



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



Above: On October 28th Alan Burtchell, The Crossmaker, displayed his work at LUMC. Alan's crosses have been given to hundreds of people including folks as far away as Sri-Lanka and last year one cross was given to the Pope.

# Give a heart

One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone! *Isi*

**Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.**

### What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

### What you do (with adult help!):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

## The Epiphany Story

Epiphany is celebrated annually in Christian churches on January 6. The word "epiphany" is a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "showing forth." Its focus is on the legendary arrival of the Magi (three wise men) after the birth of Christ. They followed the light of a star to find the Light of the World. The wise men were not Jews but Gentiles, which shows that Christ came not only for Jews but for all other people on Earth. Thus, all of us who are Gentile Christians are in the lineage of the Magi, the first Gentiles who came to Christ.



### Bible Quiz


Epiphany is the last of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the wise men seeking the holy family at the time of Jesus' birth. "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" they asked. This interesting story is found in only one of the four gospels. In which Gospel is the story told? A.) Matthew, B.) Mark, C.) Luke, D.) John

The answer is at the top of page #6 - (look in the green header).

Nursery Volunteers	
Jan 6	Margie Drescher, Jean Houston
Jan 13	Ed Angel, Mike Herman
Jan 20	Susannah Sherman, Loretta Woodburn
Jan 27	Richard O'Sullivan, Laine Parks
Feb 3	Della Batts, Julie Johnston
Feb 10	Ed Angel, Mike Herman
Feb 17	Marj Prescott, Loretta Woodburn
Feb 24	Susannah Sherman, Barney Watson

	Lay Reader	Scripture
Jan 6	Matt Johnston	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 (insert); Ephesians 3:1-12
Jan 13	Mike Herman	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29 (insert); Acts 10:34-43
Jan 20	Patrick Outman	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11 (insert); 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Jan 27	Liz Solovieff	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9 (insert); 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Feb 3	Sherry Watson	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99 (insert); 2 Peter 1:16-21
Feb 10	Lois Weaver	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32 (insert); Romans 5: 12-19
Feb 17	Bob Workman	Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 (insert) Romans 4:1-5,13-17
Feb 24	Gail Workman	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 (insert); Romans 5:1-11
March 2	Don Beazley	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 (insert); Ephesians 5:8-14
March 9	Darla Angel	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (insert); Romans 8:6-11

Adult Sunday School Schedule			
Date	Teacher	Date	Teacher
Jan 6	Don Beazley	Feb 3	Don Beazley
Jan 13	Don Beazley	Feb 10	Don Beazley
Jan 20	Mike Herman	Feb 17	Mike Herman
Jan 27	Mike Herman	Feb 24	Mike Herman



**January Ushers - George Alston, Richard Sherman & Lee Reinhardt**

**February Ushers - Norm Lunde, Jack May & Don Beazley**

(See Weekly Bulletin For Additional Ushers)


**Note/Don't forget:** Ushers will make a head count/attendance and give the number to Pastor Rob. 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.

	Greeters • West Narthex (Main door)	Greeters • East Narthex
Jan 6	Susannah Sherman	Maj Johnston
Jan 13	Gabrielle Pamer	Marj Prescott
Jan 20	Betsy Medlin	Macon White
Jan 27	Barbara Reinhardt	Martha Hayes
Feb 3	Jean Houston	Margie Drescher
Feb 10	Marie Fields	Loretta Woodburn
Feb 17	Corinne Replogle	Lisa Hardy
Feb 24	Sue Merchant	Della Batts

**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.

Altar Flowers	
Jan 6	Communion
Jan 13	Skip & Shirley Anschutz
Jan 20	Skip & Shirley Anschutz
Jan 27	Skip & Shirley Anschutz
Feb 3	Communion
Feb 10	Sherry & Barney Watson
Feb 17	Sherry & Barney Watson
Feb 24	<b>Need someone</b>

