



# Big News

from  
**Littleton United Methodist Church**  
January / February 2010

## Littleton United Methodist Church “A Place for You”

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

Office: 252-586-5385  
Email: [rwlicht@yahoo.com](mailto:rwlicht@yahoo.com)  
[www.littleton-umc.org](http://www.littleton-umc.org)

Pastor: Rob Light  
Lay Leader: Tim Townsend

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am  
Sunday School: 11:20 am

### A note from Pastor Rob



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that everyone has experienced a most joyous Christmas and a happy beginning to the New Year. There are countless traditions surrounding the celebration of the New Year. In my own family, New Year's Day brings with it a traditional meal of roast pork (not my favorite) and sauerkraut. I can smell the meal boiling on

the stove as I write this article. Undoubtedly, such a meal evolved from my family's Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch = German) roots. There are, of course, other traditional meals associated with New Year including the consumption of black-eyed peas (as anyone who has attended the annual meal hosted at the American Legion will tell you). A common tradition, shared by many, is for one to make a resolution in the New Year. Unfortunately, our New Year's resolutions are often forgotten as quickly as they are made. They can range from losing weight (always popular following the feasting associated with Christmas) to engaging in some new activity. My hope is that as we make New Year's resolutions, we will keep in our minds and hearts those things we can resolve to do as part of our Christian journey. Perhaps, we can resolve to pay attention more closely in worship or volunteer more of our time to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Maybe, we can resolve to participate in Bible studies and in faith formation groups. Whatever resolutions we choose to make, our primary resolution should be to "live Jesus" in everything that we do and allow him to take shape within us. "Live Jesus!" I can't think of a better slogan for a New Year can you?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob Licht



The cancellation of the Christmas parade didn't stop the children and their parents from enjoying "Breakfast with Santa" in our fellowship hall on December 5th. See page 6 for more Santa Breakfast photos.



24 November 2009

Dear friends,

*What a blessing to have the good people of Littleton United Methodist Church, namely you, join in support for the Flight 93 National Memorial Project. On behalf of the entire Beamer clan, let me say "THANK YOU!"*

*Your support and kindness to my Mom & Dad will never be forgotten.*

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**David Beamer**



LITTLETON'S CHRISTMAS MYRTLES

Richard Sherman

Having Littleton light up for Christmas has been an odyssey of the third type, but the good guys are winning. Trust me, we're winning. Two years ago the whole town was lit up after a lot of work by the town's volunteer Beautification Committee. Then a darkness settled over Our Town as new rules and regulations and absentee landlords appeared on the scene. Not to mention a cost estimate of at least \$27 000 to make it all "right". It is amazing to me how many officious officials think they are in charge of a Christmas Tree light bulb. After countless emails, phone calls, smiles, handshakes as well as funds and free labor from many people, we are almost back up to full power.

LUMC's part is to have five of the Main Street crepe myrtles wired directly into our sign's electricity. When it gets dark and our sign goes on - the trees light up. The Beautification Committee obtained the permits (yes, it takes a county building permit to light

a Christmas tree on the side of the road) and paid the installation costs. We pay the electric bill for the miniature lights. Let there be Christmas Lights in the Little Town!!



Another GAME NIGHT is on the way!

Our next game night will be **January 12th** from 5-8 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Join us for supper, fun and a lot of laughs! This is another great time to invite someone who may not have a church family.



The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year.

LAY LEADER'S NOTES

Tim Townsend

**Fellowship Hall :** Beginning January 1, I will no longer be chairman of Fellowship Hall. Dick O'Sullivan assumes that responsibility. You will need to contact him in 2010 for any scheduling you will need for the hall. Nothing carries over from prior usages. ALL requests must be made by contacting Dick. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Sue's Memorial :** Don Beazley has set January 9 as the date for a memorial service for Sue. This will be held at our church at 3:00 PM. Don is eager to see so many of you that he has not been able to see since the accident. More details will be provided closer to that time. Don and his family have appreciated your prayers and support. He has a stack of cards a foot high. Continue to support Don and his family with your prayers.

