

# Big News From Littleton United Methodist Church



## Haley's Comment

Dear LUMC family,



Though I'm usually the one going on a mission, I had a rare privilege last month. I hosted a youth mission team from Canada. The team of high school students traveled to North Carolina during their Spring Break to work on Habitat for Humanity projects. The group was led by Lisa Guch, a high school teacher. Lisa is a friend of ours from Habitat for Humanity projects in El Salvador. The team members came from several communities and churches. Thanks to some of our folks who helped provide meals for the team while they were here. The students wondered about "orange-colored" sandwiches (pimento cheese), and they never quite adjusted to sweet tea. But we gave them lessons in how to talk "Southern."

One of the unusual aspects of the team was that not all the kids knew each other prior to the trip. But, as so often happens in an experience like this, they quickly bonded. The evening after their first day working, I was present for a group meeting. It is this experience which I would like to share in my column this month, because it deeply touched me. After certain schedule matters had been taken care of, the kids began to offer encouragement to one another. Boys and girls would call out the names of other kids and say something to encourage them. For example, one said to another teen, "I want to encourage you because you tried something today you didn't know how to do, and you quickly caught on." Another called out the name of a boy and said, "I want to encourage him because I appreciate him putting up with me today."

I truly felt like I was on holy ground! What a wonderful picture of what a church ought to be like. It's so easy to criticize when someone does something we don't like, or more often, when it wasn't done

the way we would have done it. How easy it is to criticize someone for trying something when we do little or nothing.

But how much more productive it would be in the life of our church if we focused on trying to encourage each other! What if our church had the reputation in the community of being a place where you get encouragement instead of criticism? New folks would be attending every week because in our world today encouragement is too often in short supply. I fear this may be too great a challenge for us. After all, we tend to think that criticizing is much easier and much more fun than giving encouragement.

These Canadian teens gave me a lot to think about. I think they're on to something. They were so busy encouraging one another, that they completed five days of work at one site in three days, and five days of work at the other site in four days. I wonder...if we focused more on encouraging one another... could we accomplish more for the Kingdom of God? I wonder.

May God bless you and help us to be encouraging towards one another within our congregation.

Because of Him we serve,

Pastor David Haley



**Pictured Above: Youth Mission Team at Habitat House**

## Holy Week Services

The Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion will be held earlier in the day this year. In an effort to encourage more persons to attend, the service has been scheduled for 5:30 PM on April 13. This service commemorates Jesus' last supper with His disciples.

Again this year, we will join with other churches for a Community Good Friday Service to be held at Lakeside Lutheran Church from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM on April 14. This service is based on the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross. Littleton UMC has been assigned the saying, "I thirst." Our approximate time slot is 1:44-2:08 PM. Our choir will sing and our pastor will preach during that time. Everyone is invited to attend all or part of this special worship service.



## About the United Methodist Church

Each month in this space there will be an article explaining some aspect of who we are as United Methodists. We'll cover such topics as how we're organized, what we believe, and where we came from. If you have specific questions you would like to see addressed in this space, pass them along to the pastor.

A frequently asked question is, "how is a United Methodist Church financed?" Each local congregation develops and approves its own local budget. Each local congregation is also assigned a fair share of the denominational expenses called apportionments. The local congregation's Finance Committee develops a proposed budget containing both local expenses and the apportionments for the upcoming year. This is done in the Fall. At the annual Charge Conference, the Pastor's salary and often the entire budget is approved after recommendation by the Administrative Council. The church members are then encouraged to pledge towards the support of the budget. The budget includes staff salaries, church utilities, program and administrative expenses, and benevolence/missions.

In addition to the support of the budget, additional special offerings are received during the year to support special causes and projects. Individuals may also give additional offerings to the Building Fund and/or to the endowment. LUMC, for example, has an endowment with the United Methodist Foundation to receive gifts and bequests so designated. The interest from the endowment is used towards maintenance and upkeep of the church owned facilities.

United Methodist Churches encourage tithing and emphasize proportional giving. Tithing is giving one tenth of your income to the church. Proportional Giving is described in 2 Corinthians 8.12 "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has--not according to what one does not have." It is simply giving as one is able, not limited to a certain percentage.

When a person joins a United Methodist Church, he/she takes membership vows, pledging to "...faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service." Our gifts supporting the budget provide the week to week operating expenses of the church.