Children / Youth Sunday School	
3yr - pre-K:	AJ Lunde
Elementary -	Darla Angel
Youth -	Patrick Outman



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

Jan 6	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan
Feb 3	Ed & Darla Angel
March 2	Greg & Elizabeth Solovieff



### Why Ash Wed?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination. Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap. The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

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Editors: S. Watson & S. Merchant

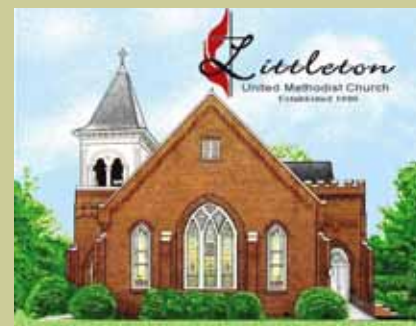
Pastor: Reverend Rob Licht  
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# Big News

From

Littleton United Methodist Church



## FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Rob Licht

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! There exists a long-standing tradition at the turning of the year of making resolutions. New Years' Resolutions frequently range from the mundane and trite to the rather profound. Sadly, more often than not, we forget about them as quickly as we have made them. There is no telling how many people have resolved to get more exercise and eat healthier, only to have the first frigid cold-snap curtail their jogging for good. Most New Years' resolutions have a shelf-life of roughly one week, maybe two. Rather than forget about making resolutions altogether, perhaps we should reframe them.

New Years' Day, on our secular calendars, corresponds with another day on our Christian calendar; a day we don't celebrate or think much about. January 1 is known as the Feast of the Holy Name. Holy Name Day celebrates the naming of Jesus by Joseph and Mary. Saint Matthew's gospel makes it abundantly clear that Mary's child was to be called "Jesus." An angel even appears in a dream to Joseph and tells him what the child is to be called and why (Matthew 1:21). The name, Jesus, according to the angel, means "God saves." Throughout Matthew's gospel (and the other gospels for that matter) we will learn what it means for God "to save his people from their sins." We are, however, getting ahead of ourselves. Holy Name Day celebrates the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph in obeying the Lord's instruction. They could have named their infant child Saul, Jehoichin or even Fred. After all, King Ahaz named his son Hezekiah, even after he had been told by the prophet to name the child Emmanuel. There is

freedom in the naming. The holy couple could have disobeyed, but they didn't. They chose to accept the name that God had handed them. Holy Name Day serves as a reminder, not only of Jesus' name and destiny, but of how we accept the name "Christian" which God has handed us through our baptism. Have we lived into our "holy name" as followers of Christ? Have we witnessed to the many and varied ways that "God saves?" What resolutions can we make in regards to serving Christ? Throughout the five weeks of Epiphany, let us think how best we can reveal Christ's glory to the world around us, both in our lives and in our service.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob Licht



Above: Sue Beazley, Director, leads the Community Christmas Choir. Folks from the Littleton/Lake Gaston area were treated to another outstanding performance by the choir. After the performance everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for refreshments.

**LUMC Soloist**



Top Right: Lois Weaver  
Bottom L-R: Greg Solovieff,  
Pastor Rob Licht



### Santa Breakfast & Cantata Two Big Dec. Events That Bring Out the Crowds!

Left: This precious little girl gives Santa her wish list and he gives her a big hug. The annual UMW Santa Breakfast sets another record of 200+ in attendance! The UMW ladies and helpers cooked and served breakfast casseroles, cereal, pancakes, juice, milk & coffee from 7:30-10:00am. After the breakfast many families enjoyed the Littleton parade.

## Liturgy Matters

Pastor Rob

By a strange circumstance, the first two months of this year are almost evenly divided between what is known as **the Season After Epiphany** and the **Season of Lent**. The "Season After Epiphany" is characterized by a sense of "beginnings". From a secular standpoint, we will experience the beginning of a new year. That said, the sense of newness will play, rather profoundly, through our gospel readings during January. We will worship the newborn Christ beside the Magi and contemplate anew the meaning of our own baptisms by which we were "raised to new life in Christ." We will see the calling of the first disciples to a new way of following and of living. The word "epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means "manifestation". Epiphany and the season which follows from it are a time when our scripture readings and worship practices invite us to reflect on the ways that Christ is made "manifest" in our lives and in our world.