**Thank you** again for your generous financial support of LUMC. With the help of our "Angel Donor" and your gifts and pledges, we can see a much brighter future for 2010. Keep up the good work !!

A thank-you note...

November 6, 2009



Dear Sir/Madam:

Just wanted to write a note to let you know how much we appreciate the kindness of some of your church members. We visited Littleton back in the first part of Sept. of this year. We were there for the car show/craft show, etc. on a Sat. We had my mother with me who is

75 and was in a wheelchair due to foot surgery. Upon our arrival, she needed to use the restroom and the only ones available were the portable potties. Some ladies were in front of your church selling baked goods. They heard us discussing our plight and offered to open the church to allow her to use the restroom. We then were taken inside and really enjoyed seeing the beautiful and well maintained sanctuary. The kindness of these ladies was very much appreciated and I have been meaning to write a note long before now. Please pass along our appreciation. I am a firm believer that if more people "inside" the church acted they way we are supposed to when we are outside the church, we would be leading more people to a relationship with Christ - and your people did exactly that - showed a kindness to strangers - someone in need - and it did not go unnoticed by us or the Lord!

Thanks again,  
Pam Munden

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

**Shirley Anschutz**

The Trustees have had a busy year with projects which included the acceptance of the large stained glass window at the east end of the Fellowship Hall and the receipt of donated plants from the Lakeland Arts Center for planting on the church grounds.

At the December, 2009 Trustee's meeting we welcomed new trustees Jean Jarvis, Jimmie King, and Jack May. Our thanks to the retiring members Darla Angel and Tim Townsend.

We look forward to another active and successful year in 2010.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Helen Burtchell, President**

The Littleton United Methodist Women ended 2009 with another very successful "Breakfast with Santa". The weather outside was frightful and the Littleton Christmas Parade was canceled, but that didn't stop almost 200 children and adults from enjoying a delicious breakfast with Santa. As always, the children loved talking to Santa (Alan Burtchell) and receiving gifts from his helping elf (Laine Parks). Check out the photos on page 6.

A big THANK YOU to all who baked and gave food donations, and served, and cooked. An extra-big THANK YOU to Marie Fields and Laine Parks for shopping and coordinating the kitchen needs. We have some of the best people that just come out and do what needs to be done. We couldn't do it without you!

The UMW will be going to Timeless Tea in January. I can not give you a date yet but I will put it in the bulletin when I have it. Any of the ladies of the church and their friends are welcome to join us if they like. The cost will be about \$9.50 per person.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

**Elizabeth Solovieff**

A new calendar is on the bulletin board for 2010. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up and give a call to either Sue Merchant or myself if you would like a dedication noted in the bulletin. Any greenery or flowers from the yard or field is appropriate. I encourage you to share something from your yard with each of us on Sunday. Professional arrangements are not necessary. Please speak to me with any ideas or thoughts concerning our Altar flowers.



The memorial service for our friend, Sue Beazley, will be held on Saturday January 9th at 3:00 PM at Littleton United Methodist Church.



**Above: 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

---

## CHURCH BUILDING IN NICARAGUA

Richard Sherman, day laborer

The informal network of past mission friends was working well in early November. United Methodists Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) was sponsoring a mission to Nicaragua to help build a new church. John Benson from Rodanthe UMC agreed to head it up, Allison Daniel heard about it on Face Book and told me, I emailed John that I was interested and the game was on. John assembled a team of six, three from the Rodanthe church, Tim from near Manassas VA, Dennis from Madison MS, and myself. We all met in Miami on November 28th and headed for Managua Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Evangelical Methodist Church has been working to expand by new church plantings. UMVIM had given them a grant (from \$10 club donations) to buy land and start the church in the small city of Condega in north-west Nicaragua. Finishing the church would be the job of mission teams. Enter us. The unfinished church structure was up when we arrived (see photo). No floor, no paint, no electricity, no side walks but lots of construction debris in what had been a cow pasture (complete with pasture evidence). Also, a partially complete classroom building used as a kitchen and the caretaker's home and best of all, an outhouse with a flush toilet - life is good!! We stayed in a "bed and breakfast" in Condega which was about a mile walk, or pick-up truck ride, from the work site. Nice little town - had an ice cream store, two internet cafes and a lighted Christmas tree in the town square - undiscovered as yet by the ACLU.

