

Volume 3, Issue 1
Editor: Sherry Watson

January, 2006
Pastor: David Haley

105 South Main St. Littleton

Big News *From Littleton United* *Methodist Church*



From The Pastor

Haley's Comment

Dear LUMC family,

Here we are once again at the beginning of a new year. I remember that as a child, time moved slowly. Birthdays, Christmas, and other special events seemed to take forever to get here. Now in my "mature" years, the year seems hardly to have begun before we are already at a new year.

As we enter the new year, we have some opportunities for renewal and recommitment. John Wesley believed it was ever so important to periodically renew our faith, our vows to God, and our baptismal vows. Therefore, on Sunday, January 1, during our worship service, we will have a Covenant Renewal Service. These services used to often be held on New Year's Eve as part of a Watch Night Service. They were considered by Mr. Wesley to be significant in the life of individual Methodists and congregations. The theological significance of Covenant Renewal is its role in our process of sanctification. Paul wrote "our outer nature is wasting away, but our inner nature is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4.16). The Covenant Renewal Service is a means of encouraging a significant refocusing on and reaffirmation of our profession of faith in Jesus Christ and commitment of our lives to Him. This service will include the monthly observance of Holy Communion.

The second Sunday of the year, January 8, is designated the Baptism of Jesus. It is an important time to think about baptism, both our own and that of Jesus. During our worship that Sunday, we will have a Renewal of Baptismal Vows which we have also done on previous occasions. All baptized Christians should "remember your baptism and be thankful." It is not conducted in such a way as to imply or suggest rebaptism. It is a reminding of



Above: "The Thrill of Hope" presented by The Community Christmas Singers in our sanctuary on December 18th. Article on page 5

and commitment anew to the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives as we reaffirm our faith, renew our baptismal covenant, acknowledge what God is doing in our lives, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

The year 2005 was a year of great accomplishment in the life of our church. Beginning this new year with these opportunities to renew our faith and vows will hopefully lay a foundation for even greater accomplishments in the future. Through renewing our faith we are reminded that it is God working in us that is most important. I hope you will eagerly participate in these renewal services and be open to God working in and through your lives.

I'm also designating January 2006 as Musician Appreciation Month. We are so blessed with our wonderful choir under the leadership of Sue Beazley who also serves as Pianist. And we are so grateful that Trudi May continues to bless our worship at the organ. Make a point of expressing your thankfulness to our

church musicians and choir members this month! As pastor, I know I shouldn't sing with the choir. On Sunday mornings people want to talk with their pastor (and sometimes "bend his ear") while he is hurrying to rehearse with the choir. However, I feel that it is a great privilege for me to sing with such a fine choir. It is also an opportunity for me to worship during our services in a deeply meaningful way. So as long as the choir will have me, I hope to continue to sing with them. In general I count it a great privilege to serve as pastor of such a wonderful church, a church active in worship and busy in the service of our Savior.

May God bless you, each and everyone.
Happy New Year!

Because of Him we serve,

Pastor David Haley

Mary Lucy Self

Margie Drescher

The ladies of the Mary Lucy Self Circle held their monthly meeting at the home of Marj Prescott on Tuesday, December 6th.

Our meeting was opened with a prayer led by Shirley Anschutz.

First on our agenda for this meeting was to prepare Christmas gift and goody bags for some Church members that we especially wanted to remember. These bags were delivered by our circle members.

We then decided that we would make a monetary donation to the Methodist Church which we are in partnership with to help the relief efforts from the devastation of Katrina.

At our last meeting Gail Workman volunteered to read and review [An Open Letter to the RENEW Network](#) by Jan Love, Deputy General Secretary, Women's Division General Board of Global Ministries, dated March 28, 2005, and summarize it at our December meeting. We then had a lengthy discussion of the topics of this "Open Letter."

Any women of the church are invited to our circle. Our next meeting will be January 3, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room at church.

