

Big News

from

Littleton United Methodist Church

September / October 2011

Littleton United Methodist Church “A Place for You”

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

Office: 252-586-5385
Email: awarren@nccumc.org
www.littleton-umc.org

Pastor: Arthur Warren
Lay Leader: Tim Townsend

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am



Claire Herman & Trey Johnston enjoyed their week at Vacation Bible School. See more VBS photos on page 6.



*A note from
Pastor Arthur*



Matthew 23:1-12

Called to be a Blessing

There was a wonderful spirit of God's presence among those who attended the 2011 Convocation on the Rural Church at Myrtle Beach, SC. The theme this year, "Down to Earth Faith," was inviting us to recognize God's grace and presence in the lives of those we serve. Every family, church community and culture have stories that reveal who they are while at the same time they are being shaped and formed by those stories.

I am thankful to be serving within the Littleton United Methodist Church and the Littleton community. I look forward to hearing and learning more of your stories as we continue to experience God's grace and mercy among us. We are all blessed by God and have been invited by God to be His witnesses every day in all aspects of our lives. We are to live the faith and gospel of Jesus Christ daily as an invitation to welcome everyone into the family of God's people who are saved by God's unconditional love and acceptance. God's love must be lived out in our lives so that God's grace can work among the people of our communities and everywhere we have opportunity to encounter others along life's journey. We know that God will continue to make God's self known to others with or without our help, but people filled with God's love will continually express the light and presence of God to those around them. This is all possible because of God's grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit that lives within our lives. We have the means of grace - Scripture, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Prayer and Christian fellowship - as avenues through which God is able to strengthen our relationship with God and with one another. I encourage each of us to be faithful in participating in these and other opportunities to develop our spiritual lives as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

My story of faith begins with my Christian family being very active in the life of our local congregation at Beulah UMC. Growing up on a farm also enhanced my relationship with God through the constant awareness of our dependence upon God for the outcome of our daily labor. It taught me to trust God through all the ups and downs of life. But it was my experience with small groups my senior year of college and the daily reading of Scripture that prepared me to encounter God's grace in a more profound way. I sensed God's presence with me and received the assurance that God would sustain me in whatever God desired for me to accomplish with my life.

I was privileged after graduating from College at UNC-Wilmington to begin farming with my Father and soon thereafter become a part-time local pastor at the Mount Moriah UMC. During this time I married Becky, my wife of 35 years, and we have been blessed with three daughters. I realize more than ever the goodness and mercy of our loving Heavenly Father. God is continually at work guiding and blessings our lives to be instruments of His grace. We are to live in praise of His glorious name.

God has provided abundantly for His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ, and now we are all called to be a blessing in response to His love, mercy and grace. Let us all join together in continuing our faith story at Littleton UMC that others may know our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Your pastor,
Arthur

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Richard Sherman, Admin Council Chairman

If you enjoyed the movie (I did) this fits right in.

About three years ago the Methodist Church in El Salvador had so many projects to help people it was in overload. The President (roughly a DS) Juan de Dios Pena was especially overloaded trying to grow the church, manage projects and work with mission teams. He started thinking in terms of establishing a charitable foundation for the “good works” projects that would be separate from, but work in partnership with the church. In USA terms, a 501(c)3 foundation. At some point Juan will no longer be Church President and could then focus on the foundation. Aside from the paperwork, where/how/when to start and who would help were problems to be overcome. A small group started sorting through ideas on how to do this.

And the game begins. Last August (2010) the two vacant lots next to Juan’s home were listed for sale. Sitting around talking after the day’s house building work we laid out a plan to buy the lots, build a home and perhaps an office as a start toward having a safe, convenient and attractive place for an assistant to live and work. Funds were raised and construction started last January. Masons who were church members were hired and other El Salvadorian church members and some USA mission people did the building. Along the way the residence grew into a residence and attached “dormitory” and meeting area. Even before it was complete it was being used for pastor training and by teams and other visitors as a place to stay. I had a chance to work on some of the finishing work this past first week of August.

Meanwhile, the General Board of the US Methodist Church had become impressed and confident in the work of the Church in El Salvador. They have agreed to support a full time missionary in El Salvador for a period of nine years. A substantial vote of confidence in the progress and direction of the church. Paige Martin who is the Assistant Director of Field Education at Duke Divinity School has agreed to a three year term as the first missionary. She starts (has started) the 1st of September. All of the churches are ministered to by “local pastors” so pastor training will be a prime duty. More outside funding may become available. More contacts in the USA will follow. A foundation to do much more good for people who need a boost to a better life is well in sight.