This was a three country mission. Seven people came as a mission team from the El Salvador Methodist Church. By my count there were eleven different Nicaraguan, El Salvadorian and US churches involved in the week's building. Work projects for the week were: leveling the floor inside the church and starting to lay tile, trench around the church for a side walk and then fill it up with rock and concrete, play football with the local kids, mix more concrete, deliver a cross that Alan Burtchell had made to the new church, clear debris, attend church services in three different homes, deliver medicine from the Reinhardt's son-in-law to the mobile clinic and some money from the Macon UMW for a child feeding program, eat lots of home cooked pinto beans & rice three times a day usually with fresh fruit and chicken or fish, deliver Christmas presents to some long term friends of the El Salvador Church, nightly walks to the ice cream store, buy paint and electrical fixtures (electricity is about a half mile away approaching at the public utility speed of light), and make some new friends. Mission Accomplished.

This church will join together several small Methodist groups who are currently meeting in homes around Condega.



It is "summer vacation" for the schools in Nicaragua. Their school year runs from mid-January into October. As a community outreach program, this new church was running a summer school. From 9 until about noon each day 45 to 50 kids came to have bible lessons, play games, exchange a few Spanish and English words and smiles with us and have a lunch prepared by the local "UMW". Most of the children's parents were away at work so wholesome activity and a nutritious meal at the church were a big plus for those kids. We left enough money to run the lunch program through the end of January. The President of the Nicaraguan Church came to work one day and told us their plan was simple. Build more churches. And, getting a six year old involved with the church today means a family in the church in 15 to 20 years. I'm glad I spent a week being a day laborer in their plan.

---

### A note from the FINANCE COMMITTEE

The LUMC Finance Committee wishes to express our gratitude to everyone for helping us to finish 2009 successfully. We were able to raise a significant amount of funds to reduce our overall debt and we have paid our 2009 apportionments in full. We look forward to sharing wonderful 2010 together in our Church.

Peace and Blessings to All,  
Mike Herman, CP of Finance



# Community Thanksgiving Dinner

## Thank you from Darla, Kaye & Liz

We would like to thank each of you for your generous support of LUMC's community Thanksgiving dinner. It was only through the outpouring of gifts of food, time and talents and money that we were able to have such a huge success and pull it off without a problem. We served over 95 takeout meals this year. That is almost a 100% increase over last year! Our beautifully decorated dining room served approximately 150 delicious meals. It was wonderful working with each of you, and this could not have been done without your contributions. How many hearts and lives did we touch? We will never know, We hope that you enjoyed your participation in this ministry, and we look forward to working with each of you next year. We did have some leftovers which will be used to serve a lunch at the Elderly apartments, and the Senior Citizen housing. If you would like to help in preparation, or delivery of this meal which we hope to do in January, please speak to Darla, Kaye or Liz.



Littleton ACTS food distribution dates for January are January 8th and January 22nd (9:30-12:00). Our church is responsible for providing the volunteers for January. Please speak to Darla, Kaye, Liz or Rob if you would like to become a part of this ministry.



## 5th Sunday Brunch

Our next 5th Sunday Fellowship Brunch will be on January 31st in the Chapel. Invite a friend or neighbor to worship with us that Sunday and to stay for a GREAT brunch afterwards!

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.

*Thank You*

*Dear Congregation of LUMC:  
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. This was such a surprise! May each of you have a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.  
Tom Parker*

2009



Breakfast with

Santa



Thank you  
from Tom Parker

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas! A special thank you goes to all choir members, guest choir members, readers, Janet Weaver for playing the flute, Lewis Fields for playing the guitar, and anyone else who assisted in the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 20.