Briefly Noted

Pastor David

- The quilt displayed in the Chapel was made by women involved in the Women in Christian Fellowship group in the greater Littleton community. It will be on display in our church until mid-January.
- The pastor is teaching the book, *Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists* by Henry H. Knight, III, in the Adult Bible study on Sunday mornings.
- 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



Above: The Mary Lucy Self Circle preparing Christmas gift bags.
Left -Right: Loretta Woodburn, Shirley Anschutz, Liz Solovieff, Marj Prescott, Margie Drescher, Jean Houston, Gail Workman

up to be a Sunday School worker.

- **"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 third Sunday of each month.
- Free duplicate and outdated books and hymnals from the church library are available on the table just inside the Pastor's Office. Help yourself.
- Help with the utility costs and safety of your church. Doors leading to the sanctuary should be kept closed whenever possible. This is especially important for the door leading to the educational wing from the sanctuary.
- Bob Workman continues to teach a Bible study on the Book of Genesis from a New Testament perspective on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the basement. Other interested persons are invited to join this study which is open to the community.

Christian Sympathy

Pastor David

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Ruby Salmon who died in November. She was the oldest member who was actually baptized in this church.

Christian Sympathy is extended to Dr. Dick Gross in the death of his mother, Harriett Gross.

From the Administrative Council

Dear LUMC Members and Friends,

Twelve months of being your Administrative Council Chairman has passed very quickly. This has been a very fulfilling period in my Christian life, and that of the church. We initiated and implemented many major accomplishments finishing out the year with the purchase of land for a parsonage in the near future.

To each and every one of you a sincere thank you for your dedication, hard work and support. In the new year ahead let us continue to listen and follow God's direction in each of our lives and the life of LUMC.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Ed Angel

Administrative Council President

Christian Music Festival

Pastor David

A Christian Music Festival is scheduled for January 28, 2006 at Lakeland Arts Center in Littleton, North Carolina. Singers from the churches involved in *ECHO* and beyond will join together to provide almost two hours of Christian Music for your listening enjoyment. Larry Williams will introduce our singers and provide information throughout the evening. A number of folks have been invited to participate—some from as far away as Florida. The Blackridge Boys have already committed and we anticipate many other area favorites as well. Tickets are available from the ECHO Planning group and cost \$10 per person. The Christian Music Festival starts at 7:30 p.m. You are asked to be at the theater by 7:15 p.m. for seating. Proceeds will support the study of an Ecumenical Continuing-Care Housing Opportunity (ECHO) in our area. For tickets contact Irene O'Sullivan 586-4957.

**Wanted
Couples for our 2006
conversational dinners. If you
are interested please call
Sue Merchant 586-7866.**

Outreach

Helen Burtchell, Chairperson

We are reaching out to the poor, the lonely, and the lost. We are doing God's work for Him, and we need your help.

The nursing home birthday parties are important to the people we serve. Some folks get very few if any visitors during the week. They are so excited when we come to do the party. One of them tells us each month that it is her birthday. She just wants people to notice her and talk to her. Others just want to talk to us. Some just want you to hold their hand. Whatever the need, we try to fill it. We cannot do that if only a few show up to go. We need to have enough people so we can do the job God is asking us to do, minister.

We go on the 3rd Fri of each month. Leaving the fellowship hall at 1:30pm, and returning home by 3:30pm– 4:00pm

We also deliver food to the needy of our community on the 1st & 2nd, Fri of each month. We even bring their dog a bone when we come. You see we not only deliver food, but we also check and see if they're doing OK otherwise. Sometimes there is a need for a coat, or shoes, and we can fill that need. You see it's all about caring for the people. They know that there is help from us, and they have not taken advantage of that fact.

This type of ministry is not for every one. However, it may be just what you are looking for, to fill a need in your own life. Think about it. If you decide that you can lift and carry, walk door to door in the projects, and you don't mind getting your hands dirty, call me at 586-4682, let's talk, Helen.

