

# 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: [littletonbaptist@embarqmail.com](mailto:littletonbaptist@embarqmail.com)  
(252) 586-5330

December 2017

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## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

### A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

It seems that 2017 has been a year of especially tragic news. Whether you receive your news by way of a newspaper, TV, the Internet, or some other way, we have been bombarded with news of one tragedy after another this year. Hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and senseless mass-shootings killing scores of innocent people—all seem to be “the new norm.” We yearn for a focus on Christmas and the reminder that *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14a, NIV)*.

One man understood what Christmas is all about. You could not have missed his story just five years ago. Certainly, it bears repeating this year.

His name is Larry DePrimo. He is an officer in the NYPD, 25 years old at the time of this story, and on the force for almost three years. Assigned to the Sixth Precinct, only family, co-workers and friends knew his name on Nov. 13, 2012, but on the night of Nov. 14, he did something that sent his name around the world. While on his beat, he encountered an unidentified, shoeless man on the cold sidewalk on Seventh Ave. near 44<sup>th</sup> St. DePrimo offered to get him socks and shoes.

“I never had a pair of shoes,” the man replied.

Upon learning that, DePrimo hurried to a *Skechers* store on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. and shelled out \$75 for insulated winter boots and thermal socks. He returned to the man, knelt down and put the footwear on him.

“He smiled from ear to ear,” DePrimo said. “It was like you gave him a million dollars.”

The officer asked the man if he wanted a cup of coffee, but he graciously declined and went on his way.

“I didn’t think anything of it,” DePrimo said of his generosity. But during dinner that night, he got a text message from a friend. The photo had gone viral.

“I was absolutely shocked,” he said.

It seems a tourist from Arizona snapped a picture of this act of kindness with her smart phone, and the rest is history.

We are reminded of *The Good Samaritan* and his act of kindness. There was no desire for reward, or recognition—just doing something because there is a need.

I have heard it said that: “Where there is a need, and an ability to meet that need, there is a calling from God.” Isn’t that what Christmas is all about?

Betty joins me in wishing each and every one of you a **Very Merry Christmas!**

Your friend and *Pastor in the Interim*,

*Tom*



# DECEMBER 2017

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue | Wed  | Thu | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|---|-----|--|-----|---|--|
|   |   |     |  |     | 1<br>8:30 Exercise                            | 2<br>11:00 Littleton Christmas Parade                    |
| 3<br>9:45 S. School<br>11:00 Worship<br>12:00 Youth Lunch/Shopping<br><br>7:00 Deacon's Meeting | 4<br>8:30 Exercise  | 5   | 6<br>8:30 Exercise<br><br>6:30 Adult Choir<br>7:30 Prayer & Bible Study                | 7   | 8<br>8:30 Exercise                            | 9  |
| 10<br>9:45 S. School<br>11:00 Worship<br><br>2:00 James Kearney Birthday Celebration            | 11<br>8:30 Exercise   | 12  | 13<br>8:30 Exercise<br><br>6:30 Adult Choir<br>7:30 Prayer & Bible Study               | 14  | 15<br>8:30 Exercise                           | 16<br>11:00 Christmas Outreach Party at John 3:16 Center |
| 17<br>9:00 Christmas Breakfast<br>11:00 Worship<br><br>5:30 Christmas Cantata & Fellowship      | 18<br>8:30 Exercise   | 19  | 20<br>8:30 Exercise<br><br>5:30 Christmas Caroling<br>No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study | 21  | 22<br>8:30 Exercise<br>9:30 LACTS Food Pantry | 23   |
| 24<br>9:45 S. School<br>11:00 Worship<br><br>5:30 Christmas Eve Service                         | 25<br><br>Merry Christmas! | 26  | 27<br>8:30 Exercise<br><br>No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study                            | 28  | 29<br>8:30 Exercise                           | 30   |
| 31<br>9:45 S. School<br>11:00 Worship   |   |     |  |     |   |  |



Our Christian sympathy is extended to:

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tant in the death of her sister, Lou Val Shearin Robertson



It's the holiday season and I love it! There is nothing like the smells, sights, and sounds of Christmas!

I hope you plan on joining us on December 17 at 5:30 P.M. for our Christmas Cantata, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" It is filled with familiar carols and new selections. The Nativity plays an important part of this musical so of course we will be having a Nativity scene as part of this special evening.

I also encourage you to join us for Christmas caroling on December 20 at 5:30 P.M. This is not just for choir members but everyone!

We will not have choir rehearsal on December 20 and 27. We will resume rehearsals on January 3.

Merry Christmas,  
*Laura*

#### Deacons Meeting



Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **December 3**, at 7:00 P.M. in the annex.