## Read All About It—Book Review!

Review by: Loretta Woodburn, Church Librarian

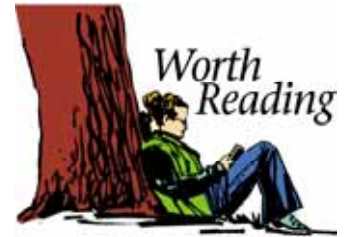
### *Popular Programs Based On Hymn Stories*

Written by: Ernest K. Emurian

This book is from our church's library, and it tells about how some hymns came to be, and about the people who wrote some of these hymns, and what church denominations they belonged to.

Some famous Methodists who wrote some hymns that are well-known include Charles Wesley and Fanny Crosby. Charles Wesley and his older brother, John, were both preachers from England and were the co-founders of Methodism. Charles wrote 6,500 hymns, including "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "A Charge to Keep I Have," "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," as well as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

Fanny Crosby, a blind American Methodist woman, wrote many well-known hymns, including "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," "Draw Me Nearer," "Blessed Assurance," and "Jesus is Tenderly Calling." An illiterate housemaid applied hot poultices to Fanny's eyes, when she was six weeks old, causing permanent blindness. The dictionary defines poultices as; "moist, soft masses of bread, meal, clay, or other adhesive substances, usually heated, spread on cloth, and applied to warm, moisten, or stimulate an aching or inflamed part of the body." Her father died when she was twelve months old, leaving her to be raised by her mother and grandmother. When she was fifteen, she entered the Institution for twelve years and as an instructor for many years after graduation. A biography about her by Bernard Ruffin can be found in our church's library.



## A Note From Marj

Dear Friends,

Your heartwarming prayers, calls and cards were much appreciated during the past 6 weeks, and I thank you very much. I feel so fortunate to be a member of such a thoughtful and caring congregation!

In God's Love,

Marj Prescott



## Littleton Baptist Church News



Littleton Baptist Church will host a special program on Sunday evening, April 23 at 5:00 PM. Special guests will be Dr. Tony and Rev. Jan Cartledge. Tony is Editor of the N.C. Baptist news journal *The Biblical Recorder*, and Jan leads a church in the Cary area. The Cartledges will share testimony, speak, and provide a seminar of their experience with grief in the death of their 7 year old daughter Bethany from a drunk driver. They have recorded their experiences in a book they co-authored, [A Whole New World, Life After Bethany](#).

As ministers, both Tony and Jan struggled with the theological implications of tragedy and loss, as well as the psychological polarities of choosing to live as victims or as survivors. Their story will touch the hearts, minds and spirits of those who hear them and read their book. The program will conclude around 7:00 PM and will include a reception midway.

## Briefly Noted

Pastor David

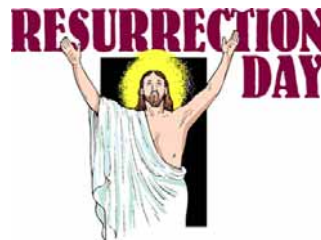
- Your Pastor has been approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to be recommended for commissioning as an Elder in Full Connection at the NC Annual Conference meeting in June.
- A meeting of the Committee on Lay Ministries will be scheduled for May to replace vacancies in our committees. Committee Chairs should advise the pastor if there are vacancies on your committee or if there are additional persons who need to be added to your committee.
- Be on the lookout for a new music resource. Copies of the supplement to our hymnal entitled *The Faith We Sing* have been ordered and will soon be found in the hymnal racks in the sanctuary.
- Nursery workers and Sunday School workers are still needed. Contact Martha Hayes or Darla Angel to sign up for Nursery duty and Jean Jarvis to sign up to be a Sunday School worker.
- The Bible study on the Book of Genesis from a New Testament perspective being taught by Bob Workman on Thursday evenings has been discontinued until late Spring.
- The Flower Calendar is located on the bulletin board outside the church offices. Sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary for a Sunday morning this Spring.
- "Loafing" for Missions: Shirley & Skip Anschutz and Susannah Sherman have been selling homemade bread with the proceeds going to support missions. They will have loaves of bread for sale on the fourth Sunday of April.