At the end of our mission week, we were sitting around and being pleased with the progress we had made over the past three years and talking about how well all the pieces had fallen into place. And wondering how much help had come in ways we will never know. Jamie Stockman from the Apex Methodist Church quietly noted “build it and they will come”.

Yes indeed! Life is Good!



Another **Vacation Bible School** week is behind us. Those volunteers who helped out (and there were **many**), can attest to the fact that “A Good Time was Had by All!” As always, our church teamed with the Littleton Baptist, Littleton Presbyterian and Lakeside Lutheran churches for this community event. Littleton Baptist was the host church this year and the theme was “Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street—Where Jesus makes a difference every day” The games, crafts, skits and music were outstanding.. If you were there, you’re probably still humming the tunes!

A great big **“thank you”** to all of the volunteers who helped make the event special for the children of the community! (see photos on page 6)

UMW

Helen Burtchell, President

The United Methodist Women will next meet on Monday, September 26th at 10am in the conference room. Please try to attend as more decisions need to be made. We also need to plan a UMW Sunday. Please call me at 586-4682 if you have any questions.

CONVERSATION DINNERS

A reminder to conversation dinner participants: hosts for the third quarter should try to schedule their dinners before the end of September. If you were scheduled as a host for the first or second quarter, and haven’t hosted your dinner, please try to have it as soon as possible. Thank you!



Above: the Angels, the Fowlers and the Prescotts enjoyed their dinner hosted by Dick & Irene O’Sullivan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Fowler, Chairman

Well, church members, we are seven months into the fiscal year and we are financially holding our own thanks to careful expense controls by your leadership group and some special gifts. Income has been sufficient to cover the church operating expenses but we are quite short in meeting our "Apportionment" obligations to the District. Your giving disciplines and generosity will be much appreciated as we try to finish the year with the satisfaction we have met all our obligations.

Your chair is now working on the 2012 budget and will be studying what it will take to meet our obligations next year. Please feel free to share with me any special insights you may have as this will be my first time through this process.

CHAPEL COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Elizabeth Solovieff

We all have enjoyed the untiring efforts of Susannah Sherman in setting up coffee/ tea/juice for us. Please take a moment to thank her for not only setting up but also doing the cleanup every Sunday. She has made sure that everything is always perfect and ready for us as we gather to fellowship after church over a nice cup of coffee and the donated treats. Susannah will be vacationing at the end of the month, so we are in need of another volunteer to take over. If you would like for this tradition to continue, and are willing to make sure everything is in place for coffee on Sundays, please speak to or call Darla, Kaye, or Elizabeth.



Above: Maria & Olivia Setzer, daughter and granddaughter of Pastor Arthur & Becky, enjoyed a snack and fellowship in the chapel following the worship service.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee's have completed the furnishing of our parsonage family room; my thanks to everyone's donations and labor in preparation for Becky and Arthur's arrival. The issue with moisture in the parsonage AC unit has been corrected by Air Boss and hopefully this will fix the moisture collecting around the duct work insulation. The bubbles in the fellowship hall carpet and seams have been repaired; plus the carpet in one of the Sunday school building restrooms has been replaced, and the hall and office carpet has been stretched and glued. Carpet cleaning for the fellowship hall, chapel, sanctuary and possibly the office areas will be completed on Sep. 1st. Our next major project is to decide what and how to resolve the erosion and improve the area behind the fellowship hall. Suggestions are welcome. As a result of the lighting strike on the bell tower, a new telephone line was installed, we replaced the computer and printer in Arthur's office, new wireless router was installed, fire alarm in the fellowship hall was repaired; and including the bell tower damage the expenses total \$9700. We should recover all but our insurance deductible of \$500.

Blessings,
Ed Angel, Trustee Chair

DISTRICT MEETING

Reverend Caswell Shaw, Rocky Mount District Superintendent, has called a District Meeting for communicating the Transition Team Survey findings and hearing local responses on September 18, 2011, at First UMC, Rocky Mount from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Members of the Conference Transition Team have been invited to make a presentation of the survey findings and hear/respond to questions. We will attempt to develop a list of questions prior to the meeting to be submitted to the Transition Team.

We encourage pastors, laity and laity committees of our local churches to respond to the survey that will be available online until August 31, 2011, and please encourage all your church members to come with you to this District Meeting on September 18. The Transition Team has begun its work and is eager to receive and consider contributions regarding the implementation of the decision.

