

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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JANUARY 2018

Vol. 42 No. 1

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

Another Year Is Dawning Hymn Lyrics

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

I don't know why this hymn has been omitted from the more recent hymnals that have been published. With so many new hymn additions to the hymnals being released, I guess it was a space issue. Whatever the reason, it's a good hymn that many congregations used to sing on the first Sunday of the new year.

Because there are so many things in this hymn that we would do well to remember at the beginning of this New Year, I want us to consider a few of them.

1. It will be another year of living in God's presence, giving him praise for his glorious goodness. It will be another year of seeking God's guidance to walk in the right pathway.
2. It will be another year of experiencing God's blessings of mercy, faithfulness and grace. It will be another year of experiencing the peace and joy that God brings to us.
3. It will be another year of showing God's love and sharing his message with a waiting world. As we serve our Lord in this coming year, we are reminded of the words of Jesus: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b, NIV).

When we come to the last Sunday in January, Betty and I will have been with you for one year. What a wonderful year it has been. We have been blessed beyond measure, and the year has passed so very quickly. Thank you for the loving *family of faith* that you are, and for including us in your family.

Let us remember to continue to pray for our *Pastor Search Committee*. We are committed to be with you until their work is done.

Betty and I join in wishing all of you a most Blessed New Year and outstanding 2018.

Your friend and *Pastor in the Interim*,

Tom



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 7:00 Deacons Mtg	<i>8</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Quarterly Business Mtg	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Chili Sup- per	<i>15</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<i>22</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	<i>29</i> 8:30 Exercise	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 8:30 Exercise 6:30 Adult Choir 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study			



Congratulations to Tyler & Bonnie Stallings upon the birth of their baby girl, Blakely Rae Stallings. She was born on November 25, 2017. Congrats also to the grandparents Mike and Ann Currin, Aunt Monica, Uncle Jim, Caitlyn Paige & Addison Grace Phillis.



I want to thank the Adult Choir and all the participants in the Nativity Scene for making Silent Night! Holy Night! a special night! I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did while working on it!

While you were listening to the beautiful sounds of Christmas music I was listening to Easter cantatas! The job of a music director knows no seasons! They all seem to run together! We will begin working on Easter music at our first January practice! If you would like to be a part of this, please come join us!

I hope 2018 is a good year for all of you! Happy New Year!

Laura



To warm our hearts and insides during the cold weeks of January we will be having a Chili Supper on Sunday, **January 14** at **5:30 P.M.** We are requesting that the Great LBC Chili Chefs contact Betty Anne Shearin if you are available to make chili. Others may bring sides, bread, condiments, or desserts.

Sheriff Wes Tripp will join us to discuss what we can do to improve our church security/safety. Hope you will bring your friends and family and join us for some delicious chili, wonderful Christian Fellowship and a great opportunity to learn about church safety!



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



On Sundays in which inclement weather renders it unsafe to conduct Sunday School and Worship Services, our deacons will contact you if our services are postponed in any way.



LORD'S SUPPER

On Sunday, **January 7**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. At the conclusion of worship, you will be given opportunity to contribute to our church's Fellowship Fund for local benevolent needs.



Quarterly Business Meeting

Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **January 10**, at 7:30 P.M. These quarterly meetings are vital to the church and her ministry as we report, discuss, plan and consider the ongoing needs that will strengthen us as the people of God. You are encouraged to be present and to always be prayerful about our church's ministries.



Happy New Year!



The following is the flower schedule for January:

January 7	Lord's Supper
January 14	Available for Scheduling
January 21	Available for Scheduling
January 28	Available for Scheduling

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! to everyone who put poinsettias in the Littleton Baptist Church during the Christmas Holidays. They were beautiful and added so much to our worship services. We hope you were able to worship with us during the Christmas Holidays.

It's time to turn the calendar and get ready for a new year in 2018. If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary during 2018 let us know. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact: Carolyn Price - (252) 586-3567, or Priscilla Parks - (252) 586-4790, or email me at: priscillaparks@embarqmail.com)

Thank You again for your part in making our church so special and beautiful.