## Easter

Pastor David

The Feast of the Resurrection of Christ is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. It is preceded by Lent and Holy Week, derived from the ancient

custom of preparing converts for baptism. The catechumens (converts who have studied in preparation for baptism) would watch all Saturday night, then be baptized early on Easter Day and receive Holy Communion. The date of Easter is determined by the Pashal Full Moon, and so varies from March 21 to April 25. Different methods have been used across the centuries to calculate the date, often resulting in conflict and controversy. For example, the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter a week later this year than Protestants and Roman Catholics. Most likely, Easter like Christmas, has incorporated some pagan customs in its celebration. Thus the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs have no Biblical basis, but have been included as part of popular culture. Easter is appropriately the day when more persons attend church than any other day of the year. Early Christians changed their main worship day from Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath) to Sunday (the day of the resurrection) in honor of Easter.



### How Crucial is the Resurrection?

We cherish the birth of Jesus, his wisdom, his loving deeds, his courage in the face of a brutal death, but it is Christ's resurrection which is absolutely crucial to Christian beliefs.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explained that the Resurrection was the foundation of our Christian belief system. He insisted that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we who believe in eternal life have no hope for it at all. "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, NRSV).

Finally, Paul expresses very clearly how critical the Resurrection is to our Christian hope. "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:19, NRSV).

Once again, Lord, we are astounded by the incomparable and glorious event of Easter.



To remember how you conquered sin and evil through the resurrection of Jesus stirs up joy and hope within us.

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are "in Christ" have the assurance of eternal life.

Furthermore, to have the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion assures us of grace that never fails us.

Finally, it is a certainty that all things good and desirable are possible for those who love you, because Christ lives and reigns as King of our lives.

All praise and glory to you, loving Creator, now and forever! Amen. *-Charles Ferrell*

## Bible quiz



While a crowd greeted Jesus with cheering approval on Palm Sunday, some people were quite disturbed with the crowd's actions. They thought the demonstration was "out of order" and asked Jesus to silence the crowd. Jesus responded that if the people were silent, "the \_\_\_\_\_ would shout out" (Luke 19:40, NRSV).

What did Jesus say would shout out?

- A. trees
- B. stones
- C. animals
- D. sky

(Answer on page 5)



**Above: LUMC Members enjoy Game Night at Mordecai's.**

## Age Level & Family Ministries Committee

Martha Hayes, Chairperson

LUMC Family Game Night was a big success! The turnout was great, everyone really enjoyed the fun and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who came. A special thank you to Julie Johnston who cooked the wonderful burgers and baked beans, and to Maj, Ellen and Julie for the use of Mordecai's Restaurant. We will be setting a date for the next game night and will let everyone know; it will be in May. We hope everyone will be able to come.

April 7th is our monthly Community Family Movie Night. We will show *Disney's, The Rescuers*, at 7pm in the fellowship hall. The movie is suitable for all ages - come join the fun!!



**Above: Wall Art / Habitat For Humanity Rocky Mount**



**So Much Fun!**

**Pictured Left:  
Girls Take a Break From  
Work to Smile for the  
Camera  
Habitat for Humanity  
Rocky Mount**

The Beckham/Ransom Circle will meet on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Kay Newsom's house. Devotion will be given by AJ Lunde.

The Mary Lucy Self Circle will meet on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 in the church board room. Please remember to bring your favorite recipes.



## Mission Committee

Liz Solovieff, Chairman

The Mission Committee will meet on Wed April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12noon in the LUMC Board Room. We still have cookbooks, note-cards and CD's for sale. The proceeds help support LUMC ongoing mission projects. Contact a Mission Committee member to purchase these items. (Greg & Liz Solovieff, Richard and Susannah Sherman, Dick & Irene O'Sullivan, or Pastor David).

## Canadian Youth Mission Team

Pastor David



**Pictured Above: Canadian Youth Team  
Nicole, Dan B., Kalea & Andy Enjoy Pizza**

Littleton UMC was privileged to help host a team of 17 teenagers and four adult chaperones from Ontario March 11-18. The team traveled to our area over their Spring break to work on Habitat for Humanity projects. After arriving on a Saturday evening, the team worshiped on Sunday morning at Littleton UMC. After