May God bless each of you in the new year!

Tom Parker

# Lessons & Carols



**Left:** Lewis Fields plays the prelude for the Lessons & Carols service.



**Right:** Lois & Janet Weaver enjoy the Christmas Fellowship Supper after the performance.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Helen Burtchell

The Outreach Committee was very busy this December. With the help of Pat Zeismann, we were able to obtain a pair of glasses for a woman that needed them very badly.

We also provided food for 6 families (about 25 people) for Thanksgiving.

For Christmas we did about the same. One woman said that she did not know where she was going to get food for the family, and was surprised when we showed up with a big turkey and all the trimmings.

These people need help all year, and that is what the Outreach Committee does. Thanks to all that helped us fill these needs in our own community.



*More pics...*



**Left:** Rachel flirts with the guy behind her (Sherm the Muffin Maker) during the service.

**Right:** The Townsend family poses in front of the Christmas tree.



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
Alan Burtchell	23
Carol Guidry	24

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](mailto:susanmerchant@gmail.com) or call 586-7866.

# LUMC Committees 2010

## Worship

Tom Parker (CP), Rob Licht, Anne Smith, Martha Sherman, Shirley Anschutz, Greg Solovieff, Liz Solovieff, Ed Angel, Darla Angel, Trudi May, Sherman Merchant, Connie Henry, Lee Reinhardt, Dick O' Sullivan, Don Henry, Irene O' Sullivan

## Shepherding

Darla Angel (Co-CP)  
Helen Burtchell (Co- CP)  
Liz Solovieff  
Matt Johnston  
Ed Angel  
Sherman Merchant

## Congregational Care

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

## Discipleship

Helen Burtchell (CP)  
Diana Parham  
Margie Drescher  
Pat Zeismann

## Trustees

Shirley Anschutz (CP)  
Sherman Merchant  
Richard O'Sullivan  
Richard Sherman  
Don Henry  
Julie Johnston  
Jean Jarvis  
Jimmy King

## Outreach

Helen Burtchell (CP)  
Richard O'Sullivan  
Marion Harries  
Sue Merchant  
Connie Henry  
Irene O'Sullivan  
Pat Zeismann  
Darla Angel

## Age Level & Family

Ministries  
Diana Parham (CP)  
Julie Johnston  
Macon White  
Kaye Herman  
Bob Hayes  
Sherman Merchant  
Martha Hayes  
Carol Townsend

## Pastor-Parish Relations

Sherman Merchant (CP)  
Jean Jarvis  
Susannah Sherman  
Lois Weaver  
Richard Sherman  
Helen Burtchell

## Lay Leadership

Rob Licht (CP)  
Gail Workman  
Helen Burtchell  
Jack May  
A.J. Lunde  
Lois Weaver  
Anna Brown

## Memorials

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

## Kitchen

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

## Missions

Richard Sherman (CP)  
Susannah Sherman  
Marion Harries  
Irene O'Sullivan  
Dick O'Sullivan  
Elizabeth Solovieff  
Margie Drescher  
Alan Burtchell  
Mary Ann Johnston  
Ed Angel  
Peggy Fowler