Please provide your thoughts to the team by offering your reflections on the six-question survey, which can be anonymous, if you desire. If you choose to leave your name and contact information in the field with your response, the team will have the option of following up with you for further conversation.

Immediately following the District meeting the Committee on District Superintendency will host a reception for Reverend Caswell Shaw and his wife, Pat. We would like to formally welcome Caswell back to the leadership of the Rocky Mount District. The Committee chose to have a reception instead of an Order of Worship for the installation of our new District Superintendent.

Sincerely,
Fred Hight - Chair, Committee on District Superintendency

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Helen Burtchell, chair

For many years our Outreach Committee has celebrated at monthly birthday parties for the Warren Hills Nursing Home residents. We really need some help so that this tradition may continue.

On the 3rd Friday of each month, we meet at Warren Hills at 2:00. We serve soda, snacks and ice cream to the residents. The names of the residents who have a birthday that month are announced and we give each of them a balloon. We help with cleanup, and are usually finished by 3:00.

In August, we served 55 residents. That's a lot of people counting on us! If you would like to help with this rewarding church ministry, please call me at 586-4682.



GAME NIGHTS

They're not at night anymore! We're going to try something new - lunch and games. The first one will be on Tuesday, October 4th. We'll serve lunch at noon, followed by games until 2:00.



Bring your friends and your favorite games!

Save those empty ink cartridges!

Empty printer cartridges may be returned to Staples for credit on purchases. If you like, you may give your empty cartridges to Sherm Merchant, and he will use the credit toward office supplies for the church.

Thank You

The congregation of LUMC would like to thank the Estate of Isabel Sue Nelson in memory of her parents, Sue Johnston Nelson and Meynardie Nelson for the generous gift to our church.

NOTES
from the Choir Room



Tom Parker,
Organist/ Choir Director

The choir will resume weekly rehearsals beginning Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

A Little Challenge...

Submitted by Kaye Herman

Let's have some fun and test ourselves. There are **16 books of the Bible (Old and New) hidden in the following article.** See if you can find all of them.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts; and for some it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized; but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations, when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.

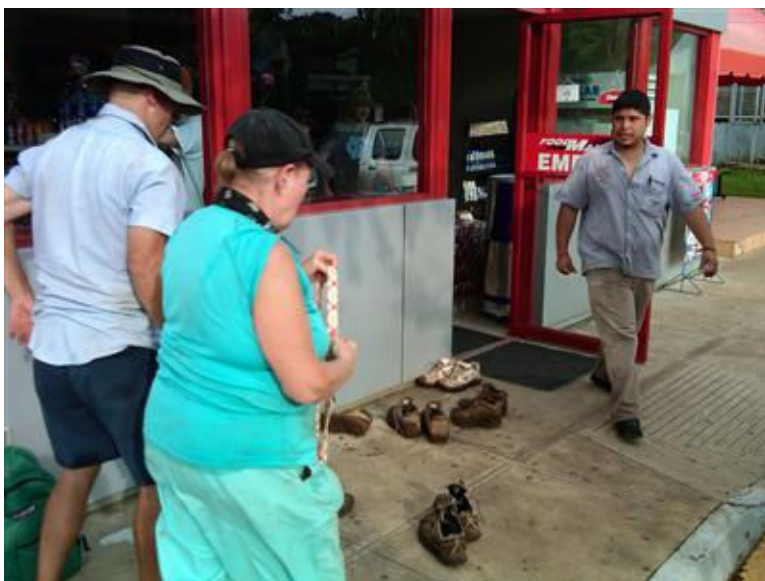
Answers on back page....no peeking!

EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP 2011
Richard Sherman, Missions Committee Chairman

Our mission to El Salvador was rainy, muddy and successful. Pictures tell much of the story but here is 50 words or less version.

There were 26 people from six churches. We built three homes for families who lived in shacks built out of stuff they found. The first three days it rained so we worked in the mud - sticky nasty mud. At the end of the day I just wore my clothes into the shower to give them a soapy "pre-rinse". Each night on the way back to the "motel" we stopped at a convenience store for snacks & drinks - the clerks made us leave our shoes outside.

It was a great week!!



Would you like to assist with education and/or food expenses for the El Salvadoran families that we work with? Elementary School is \$235/year, High School is \$440/year and University is \$720/year. \$60 will feed a family for a month. Any donation would be appreciated. Richard Sherman has contact info for the church who is handling the account for the donations.