UMW

Sherry Watson, President

Santa Breakfast was a huge hit again this year! We were nervous wrecks when Santa didn't arrive on time. By 8:30 I was searching the room for a proper size helper to fit in a very large red suit. No sooner had I found a perfect match did Santa and Mrs. Claus walk through the door. It was 8:45, we had a room full of excited children and grown-ups as Santa gave a merry ho-ho-ho when he walked through the door. He made his way slowly around the room taking time to talk with the children and their parents. After

eating breakfast with the children Santa sat in his chair and one by one the children came, and climbed up on his knee. Each child whispered their wishes in Santa's ear as parents and grandparents snapped pictures.

The UMW has offered this event the last two years as a free event for the community. Church members cooked and served sausage casseroles, pancakes and sausage. Cereal, danish, milk and juice were also available. Everyone got a hot breakfast, including Santa and Mrs. Claus.

UMW members baked cookies, breads, cakes and dinner casseroles which were offered for sale along with hand-painted slates and throws. \$643.25 was taken in that day. About half of that came from the love offering and the rest from the items for sale. After all expenses we will see a net of about \$340.00, about the same as last year. This event is not a fund-raiser. It is an outreach to the community. We offer the casseroles and baked goods for sale and hope that we sell enough to break even but we don't worry about it if we don't. The most important thing is sharing God's love with others. That's what we are doing when we hold these types of events. It's important for us to remember that.

90 people registered at the door and out of those; 13 families signed up to receive our monthly newsletter. In addition to the 90 visitors we had approximately 30 LUMC members at the event working in the kitchen, at the bake sale, serving food and mingling with the guest. The community appreciated this event so much. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

At the December 17th UMW meeting members voted to contribute \$150.00 to the Stan Hope church for the purpose of purchasing new pots and pans and other items for their new kitchen. Other business discussed at the meeting: Jan 21st will be the "new member invite" meeting. Current members will extend an invitation to join to all new members of LUMC and non-member friends in the community. Invitations will go out on or about Jan 10th. February 18th the UMW will hold its' annual tea for new members.

The tea will be held in the fellowship hall at 10:00am. February 26th will be UMW Sunday at LUMC. UMW members will plan the worship service, sing in the choir and preach the sermon.

Age-Level and Family Ministries

Sherry Watson

Outgoing Chairperson



We had a new group of children and parents from Vaughan Elementary attend our last movie night. This means we could see about 45-50 people at LUMC movie night soon!! You don't have to be a member of the Age-Level Committee to volunteer to help with movie night. As this event grows we will need more workers to help pop the popcorn, register folks at the door and help with set-up and clean-up. If you can help please let Martha Hayes, Darla Angel or myself know.

We want to welcome Martha Hayes, Carol Townsend and Julie Johnston to the Age-Level and Family Ministries Committee. Martha, Carol and Julie all share their love of working with children and youth. Martha is taking over the Chairperson position for this committee. Adding these three hardworking, creative thinkers to an already superb group means our church can expect exciting new programs and events for all ages in the new year.

If you are a volunteer child/youth worker for LUMC and you have not filled out the new Child Protection Guideline forms, you need to see Greg Solovieff to complete your paperwork and go through orientation. Only those who have completed the forms and orientation will be able to help out with the children/youth after January 15th.

I have enjoyed my term as Chairperson of The Age-Level and Family Ministries Committee. It has been an exciting two years. As I look back I am proud that we, as a committee, have been able to carry out the objectives that Pastor David set for us two years ago. We have come a long way, now we have to build on our achievements. I will continue to work with the committee as needed and I will support their efforts 110%. I hope you will too.

HO HO HO Merry Christmas !



Santa Breakfast



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More Memories of Our Special Day

January Anniversaries	Date
Jeannie & Kevin Smith	Jan 20

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



Above: District Superintendent, Bill Simpson, and Pastor David take time out to have their picture taken in front of the Crismon tree.

Land Purchased for a Possible Parsonage Relocation

Pastor David

In a special Charge Conference held on Sunday morning, December 11, the church voted unanimously to purchase an off-water lot in the Timber Creek Subdivision for \$12,000 as a possible relocation site for the parsonage. This development is located just around the

corner from the Weaver's Chapel UMC. The Trustees will be bringing recommendations to the church at a later time for further action relating to relocating the parsonage. Even though this lot has been purchased, it is not too late for any interested person to donate a building site or house to the church. The Littleton Baptist Church has agreed to purchase the present parsonage property at it's full appraised value. Ideally, the relocation could be completed without our church incurring any additional debt.