## 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  
Richard Sherman

## Public Relations

Sherman Merchant (CP), Della Batts

## Scholarship

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

## Non-Rotating

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

## Representatives & Coordinators

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Nursery	Altar Flowers	Communion Stewards	Lay Reader
Jan 3	Kay Newsom Frances Howell	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant George Alston	<b>Nov and Dec The nursery will be staffed as needed by available nursery workers.</b>	Communion	Ed & Darla Angel	Diana Parham Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12
Jan 10	Jill Russo Leah O'Brien	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant George Alston		Skip & Shirley Anschutz	N/A	Elizabeth Solovieff Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17
Jan 17	Martha Hayes Julie Johnston	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant George Alston		Skip & Shirley Anschutz	N/A	Bob Workman Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Jan 24	Connie Henry Jean Houston	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant George Alston		Skip & Shirley Anschutz	N/A	Lois Weaver Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Jan 31	Loretta Woodburn Anna Brown	Lee Reinhardt Sherm Merchant George Alston		Skip & Shirley Anschutz	N/A	Gail Workman Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Feb 7	Betsy Medlin Jean Houston	Bob Workman Al Prescott Ed Angel		Communion	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan	Greg Solovieff Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Feb 14	Marj Prescott Peg Fowler	Bob Workman Al Prescott Ed Angel		Need someone	N/A	Marie Fields Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Feb 21	Barbara Reinhardt Sue Merchant	Bob Workman Al Prescott Ed Angel		Need someone	N/A	Susannah Sherman Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Romans 10:8b-13
Feb 28	Maj Johnston Marie Fields	Bob Workman Al Prescott Ed Angel		Need someone	N/A	Darla Angel Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1
March 7	TBA	TBA		Communion	Hal & Dianne Goff	Matt Johnston Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11:15 Trustees 1:00 pm Mary Lucy Self Circle	2 10:00 am Bible Study	3 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4	5 	6
7 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	8 10am Beckham- Ransom Circle 7pm Admin Council	9 10:00 am Bible Study Noon: Women in Christian Fellowship 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10	11	12 9 am Food Delivery 10-12 Littleton ACTS Food Pantry	13 7am Christian Men at Work
14 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	15  1:00 pm Sewing Group / Blanket Bee	16  10:00 am Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17  10:00 am Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18	19  Warren Hills Birthday Party	20
21 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	22  10 am UMW meeting	23 10:00 am Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24	25	26 10-12 Littleton ACTS Food Pantry 	27
28 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School						

# January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	4 11:15 Trustees 1:00 pm Mary Lucy Self Circle	5	6 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7	8 9 am Food Delivery 9:30-12 Littleton ACTS - Food Pantry 7:00 pm Family Movie Night	9 3:00 pm Memorial Service for Sue Beazley
10 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	11 10am Beckham- Ransom Circle 7pm Administrative Council	12 5pm Game Night	13 10:00 am Bible Study Noon: Women In Christian Fellowship	14	15  Warren Hills Birthday Party	16
17 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	18  1:00 pm Sewing Group / Blanket Bee	19	20 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21	22 9:30-12 Littleton ACTS Food Pantry 	23
24 10 am Worship Service 11:20 Sunday School	25  10 am UMW meeting	26	27 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 10 am Worship Service 11:30 5th Sunday Brunch						

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

**Family Movie Nights:**



January 8th:  
*Princess Protection  
Program*



February 5th:  
*Cloudy with a Chance  
of Meatballs*

**THINGS SAID IN SECRET**

**Julie Ackerman Link**

Submitted by Elizabeth Solovieff

Some say that anonymity is the last refuge for cowards. Judging from mail and comments I've read that have been submitted anonymously, I would agree. People hiding behind the screen of anonymity or a false identity feel the freedom to launch angry, hurtful tirades. Anonymity allows them to be unkind without having to take responsibility for their words.

Whenever I am tempted to write something anonymously because I don't want to be identified with my own words, I stop and reconsider. If I don't want my name attached to it, I probably shouldn't be saying it. Then I do one of two things: I either toss it out or I rewrite it in a way that makes it helpful rather than hurtful.

According to Ephesians, our words should edify and impart grace(4:29). If I'm unwilling to use my name, there's reason to believe that my motive is to hurt, not to help.

Whenever you're tempted to say something in secret, perhaps to a family member, co-worker, or your pastor, consider why you don't want your name to be identified with your words. After all, if you don't want to be identified with your words, God probably doesn't either. He is gracious and slow to anger, and we should be the same.

*O Lord, help us to turn aside  
From words that spring from selfish pride,  
For You would have Your children on  
In praise and love for Your dear Son.—D. De Haan*