the service, the Lunch Bunch crew fed them lunch along with members of the Mission Committee and Admin Council. On Sunday evening, the team visited with the youth group at Littleton Baptist Church. One third of the team helped frame a house for the Halifax/Northampton Habitat affiliate. The house is located near Gaston, north of Roanoke Rapids. The remainder of the group worked on painting and construction projects at the Rocky Mount Habitat affiliate warehouse. The teens worked so hard that by Wednesday afternoon they had completed five days of work at the Gaston project. On Thursday the entire team worked at Rocky Mount and completed all of that work as well. On Friday, the Canadian team spent several hours at the John 3:16 Center assembling a swing-set and picking up broken glass from the playground. Some Littleton UMC members helped provide meals during the week, as did other churches and the Habitat affiliates. On Tuesday evening the team enjoyed an NHL hockey game in Raleigh. On Friday evening they attended a youth revival service at Oak Grove Baptist Church. After a full and busy week, they returned home to Canada, back to cold weather, with hearts warmed by "Southern hospitality."

## Trustees Report

Barney Watson, Chairman

The Trustees continue working on our church property. The workdays will continue on Tuesdays. Anyone who wishes to help, please call Don Beasley or Tim Townsend.

Everyone is already aware of our new investment, Lot 59R in Timber Creek Subdivision. Our primary purpose in purchasing this lot was to relocate our parsonage. The Littleton Baptist Church will purchase our old parsonage as soon as we find a suitable building to put on our lot. We are currently gathering prices on stick built homes as well as modular homes. We also continue to review existing homes as they become available for sale.

We are quickly finding modular homes are costing approximately 20% less than stick built homes. Actually, a modular home is an offsite stick built home in a controlled environment, transported to the lot and set on the permanent foundation.

We do have several guidelines we must adhere to, set by the Conference, in selecting a new parsonage. It should have four bedrooms, one could be used as an office. It should also have a formal living & dining room as well as a family room/den and an eat-in kitchen. As you can see, the Conference has established some tough guidelines we must follow and still stay with-in our budget. We will keep you posted as we gather information. When we conclude with our recommendation we will be holding another Charge Conference to obtain final approval from the congregation.

## UMW News

Sherry Watson, President

Feb 26th was UMW Sunday. Some UMW members were greeters, others ushers, Gail Workman was the Lay Reader, many ladies were singing in the choir, Pastor David (our Ex Officio UMW Member) lead the service, and Helen Burtchell preached a sermon titled "Passing the Torch." "Hope for a Brighter Future" was the UMW installation program selected by Laine Parks, Vice-President. As each officer came forward they were given a candle to hold. Pastor David lead the installation ceremony. He stated,



"You have said "yes" not only to United Methodist Women, but more importantly you have made a commitment to God. You are ready to be used by God in this specific way." He explained that by committing we were saying yes to untold thousands of women, children and youth whose hope is in God and for many, their future would be brighter because of United Methodist Women. Pastor David said, "We are people with hope—we have comfort in the resurrection hope. You are a light of hope. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus said that you are a light, a light on a candlestick that others might see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven. Each of us is to be a light. There are many kinds of light: candle, flash, search, stop, beacon, laser. . Think about what kind of light you are." Then he asked, "Will you light your candle of hope as a symbol of your commitment to fulfill your responsibilities to which you were elected and to United Methodist Women?" Each of us replied, "With Gods help, I will let my light shine so that women, children and youth will realize hope in their lives."

A long stem red rose was given to each lady, symbolizing God's love for them. The Special Mission Recognition and the Gift in Honor award were given to me this year. I was very touched by this. We truly are a UMW unit ready to be used by God in a specific way. I am grateful to be part of it.

The entire worship service, on UMW Sunday, was a beautiful reflection of how God's word gives us hope, and how God's love feeds us so that we can bring hope to others.

"Each of us is to be a light. What kind of light are you?"



April Birthdays	Date
Jack Houston	2
Betsy Howell	4
Anna Brown	5
Skip Anschutz	6
Maria Pope	11
Greg Solovieff	13
Jean Jarvis	15
Loretta Woodburn	16
Binky Haley	17
Margie Drescher	20
Richard Sherman	21
Jimmy King	22
Tim Townsend	24
Dick O'Sullivan	27

April Anniversaries	Date
Sherm & Sue Merchant	Apr 11



Answer to the Bible Quiz: B (stones)


Below: Front row L-R: Laine Parks (Vice-Pres), Marie Fields (Treasurer), Loretta Woodburn (Secretary), Lois Weaver (Social Action Chairman)

