

Big News

from

Littleton United Methodist Church

January / February 2009

Littleton United Methodist Church “A Place for You”

105 East South Main St.
PO Box 26
Littleton, NC 27850

Office: 252-586-7866
Email: rwlicht@yahoo.com
www.littleton-umc.org

Pastor: Rob Licht
Lay Leader: Tim Townsend

Worship Service: 10:00 - 11:00
Sunday School: 11:20 - noon



Santa Breakfast 2008



More photos inside...



A note from Pastor Rob



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Beginning on January 6th, the church leaves the Christmas season behind and moves forward into a period of time called the Season after Epiphany. The term “Epiphany” comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia* which means “to manifest” or “to show forth”. The day of Epiphany which falls on January 6th (though we will celebrate it on January 4th) is the day on which the God of Israel was made “manifest” to the nations. Epiphany is recalled as the day upon which God shows forth himself into the lives of the people.

The season after Epiphany takes on much of the qualities of the Day or Feast of Epiphany. Our scripture readings throughout January and February will be focused on Jesus as God’s revelation to the world. We will follow after His light like the magi of old. We will allow the “star of Bethlehem” to shine upon our hearts and spirits, illumining our way.

We will be asked to encounter a deeper understanding of Christ revealed, not only in his baptism, but in our own. We will be called upon to reflect and to reaffirm those baptismal vows which we claimed at our baptism or confirmation, remembering our identity in Christ. The start of the new year, with its emphasis on the making and keeping of resolutions, could not be a more appropriate way to reclaim the identity we have been given in Christ Jesus through the waters of the sacrament. What would it mean for each of us to resolve to live fully into our baptism throughout the year or years ahead?

The theme of lives marked by baptism and professions of faith in Christ continues throughout the scripture lessons. We will bear witness as the first disciples are called into ministry while at the same time remembering how we, too, were called into ministry at different points in our faith journey. We will come to know Jesus through his miracles of healing and wholeness. The next two months allow us ample opportunities to get to know Jesus once more and to think about what he would have us do and be about. The new year brings change and new possibilities for our community, let us all reflect on how best we can serve.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Licht'.

Pastor Rob Licht

Right: In November some of our UMW members traveled to visit long-time LUMC member, Rachael Ricks at Carolina House Nursing Home in Greenville, NC. If you would like to send Rachael a card, her address is:

Carolina House
Claire Bridge Cottage
Rm 405
2715 Dickenson Ave.
Greenville, NC 27834



LAY LEADER NOTES

Tim Townsend

I remember a Peanuts cartoon in which Lucy says to Charlie Brown, "Merry Christmas! Since it's this time of the season I think we ought to bury past differences and try to be kind."

Charlie Brown replies, "Why does it just have to be this time of the season. Why can't it be all year long?"

Lucy responds, "What are you, some kind of fanatic?"

Let's all be fanatics ! This is a season of joy and generosity. Why not carry that on further through the year? We are blessed in so many ways and Christmas reminds us of how much God has given us. We have a wonderful church at LUMC and God depends on our generosity to continue the mission He has given us in this place. God also depends on our sharing His love with others. Let's be fanatics in our giving and in our love for others even as Christ has loved and given to the extreme.



FLOWERS FOR 2009



A calendar has been placed on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar for a special event or in memory of someone please place your name on the designated Sunday. If you would like the same flowers to be used for 2 Sundays, please indicate by filling both Sundays with your name. Flowers will be placed in the refrigerator after the service on the first Sunday and placed on the altar for the second week. Flowers are quite expensive and we have had great success with keeping them beautiful for 2 services. Any questions can be directed to Elizabeth Solovieff at 586-2933.

LOOK WHAT SHE DID!



That's her! Alias, Peggy Fowler with her accomplices Jonathan Pulley, Manager of Food Lion and Darius Jackson, Assistant Manager. What did she do you ask? She, with the generous support and help of the management of Food Lion, was able to collect over \$240 dollars worth of Food Lion Coupons. These coupons were used to purchase much needed items such as turkeys for our overwhelmingly successful Thanksgiving Day community dinner. In addition to the dinner items, they have also provided additional food items included in Christmas baskets which were distributed through Helen Burtchell's Outreach Committee, AND in addition to that, we now have a great start on stocking a food pantry. So what should her sentence be? How about a really huge THANK YOU from each and everyone of us to Peggy and the Food Lion Management. The next time you are shopping, please take a minute and express your personal appreciation to Jonathan and Darius. You'll be able to " catch" Peggy in church on Sunday.

COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP

Helen Burtchell, Discipleship Chairperson

All those who have shown interest in growing in faith, will be meeting at the church on Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 pm, weather permitting. We will be doing the Spiritual Gift Assessment at that time. All are welcome to take this test. It will help show just what gifts our God has given you and how you can use them to His glory. You will be blessed more than you could ever imagine. The date and time of the next meeting will then be decided. Please call me at 586-4682 to let me know if you plan to attend, or if you have any questions.

A reminder from the PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Sherman Merchant, Chairman

Please contact me whenever you have an upcoming event and I will get the word out to the media. Email your information to: shermanmerchant@gmail.com or call 586-7866,



Read all about it...

allowing three weeks to ensure publication.



Above: Pastors from 7 area churches participated in the service. From left to right Rev. Mike Currin, (Littleton Baptist), Rev. Will Tabron (St. Luke Baptist), Rev. Paul Neuer (St. Albans Episcopal), Rev. David Smith (Littleton Presbyterian), Rev. Rob Licht (Littleton United Methodist), Rev. Stan Lewis (Calvary Methodist Charge), Vicar Eric Moser (Lakeside Lutheran).

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual Thanksgiving Service was held at our fellowship hall on Sunday, November 23rd. The food and cash donations that were collected that evening were used to provide holiday meals for local needy families. A big thank you to all who contributed, and to Helen Burtchell and the Outreach Committee who distributed the food the next day.

Below: Music for the service was provided by the Gastonettes, led by Sue Beazley.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our second annual free Community Thanksgiving Day dinner is another LUMC success story! Over 20 volunteers spent many hours organizing this event. Not to mention the additional folks who cooked turkeys at home and donated them. The fellowship hall and kitchen never smelled better as our chief cooks Kaye Herman, Darla Angel, Maj and Julie Johnston, and Jim and Mary Mc Coy prepared a great Thanksgiving Day feast. It was so wonderful to see over 90 people from the community enjoying a lovely perfectly prepared dinner with all the fixins and enjoying each others company as they shared their Thanksgiving Day meal in our beautifully decorated Hall. We also had a team spreading the feast outside of the Hall as they delivered over 70 meals to shut-ins and to people that weren't able to be off work that day, such as EMS, Littleton Police, Food Lion, Dollar General, and Dollar Store employees.

Thank you to the congregation for your participation by donations, attending, or inviting a friend or neighbor. We hope to see you next year for a great time of visiting with friends and working together.

Thanksgiving
at LUMC



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Richard Sherman, Administrative Council Chairman

Well, we've been at it again ("we" being Liz Solovieff, Helen Burtchell, Pastor Rob and I - coincidentally with ties to Thanksgiving leftovers, outreach, discretionary and mission funds). We sat down together to think outside the box a little about how to help local folks who are having a tough time. How can we focus some of the time, talent, helping hands and funds available in our Church on being a better neighbor. We would like your ideas to aid in developing a good plan. In the meantime, if you have the opportunity to commit a random act of kindness - just do it!

FOOD PANTRY

Elizabeth Solovieff

When you are at the grocery store please remember our church pantry. Your generosity in purchasing just one of the needed items listed can greatly help a family that is struggling financially. A great way to contribute is to take advantage of, "buy one, get one free" and simply donate the free item. We are in the process of re-stocking and organizing our food pantry to better meet these increasing needs.

If you are aware of a family that is struggling, please share your concerns, which will be held in confidence with Richard Sherman, Pastor Rob, Helen Burtchell or Elizabeth Solovieff. Each situation will be considered on an individual and as needed basis, and maintained in confidence.

Suggested items:

- Canned Goods (please no dented or expired items)
- Vegetables
- fruits
- Spaghetti sauce
- Bottled fruit juice
- Tuna Fish
- Vegetable oil
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Rice
- Dried Beans
- Household items
- Bleach
- Dish Detergent
- Laundry Detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes



ELDERLY LUNCHEON IN JANUARY

Elizabeth Solovieff

For those of you who enjoyed working on the community Thanksgiving dinner, or if you weren't able to participate here's another opportunity. We will be preparing a luncheon for the Senior Citizen housing facility and also the low income complex using our Thanksgiving Day "leftovers" which have been frozen. This validates that 100% of all donations of either food items or money used to purchase necessary items is used for it's given purpose. There aren't many projects or organizations that can proudly state that 100 % of their efforts were so efficiently used. If you are interested in preparing, boxing or delivering the meal please contact Darla Angel, or Elizabeth Solovieff.