V.B.S. 2011





FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS

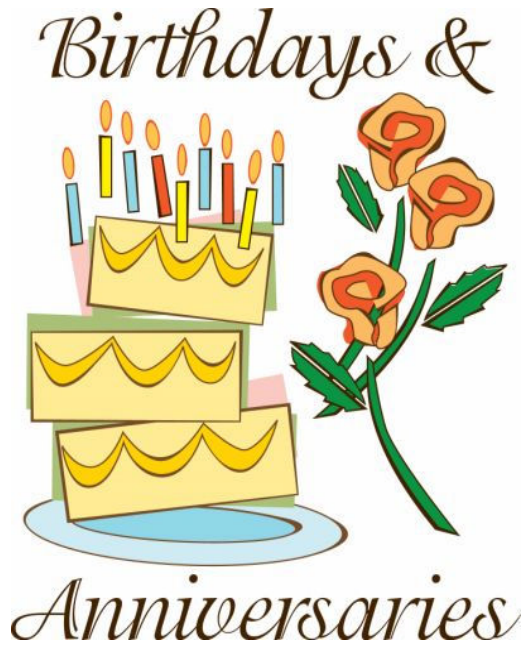
A big **THANK YOU** to **Matt Johnston** for hosting the July fellowship supper (photos above), and to **Shirley Anschutz** for hosting the August fellowship supper (photos left and below).





***July 4th
Pancake Breakfast
&
Littleton Parade***





September Birthdays	Date
Gabrielle Palmer	1
Morgan Johnson	1
Irene O' Sullivan	6
George Alston	20
Macon White	21
Anne Smith	22

October Birthdays	Date
Bob Hayes	3
Martha Hayes	6
Mandy Outman	13
Hugh Fowler	14
Bill Weaver	18
Judy Woodburn	18
Lewis Fields	19
Sylvia Alston	25
Dorothy Eisenson	28

September Anniversaries	Date
Gail & Bob Workman	23

October Anniversaries	Date
Irene & Dick O'Sullivan	18
Trudi & Jack May	25

LUMC COMMITTEES 2011

Worship

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

Congregational Care Lay Leadership Memorials

Jean Houston (CP)
Susan Merchant
Loretta Woodburn
Barbara Reinhardt
Marion Harries

Rob Licht (CP)
Gail Workman
Helen Burtchell
Lois Weaver
Anna Brown
Jean Jarvis
Mike Herman

Matt Johnston (CP)
George Alston
Trudi May

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 O'Sullivan
Diana Parham
Matt Johnston

Evangelism

Darla Angel (CO-CP)
Helen Burtchell (CO-CP)
Liz Solovieff
Matt Johnston
Ed Angel
Sherman Merchant
Diana Parham
Margie Drescher
Pat Ziesmann

Kitchen

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

Membership

Marj Prescott

Admin Council

Richard Sherman CP

Outreach

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

Finance

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

Missions

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

Sunday School

Jean Jarvis

Scholarship

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

Non-Rotating

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

Public Relations

Sherman Merchant (CP), Della Batts

Representatives & Coordinators

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Flowers	Communion Stewards	Lay Reader
Sept 4	Anna Brown Martha Hayes	Jack May Sherrn Merchant Al Prescott	Communion	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan	Bruce Fowler Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 150 Romans 13:8-14
Sept 11	Loretta Woodburn Frances Howell	Jack May Sherrn Merchant Al Prescott	Need Someone	N/A	Bob Workman Exodus 14:19-31 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12
Sept 18	Marjorie Beyer Sue Merchant	Jack May Sherrn Merchant Al Prescott	Need Someone	N/A	Lois Weaver Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30
Sept 25	Margie Drescher Jean Houston	Jack May Sherrn Merchant Al Prescott	Need Someone	N/A	Gail Workman Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13
Oct 2	Pat Chance Betsy Medlin	Matt Johnson Richard Sherman George Alston	Communion	Greg & Liz Solovieff	Greg Solovieff Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14
Oct 9	Connie Henry Maj Johnston	Matt Johnson Richard Sherman George Alston	Need Someone	N/A	Marie Fields Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9
Oct 16	Janet Houston Peg Fowler	Matt Johnson Richard Sherman George Alston	Need Someone	N/A	Darla Angel Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Oct 23	Mari Prescott Jean Houston	Matt Johnson Richard Sherman George Alston	Need Someone	N/A	Susannah Sherman Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Oct 30	Barbara Reinhardt Margie Drescher	Matt Johnson Richard Sherman George Alston	Need Someone	N/A	Matt Johnston Joshua 3: 7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 I Thessalonians 2:9-13