Back Row L-R: Sherry Watson (President), Pat Ziesmann (Secretary Program Resources and Education/Interpretation Chairman), Shirley Anschutz (Membership, Nurture, Outreach Chairman), Helen Burtchell (Nominating Committee Chairman and Past President)

Date	Nursery Schedule
Apr 2	10:00 Loretta & Need Someone 11:00 Need 2 people
Apr 9	10:00 Need 2 people 11:00 Shirley Anschutz & Anna Brown
Apr 16	10:00 Need 2 people 11:00 Need 2 people
Apr 23	10:00 Need 2 people 11:00 Need 2 people
Apr 30	10:00 Need 2 people 11:00 Need 2 people

**Nursery workers for 10:00 and 11:00:** If you can not be there, please call **Martha Hayes 586-6241** as soon as you know so she can find someone to fill the position. Please be in the nursery by 9:45am

You can sign up to help in the nursery by filling in your name on the calendar located on the bulletin board, outside the church office. If you have not worked in the nursery before please see Greg Solovieff to fill out volunteer forms.



Date	Child & Youth Sunday School
Apr - Jun	Pre-K: To Be Announced Elementary: A.J. Lunde Middle School: Carol & Tim Townsend

**Sunday School Teachers:** If you can not be there, please call **Jean Jarvis 533-0200** as soon as you know so she can find someone to fill the position.

Date	Lay Reader	Scripture
Apr 2	Don Beazley	Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-26
Apr 9	Sherry Watson	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-24; John 12:12-16
Apr 13	(Maundy Thurs) Darla Angel	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 16	Liz Solovieff	Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8
Apr 23	Marie Fields	Psalms 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2
Apr 30	Susannah Sherman	Psalms 4; Luke 24:36b-48

Date	Greeters • East Narthex	Greeters • West Narthex
Apr 2	Macon & Duane White	Betsy Medlin
Apr 9	Loretta Woodburn	Sally King
Apr 16	Della Batts & Michella	Frances & Betsy Howell
Apr 23	Kay Newsom	Rachael Ricks
Apr 30	Wanda Beamer	Louise Owen

**Note/Don't forget:** After the service greeters should stand at the narthex doors and tell everyone goodbye. If you are unable to greet, please call someone to take your place.

**April Ushers - East = Ed Angel & West = Mike Herman** (See Weekly Bulletin For Additional Ushers) **Note/Don't forget:** Ushers will make a head count/attendance and give the number to Pastor David. After church they will stand at the narthex doors and speak to the congregation as they leave. Ushers should straighten the pews and replace hymnals. If you are unable to usher please call someone to take your place.

Date	Flowers
Apr 2	Communion
Apr 9	Dick & Irene
Apr 16	Greg & Liz
Apr 23	Sally King
Apr 30	Kay Newsom

The following will prepare Communion for the next several months. If you cannot be here on your assigned Sunday to set up and clean up, you may trade with someone else, but please notify the Pastor.

Sun, 4/2	Greg & Liz Solovieff
Thurs, 4/13	(Maundy Thursday) Ed & Darla Angel
Sun, 5/7	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan

## Mission Team to Help Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery

A District mission team is being organized to go to Pascagoula, Mississippi, to work on hurricane relief projects. It will be led by Diane Christenson, pastor at Pinetops UMC. The team will leave on Friday, April 21 and return on Thursday, April 27. Costs will include two nights motel, meals en route, and \$10 per day there. Work may include roofing, sheet rock, flooring, painting, gophering, assisting skilled workers, etc. Several LUMC folks have expressed interest in being a part of a team to Mississippi. Here is your opportunity! For more info contact your pastor.

## Summer Mission Trip

Our church is planning to send a mission team to El Salvador again this summer to build houses for the poor with Habitat for

Humanity. This summer our folks will join 40-50 other United Methodists in a special joint project with the Methodist Church of El Salvador. There will also be other groups including a team from the Littleton Baptist Church. And we have been invited to send a medical team as well, so we are considering that possibility. The team will be working in the same general area as last year to build houses with families who lost their homes in the volcano eruption last Fall. Dates for the trip are approximately July 28/29 through August 5/6. Cost will be approximately \$850 plus the cost of airfare (\$500-600). If you are interested in participating, let your pastor know. Also, feel free to talk to previous participants for more information on what the experience is like: Darla Angel, Ed Angel, Richard Sherman, Sue Merchant, and Laine Parks.