The Thrill of Hope

Pastor David

Littleton UMC hosted a wonderful Christmas cantata on Sunday afternoon, December 18. The Community Christmas Singers, comprised of members of several church choirs in the area, presented *The Thrill of Hope, A Christmas Celebration for Choir & Congregation*, by Bob Krogstad. Under the direction of our own Sue Beazley, the 51-voice choir thrilled the crowd of more than 300 persons that filled our sanctuary. Soloists included Lois Weaver & Greg Solovieff from our church.

Decorating for the Season

Each year Marie Fields leads the ladies in decorating the fellowship hall and church. Three trees are decorated, 2 in the fellowship hall and 1 in the sanctuary.

The altar railings are decorated with greenery and candles, the poinsettias are placed, and other decorations adorn the chapel. Thank you to all who helped in any way. Everything is beautiful!!

Marie will begin to take down the decorations just a few days after Christmas. She needs our help. It is a big job, too much for just a couple of people to do. Please give her a call at 586-4757 if you can help. Pictured below: Loretta Woodburn, Kay Newsom, Mary Margaret Reilly and Marie Fields.



Date	Nursery Schedule
Jan 1	10:00 Loretta Woodburn & Ed Angel
	11:00 Bill & Lois Weaver
Jan 8	10:00 Sherry & Barney Watson
	11:00 Shirley Anschutz & Ann Smith
Jan 15	10:00 Ed Angel & Susannah Sherman
	11:00 Darla Angel & Laine Parks
Jan 22	10:00 Martha & Bob Hayes
	11:00 We need 2 people please
Jan 29	10:00 Mike Herman & Julie Johnston
	11:00 Sherry Watson & Irene O.

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 wall just outside of Pastor David's office. If you have not worked in the nursery before please see Greg Solovieff to fill out volunteer forms.

Date	Child & Youth Sunday School
Jan -	Pre-K: Martha & Bob Hayes
Mar	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.

Mary Lucy Self Circle Meets Tues Jan 3rd, 1:30 in the conference room at church. The Blanket Bee Is Every 4th Wed at 1:30pm at Marj Prescott's

Date	Lay Reader	Scripture
Jan 1	Mike Herman	Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7
Jan 8	Darla Angel	Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11
Jan 15	Matt Johnston	1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51
Jan 22	Don Beazley	Psalm 62:5-12; Mark 1: 14-20
Jan 29	Sherry Watson	Deuteronomy 19:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

Date	Greeters • East Narthex	Greeters • West Narthex
Jan 1	Murlean Boswell	Erma Martin
Jan 8	Della & Michella Batts	Mary Margaret O'Reilly
Jan 15	Macon & Duane White	Betsy Medlin
Jan 22	Susannah & Martha Sherman	Martha Hayes
Jan 29	Kay Newsom	Frances & Betsy Howell

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.

January Ushers

Richard Sherman & Don Beazley • additional ushers as needed

(watch bulletin for names)

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.

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, Jan 1	Greg & Elizabeth Solovieff
Sun, Feb 5	Ed & Darla Angel
Sun, Mar 12	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan



Thanks Everyone

Date	Flowers
Jan 1	Communion
Jan 8	Shirley & Skip Anschutz
Jan 15	Shirley & Skip Anschutz
Jan 22	Gail & Bob Workman
Jan 29	David & Binky Haley

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We thank you for the many ways you have reached out to us with calls, visits, cards and food to show your love and concern. You have been a real blessing to us and we thank you.

Wanda and John Beamer

Reverend Fernando Visits

Wed. December 21st, local ministers had lunch with Reverend Fernando at LUMC fellowship hall. Pictured left to right: David Smith, Paul Neuer, Reverend Fernando, David Haley, Mike Currin and Fred Eichner.