Fellowship Hall Reservations



Everyone is reminded that ALL reservations for use of the Fellowship Hall must be made ahead of time to assure that the building is available and that there will be heat or A/C. Every use must be scheduled through Tim Townsend to avoid double booking. Please call soon to set up your 2009 meetings (586-2959).

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Helen Burtchell, Outreach Chairperson

The outreach committee has been busy, as usual. We gave 3 large bags of clothes to the Adult Day Care Center. We have fed 3 families for a short term. We found angels to bring Christmas to 4 families. We also brought Christmas Dinner to them. We are still taking food to needy families twice a month, and holding a birthday party for the Warren Hills Nursing Home residents each month. These are ongoing projects, which have continued for many years because of our dedicated team. A great big THANK YOU for all you do for your church and for your God.

Photo on right: Rebecca Lynn Moore (granddaughter of Maj Johnstson) enjoys being held by our lovely acolyte, Martha Sherman.



A letter from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
As we close our Church year, we need to reflect upon our many blessings that we have received this past year in the midst of very trying times, both emotional and financial for all of us. You have heard me say many times that if we depended on our "3 Fs" that we can manage any situation that we may be going through. The 3 Fs are our "Faith, Family, and Friends" and we need to trust and rely on these principals as we seek God's wisdom and advice for our lives. It is not always easy to do this especially during such turbulent times. This is what God asks us to do – trust Him with everything in our lives.

As we wait to see how we will finish our 2008 fiscal year, your LUMC Finance Committee is working to lead our Church in sound fiscal management and to conserve our cash flow as we go throughout the early part of our 2009 year. I continue to ask that each of you continue to seek God's wisdom as it relates to your financial support of our Church as we strive to remain on good solid financial ground. Your Finance Committee will be making a full financial report of our 2008 year in early January 2009 to the Admin Council to keep everyone informed of our financial health.

The members of your Finance Committee hope that you have had a Merry Christmas and hope that 2009 will be a prosperous year for all of us.

Peace and Blessings to All,
Mike Herman
Chairperson of Finance

TRUSTEES REPORT 2008

Shirley Anschutz, Trustee chairperson

The Trustees have had a busy year, finishing the year with the installation of a new steel door leading to the outside of the lower level of the east end of the Education Building.

We have a new wooden cross hanging in the Sanctuary above the choir loft, thanks to Tim Townsend.

Slate tiles have been placed from the parking lot to the sidewalk at the west side of the church.

The installation of our church sign at the corner of US-158 and Mosby Avenue has been completed. Barney Watson deserves a big "thank you" for overseeing this project. Shrubs will be planted later, since the lights on the sign seem a little too bright.

I give my thanks to my committee members. All of this could not have been done without their help and expertise.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
- 8 Million Gifts of Hope**



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.



Once again, the members and friends of LUMC participated in this wonderful mission, a project of Samaritan's Purse. The missions committee would like to thank all who contributed.



Above & right: these photos were taken at the East 10th St. Church in Roanoke Rapids, one of many collection centers for Operation Christmas Child.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

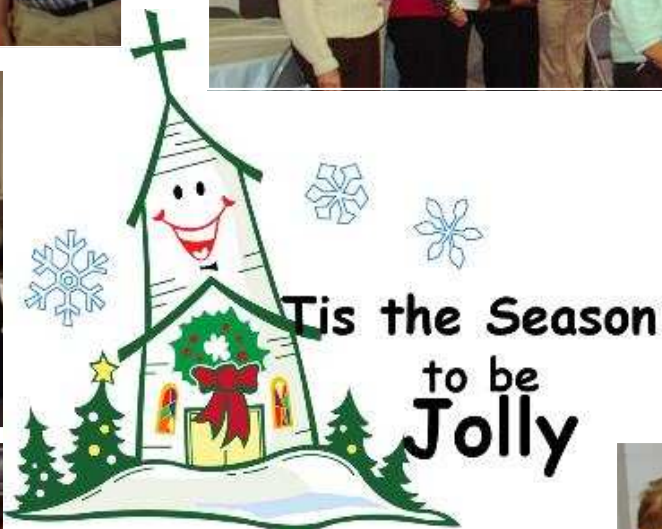
Helen Burtchell — UMW Vice President

The Littleton United Methodist Women capped off their busy year with a very successful Santa Breakfast. The children enjoyed their time with Santa and the breakfast was enjoyed by all. Over 150 attendees filled our fellowship hall with joy!