DISASTER RECOVERY TRAINING

This coming year's training for disaster recovery by Baptist on Missions will be convenient for Littleton folks. One session will be in Durham County **March 2 & 3** and another will be in Nash County **March 16 & 17**.

Any talent can be used in a disaster like mass feeding, showers & laundry, tear out, chaplaincy, child care, logistics, etc. You will have safety sessions and understand the organization needed in disasters. Contact Sid or Betty Anne or go to baptistonmissions.org for details and start spreading Christ's love to folks in need.



We feel so blessed to be part of such a thoughtful, loving church family. Thank you so much for the financial gifts presented to us for Christmas. Thank you also for the many words of encouragement you share with us.

*Many thanks!
Mike, Laura & Kay*



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our church ministry this past year! Your contributions enable us to minister in numerous ways throughout our community and world. The 2018 offering envelopes are in the vestibule to be picked up and have been prepared for all who contributed in 2017. If you need envelopes for children or if you cannot locate yours, please contact the church office or Kay Tripp, and we will happily provide them for you.



Dear Littleton Baptist Church family,

Celebrating Christmas with you has been such a special joy. The church sanctuary has been so very beautiful with the decorations, poinsettias, Advent wreath and Crismon tree. Laura and our choir have provided inspiring music of the season. The Hospitality Committee has *gone-all-out* in providing delicious refreshments. Add to all that a wonderful annual breakfast and generous Christmas check. Thank you for it all.

Betty and I have received numerous cards from the church family, and we are so grateful. You are a special people, and so dear to us.

Gratefully,
Tom & Betty

THANK YOU



**FOR SHARING
CHRIST'S LOVE!**

Where Does Your Money Go?

There are so many 'good causes' these days that people have a hard time figuring out where to give. The following is information about three missions that our church supports.

There are a lot of toy drives during the Christmas season and collecting the toys is really the easy part. Distributing the toys to the needy children is the hard part. The John 3:16 Center interview families and find out their needs in toys and clothing. Then the Center tries to get the parents to select the right presents to avoid duplication of gifts. At the Christmas party while the children are visiting Santa, the parents sneak out back and get the wrapped presents they selected. Many parents are embarrassed if someone goes to their house and gives their children toys. The way the Center handles the distribution the parents have the feeling they are providing for their children.

This past year there have been quite a few disasters and it has kept the NC Baptist Men busy. Our Church not only took up a special offering for the disasters, but eight people representing our church participated in disaster relief at four different sites in 2017. Here are the NCBM statistics for 2017 as of November:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 18 responses | 128 homes rebuilt (Hurricane Matthew) |
| 30,000 volunteer days | 15,118 Showers |
| 91 Salvations | 3,072 laundry loads |
| 540,000 meals prepared | 861 recovery jobs completed |
| 13,000+ gallons of potable water through water purification | |

WRAL TV recently did a story on "One year after Hurricane Mathew". It interviewed many folks still struggling to get back into their homes after being flooded. Then the reporter interviewed Billy Layton of the Baptist Men and he told them how they are still rebuilding homes and will continue for a while. After the initial response most disaster relief groups leave town. The Baptist Men continue to serve Christ by rebuilding homes, lives and sharing the gospel.

Our church received a message that a 90 year old lady near Airlie needed railings on her handi-capped ramp. Volunteers from our church responded and installed rails, bumpers and fixed a few areas. The money for materials came from our fellowship fund that we collect after every communion service.

Our church family deserves a big thanks for sharing Christ's love in offerings and service. May we reach out to many more people in 2018.

Sid Shearin
Chairman of the Deacons

Littleton Baptist Church
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Return Service Requested

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY WORKERS</u>
16 Bryant Pitchford 17 Barbara Topping 17 Daniel West 20 Brenda Holloman 24 Mike Conner 25 Jack Mathieson	22 Tony & Pam Morris (30 yrs)	7 Louise Gibson/Chris Skinner 14 Brenda Hudson/Nichole Pitchford 21 Betty Blanton/Billy Blanton 28 Jan Myrick/Sara Council
26 Betty Ann Shearin 28 Sandra Felts	<u>YOUTH MEALS</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
	To Be Announced	Billy Blanton