*We're Going Caroling*

On Wednesday, **December 20**, 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.



**from your church staff!**

#### CHOIR AND PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Choir or Prayer & Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 20** and **December 27**.

#### Church-wide Christmas



#### Breakfast

Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 17** 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.

#### 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. You are encouraged 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.





This year we plan to grace our altar with White Poinsettias during the Christmas Holidays. We plan to place them in the church on Sunday, December 3.

Prices are:

Small - \$ 9.00

Large - \$ 18.00

Christmas is just a few days away and we already have orders for several Poinsettias. It's time to place your order now! We accept cash or make your check payable to LBC and label it - Poinsettias. Also, please provide who they are in honor of or in memory of. Place your payment in the offering plate or mail it to:

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

Thank you for making our sanctuary beautiful for the holidays.

The Flower Committee

Carolyn Price - (252) 586-3567

Priscilla Parks - (252) 586-4790,  
priscillaparks@embarqmail.com

Ann Currin - (252) 543-4881,  
anncurrin@embarqmail.com



Christmas Eve

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



John 3:16 Center

On **December 3** 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 **December 3**. We will also receive your purchased toys for the center. Last year's contributions helped the center serve around 150 children during Christmas.

The Center needs help getting the gifts wrapped. They plan to wrap them from 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. **December 11 - 15** at the Center. They would love your help!



## Mission Opportunity

Mission opportunities are everywhere. Pray that God will lead you to where you can best serve. One opportunity is helping at the food pantry at the Littleton United Methodist Church on Friday, **December 22**. It is a busy time but there are many in our community that depend on this gift of food, caring and prayer. Come help your fellow church members that morning from 9:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon as we wish a Merry Christmas to our neighbors.



*The family and friends of  
James Kearney*

*invite you to join them to  
celebrate his 90th birthday on  
Sunday, December 10*

*from 2:00 - 4:00 pm (Floating)*

*in our*

*Fellowship Hall*

*No Gifts Please!*



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 who has 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 **December 3 & 10**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually!



## **SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!**

**Littleton Baptist Christmas Cantata**  
**December 17, 2017**  
**5:30 PM**

**Come join us as our Adult Choir presents this musical built around the most beloved and cherished Christmas Carol of all time, "Silent Night."**

**The Junior Singers will also be sharing special selections that night! It is always a joy to hear and see them perform!**

**Following the cantata we will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Hospitality Committee.**

**Don't miss this special time of worship and fellowship.**



Please be praying for our Children's Carnival on Saturday, **May 12, 2018**. We need smiling workers and helping hands to make it a great success. It's not too soon to begin collecting new and gently used children's books. Have a blessed and Christ filled Christmas.

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 ingathering on **December 17** 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!

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**



The Youth sponsored Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins **Sunday, December 3**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.

*No*EL

**NIGHT OF EVERLASTING LOVE**



The Lakeside Community Chorale will be presenting its annual Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 P.M. The cantata Noel: Night of Everlasting Love, will be presented at Enterprise Baptist Church. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

## **D. I. R. T. DISASTER IMMEDIATE RELIEF TEAM BENEFIT FOR HARRISON WEST**



**BBQ Bag Lunch - \$8.00 Donation**  
**(2 sandwiches, slaw & chips)**

**December 15**  
**11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.**

**Builders First Choice (formerly ProBuild)**  
**1625 E. 10th Street**  
**Roanoke Rapids, NC**

**Proceeds are to help with Harrison's medical expenses while fighting Ewing Sarcoma (Rare Bone Cancer)**

**Delivery is available for 10 or more lunches.**

**Also, plates can be picked up at our church.**

**See Mike Blanton to purchase tickets.**

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<br>9 Carol Meyer<br>10 Julian Parks<br>11 Sid Shearin<br>12 Sarah Iles<br>12 Samantha Hall<br>15 Pamela Morris<br>16 James Kearney<br>16 Claire Council (4 yrs)<br>17 Nicolas Pulliam<br>22 Libby Crawley (Leon)<br>23 Debbie Keeter<br>24 Mike Blanton<br>24 Virginia Lee<br>25 Mabel Wilson<br>26 Carly West (18 yrs)<br>31 Joyce Morrow | 21 Tom & Til Tremper (43 yrs)  | 3 Sara Council/Nichole Pitchford<br>10 Mary Spivey/Earl Spivey<br>17 Jan Miller/Mary Beth Labrecque<br>24 Melinda Harris/Nichole Pitchford<br>31 Paula Burton/Suzanne Pearce |
|   | <u>YOUTH</u>   | <u>TRASH DETAIL</u>  |
|   | 3 Lunch & Shopping<br>17 Cantata & Fellowship Time<br>24 Christmas Eve Service | Bryant Pitchford   |