For the third year, Alan Burtchell entertained the children as Santa Claus. Every child had a chance to sit on his lap, tell him their wishes, receive a coloring book, and have a photo taken. If the parents didn't bring a camera, Susan Merchant stepped in as the photographer.

Our kitchen supervisors and grocery shoppers, Marie Fields and Laine Parks would like to thank all those that helped - the cooks, the bakers, the runners, the greeters, and those who decorated the fellowship hall so beautifully. As you can see in the top right photo, it wasn't just the ladies who made this event so successful. It takes everyone!







THANK YOU SHERRY!

I would like to join the members and friends of LUMC in thanking Sherry Watson for the wonderful job that she has done editing and producing our newsletter since 2004. Over the years Sherry has put in countless hours ensuring that we have the best newsletter possible. She certainly is a tough act to follow!

*With love and appreciation,
Susan Merchant (attempting to fill her shoes)*

BLANKET BEE / SEWING GROUP

The Blanket Bee which has met monthly for many years at Marj Prescott's home, has now joined forces with the newly-formed Sewing Group. The new combined group now meets on the third Monday of each month in our fellowship hall. The sewing group has been busy sewing simple dresses which have been sent to the MERCI Center for distribution to girls in under-developed nations.



Above: The Sewing Group poses with some of the dresses. Photo courtesy of Mary Lou Stimson - Lake Gaston Gazette

Left: Blankets and dresses were displayed in the chapel before they were taken to the MERCI Center.



Jan & Feb Anniversaries	Date
Jeannie & Kevin Smith	Jan 20
No anniversaries in Feb.	

January Birthdays	Date
Dolly Robbins	1
Eleanor Alexander	2
Hunter Story	3
Elizabeth Solovieff	4
Martha Sherman	8
Susan Merchant	14
Elaine Parks	22
Jeannie Smith	28
Eric Bingman	31

February Birthdays	Date
Kay Newsom	4
Harry Bingman	8
Bobby Smith	9
Ed Angel	11
Jean Houston	12
Clifton Shearin	19
Alan Burtchell	23
Carol Guidry	24
Sue Beazley	25

If you are new to our church, please give me your name and DOB (month and day only), and your anniversary date if you are married.

Thank you - Susan Merchant

Email susanmerchant@gmail.com or call 586-7866.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Nursery	Altar Flowers	Lay Reader
Jan 4	Connie Henry Peg Fowler	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant Matt Johnston	Jean Houston Susan Merchant	Communion	Susannah Sherman Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7,10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12
Jan 11	Anna Brown Susan Merchant	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant Matt Johnston	Loretta Woodburn Martha Hayes	Need someone	Matt Johnston Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7
Jan 18	Kay Newsom Della Batts	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant Matt Johnston	Susannah Sherman Julie Johnston	Need someone	Corrine Replogle 1 Samuel 3: 1-20 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
Jan 25	Jill Russo Marj Prescott	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant Matt Johnston	Ed Angel Mike Herman	Need someone	Mike Herman Jonah 3: 1-5 Psalm 62: 5-12 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Feb 1	Julie Johnston Peg Fowler	Al Prescott Ed Angel Bob Workman	Corrine Replogle Lisa Hardy	Communion	A.J.Lunde Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Feb 8	Susannah Sherman Gabrielle Pamer	Al Prescott Ed Angel Bob Workman	Marie and Lewis Fields	Need someone	Liz Solovieff Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Feb 15	Maj Johnston Loretta Woodburn	Al Prescott Ed Angel Bob Workman	Ed Angel Mike Herman	Need someone	Bob Workman 2 Kings 5: 1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27
Feb 22	Barbara Reinhardt Frances Howell	Al Prescott Ed Angel Bob Workman	Sherman & Susan Merchant	Need someone	Lois Weaver 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50: 1-6 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Communion Stewards		Jan 4 Marie & Lewis Fields		Feb 1 Greg & Liz Solovieff	

LUMC Committees 2009

Shepherding

Liz Solovieff (CP)
Matt Johnston
Darla Angel
Ed Angel
Sherman Merchant

Discipleship

Helen Burtchell (CP)
Corinne Replogle
Margie Drescher
Lisa Hardy

Memorials

Matt Johnston (CP)
George Alston
Kay Newsom
Trudi May
Shirley Anschutz

Outreach

Helen Burtchell (CP)
Richard O'Sullivan
Marion Harries
Sue Merchant
Connie Henry
Laine Parks
Irene O'Sullivan

Congregational Care

Jean Houston (CP)
Susan Merchant
Kay Newsom
Loretta Woodburn
Barbara Reinhardt
Marian Harries