Fri Sep 2, 2011
9am Food delivery
Where: meet at Food Lion

Sun Sep 4, 2011
10am Worship Service

Mon Sep 5, 2011
1pm Mary Lucy Self Circle

Tue Sep 6, 2011
7pm Staff Parish committee meeting

Wed Sep 7, 2011
10am Bible Study
5:30pm Worship Committee
7pm Choir practice

Fri Sep 9, 2011
9am Food delivery
Where: meet at Food Lion

Sat Sep 10, 2011
7am Christian Men at Work

Sun Sep 11, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Sep 12, 2011
10am Beckham-Ransom Circle
12pm Trustees meeting
Where: Casa Mia's Restaurant
7pm Admin Council

Tue Sep 13, 2011
7pm Lay Leadership meeting
Description: Nominations for Church Officers for 2012

Wed Sep 14, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice

Fri Sep 16, 2011
2pm Warren Hills Birthday party

Sun Sep 18, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School
3pm District Meeting First UMC Rocky Mount
Where: First UMC Rocky Mount
Description: Transition Team report and Reception for our District Superintendent, Rev. Caswell Shaw and his wife, Pat.

Mon Sep 19, 2011
1pm Blanket Bee

Wed Sep 21, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice

Fri Sep 23, 2011
10am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sun Sep 25, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Sep 26, 2011
10am UMW
1pm GBOD, Extravagant Generosity Workshop
Where: St. James UMC, Greenville, NC

Wed Sep 28, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice



Sat Oct 1, 2011
6pm Sweet Dreams with Dr. Leonard Sweet
Where: North Raleigh Hilton \$50/person
Description: Fund raiser for the NC Conference Camps and Retreat Ministries

Sun Oct 2, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Oct 3, 2011
12pm Trustees meeting
Where: Casa Mia's Restaurant
1pm Mary Lucy Self Circle

Tue Oct 4, 2011
12pm Lunch & Games
7pm Finance Committee meeting

Wed Oct 5, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice

Fri Oct 7, 2011
9am Food delivery
Where: meet at Food Lion

Sat Oct 8, 2011
10am NC Conference Historical Society meeting
Where: The United Methodist Bldg, Garner, NC
1pm Commission on Archives and History
Where: The United Methodist Bldg, Garner, NC

Sun Oct 9, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Oct 10, 2011
10am Beckham-Ransom Circle
7pm Admin Council

Wed Oct 12, 2011
10am Bible Study
12pm Women in Christian Fellowship
7pm Choir practice

Fri Oct 14, 2011
9am Food delivery
Where: meet at Food Lion

Sun Oct 16, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Oct 17, 2011
1pm Blanket Bee

Wed Oct 19, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice

Fri Oct 21, 2011
2pm Warren Hills Birthday party

Sat Oct 22, 2011
4pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sun Oct 23, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

Mon Oct 24, 2011
10am UMW

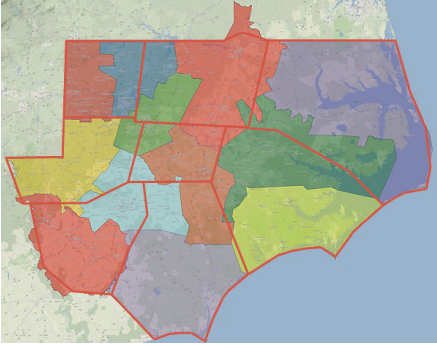
Wed Oct 26, 2011
10am Bible Study
7pm Choir practice

Fri Oct 28, 2011
10am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sun Oct 30, 2011
10am Worship Service
11:15am Sunday School

***** Mon Nov 7, 2011**
7pm Charge Conference

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



Proposed re-districting for the
NC Conference - from 12 to 8 districts.
More info: www.nccumc.org

Answers to the challenge on page 4:

I once made a re**mark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lu**lu**, **kept** people loo**king** so hard for **facts**; and for some it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, **es**pecially since the names of the books were not capitalized; but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a mos**t fascinating few moments for you. **Yes**, **ther**e will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it us**ually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations**, when it is found. A little lady says **he brews** a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can com**pete**. **Relax** for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.

Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter