dates as soon as possible!

Thank you!

The Flower Committee
Sandra Lynch, Ann Currin, Debbie Keeter



John 3:16 Center

On **December 6** our Youth will be shopping for toys to be shared with children through the John 3:16 Center. We will leave after worship that morning for lunch and shopping. If you would like to help this drive with a contribution, you may give your cash or check to our youth as you leave worship on **November 29** and **December 6**. We will 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 Thursday, **December 24**, at 5:30 P.M. 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.



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 29**, **December 6 & 13**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.



“BREATH OF HEAVEN”

**DECEMBER 20, 2015
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**

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Youth sponsored Christmas Card Mailbox for you to “mail” your Christmas cards to church members “in house” begins Sunday, **December 6**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We’ll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



Women in Christian Fellowship

Women in Christian Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, **December 9**, at noon in the fellowship hall of Littleton United Methodist Church. This is a special Christmas gathering so they ask that you bring a wrapped \$1.00 gift for exchanging. Helen Burtchell will be the leader. Go early for fellowship and take a friend. Take a dish to pass.

CBF *Offering for* GLOBAL MISSIONS

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 in-gathering on **December 20** 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 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha West 15 Pamela Morris 16 James Kearney 16 Claire Council (2 yr) 22 Libby Crawley (Leon) 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 24 Virginia Lee 25 Mabel Wilson 26 Carly West (16 yrs)	21 Tom & Til Tremper (41 yrs)	6 Sandra Lynch/Louise Gibson 13 Sarah Iles/Billy Blanton 20 Brenda Hudson/Mary Beth Labrecque 27 Brenda Hudson/Sarah Iles
	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	6 Lunch & Shopping 13 To be determined 20 Cantata 27 No Youth	Greg Fussell