Trustees

Shirley Anschutz (CP)
Sherman Merchant
Tim Townsend
Darla Angel
Richard O'Sullivan
Richard Sherman
Don Henry
Julie Johnston

Age Level & Family Ministries

Julie Johnston
Macon White
Kaye Herman
Bob Hayes
Sherman Merchant
Martha Hayes
Carol Townsend

Pastor-Parish Relations

Sherman Merchant (CP)
Jean Jarvis
Susannah Sherman
Matt Johnston
George Alston
Helen Burtchell
Elizabeth Solovieff

Lay Leadership

Rob Licht (CP)
Kay Newsom
Helen Burtchell
Richard Sherman
Jack May
A.J. Lunde
Lois Weaver
Anna Brown

Kitchen

Marie Fields (CP)
Al Prescott
Bob Hayes
Martha Hayes
Shirley Anschutz

Missions

Richard Sherman (CP)
Susannah Sherman
Marion Harries
Irene O'Sullivan
Dick O'Sullivan
Corinne Replogle
Elizabeth Solovieff
Margie Drescher
Alan Burtchell
Mary Ann Johnston

Finance

Mike Herman (CP)
Kay Newsom
Bill Weaver
Betsy Medlin
Matt Johnston
Bob Workman
Marie Fields
Tim Townsend
Marvin Newsom III
Kaye Herman
Richard O'Sullivan
Sherman Merchant

Non-Rotating

Ed Angel (Lay Member to Annual Conference)
Tim Townsend (Lay Leader)

Worship

Rob Licht, Anne Smith, Martha Sherman,
Shirley Anschutz, Greg & Liz Solovieff,
Ed & Darla Angel, Trudi May, Sherman Merchant

Scholarship

Marvin Newsom III (CP), Bob Hayes
George Alston, Betsy Medlin

Public Relations

Sherman Merchant (CP), Della Batts

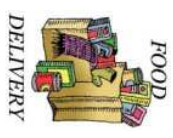
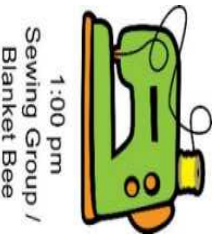
Representatives & Coordinators

Disaster Preparedness: Helen Burtchell
Camping: Rebeccah Batts
Newsletter Editor: Susan Merchant

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School 4	1:30 pm Mary Lucy Self Circle 5	6	6:00 - 7:30 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir practice 7	 New Year's Day Office Closed 1	 FOOD DELIVERY  7 pm Movie 2	3
10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School 3 - 5 pm Leadership Workshops 11	10 am Beckham-Ransom Circle 7 pm Admin Council 12	13	 6-7:30 pm BIBLE STUDY 14	15	 Warren Hills Birthday Party 16	 10 am UMW meeting 17
10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School 18	 1:00 pm Sewing Group / Blanket Bee 19	20	 6-7:30 pm BIBLE STUDY 21	22	23	24
10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School 25	8am - 5pm Lifeline Screening 26	27	 6-7:30 pm BIBLE STUDY 28	29	30	31

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	2 1:30 pm Mary Lucy Self Circle	3	4 6:00 - 7:30 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir practice	5	6 FOOD DELIVERY 7 pm Movie	7
8 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	9 10 am Beckham- Ransom Circle 7 pm Admin Council	10	11 Noon - Women in Christian Fellowship 6:00 pm Bible Study	12	13 FOOD DELIVERY	14 Valentine's Day
15 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	16  1:00 pm Sewing Group / Blanket Bee	17	18 6-7:30 pm BIBLE STUDY 	19	20 Warren Hills Birthday Party 	21 UMW 10 am 
22 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	23	24	25 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon - Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Bible Study	26	27	28



*Littleton United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 26
Littleton, NC 27850*



*Remember our free Family
Movie Nights the first Friday
of each month.*

January 4th: Kung Fu Panda

*February 6th: Beethoven's
Big Break*



A New Year's Resolution

As a way to pass the light of Christ to others, a light rekindled in us this Christmas:

Let us mend a quarrel. Build peace. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a sensitive answer. Encourage children. Manifest our faithfulness in word and action. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if we were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine our demands and expectations of others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate life. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little! Laugh a little more! Be deserving of confidence. Take up arms against malice and injustice. Decry complacency. Express our gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak our love. Speak it again. Speak it still once more!!!

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace, and through the power of God's Spirit may you experience God's healing and loving presence, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*A blessing from Advent Lessons and Carols St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, NC
- contributed by Elizabeth Solovieff*