The Season after Epiphany culminates with the holiday known as the Feast of the Transfiguration (Transfiguration Sunday). On this festival day, we celebrate Christ's transfiguration by Moses and Elijah. We are given a mountain-top experience, a "manifestation" or epiphany of Christ's glory. From our vantage point on the mountain with Christ, we are able to peer back over the path we have traveled through the preceding season as well as peer down into the valley of Lent.

The Season of Lent is a time of solemnity. There is sobriety and somberness to this season of the church's year. Lent is characterized by fasting and prayer, almsgiving and various disciplines. Lent is not a season characterized by mirth. There is a seriousness to Lent which invites our reflection and our repentance. During Lent, it is customary to cease singing "alleluias" so that once we reach Easter, we may welcome the "alleluias" back with joy. Such joyous occasions as weddings and baptisms are not scheduled inside of Lent for Lent is a time of examination. One of the oldest words for Lent was "quarantine"- a forty day period of imposed recuperation. In our modern world, Lent is a gift. It slows us down and

makes sure that we don't experience an Easter without a Good Friday.

## From The Admin Council

Ed Angel, President

How wonderful these last several years have been for me as your Chairman of our Administration Council. We all need to be very proud and thankful for the support given to one another for our church's many accomplishments. Let's reflect on some of these highlights: church renovation, new parsonage and parking lot, mission trips both national and international, movie nights, Loaves for Missions, annual Fall Festival and Santa Breakfast, Operation Christmas Child. We've seen an increase in food deliveries to needy families and our newest outreach of an annual Thanksgiving Day meal that served to nourish bodies, minds and souls, and our most recent annual community Christmas Cantata which continues to bring many churches together in our community. Let's also remember the UMW's Christmas Luncheon for our Districts ministers and families. In all this we have extended our love to one another throughout our community, our country and beyond. We are truly a God serving church. God Bless you and all our friends of Littleton United Methodist Church.



Above: Sue Beazley, Choir Director, leads the LUMC Choir in song during the Hanging of the Greens Worship Service.



Above: A Long line, but it's worth the wait, at the Christmas Fellowship Dinner. Everyone brought their favorite dish to share. After dinner Sue Beazley played the piano and Helen Burtchell lead the group in Christmas Carols.

## Snapshots from Holiday Events



Left & Below: Snapshots from the first LUMC Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The event was a big success! Left: Mike Herman, Kay Herman & Darla enjoyed helping in the kitchen and serving the meals. Below: Families from our community enjoying their dinner. Many LUMC members and friends contributed to the success of our first LUMC Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Special thanks to Liz Solovieff, Missions Chairperson, for coordinating the event.



## Look What's Coming!

Sherm Merchant, Missions Committee

There is an exciting event coming to LUMC in 2008! It will come in three parts. The first part will be a presentation by Reverend Lee Warren, the Virginia Director of "Stop Hunger Now" on February 3, 2008. Her presentation will be in conjunction with our Lunch Bunch on that Sunday. As part of her presentation she will explain the second part, which will be a suggested planned program to help fund the event. The third part, and the most exciting, will be the actual event to be held in our own fellowship hall on March 28, 2008. Can you imagine how an investment of \$2000, 25 volunteers, and 2 hours of concentrated preparation, can result in packaging 10,000 meals? Have I piqued your curiosity?

Mark your calendar for the kick off on February 3rd. The missions committee wants to invite you to share our enthusiasm that was generated when we participated in a similar event on our recent visit.

Also noted from Pastor Rob: Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be welcoming Reverend Lee Warren, from "Stop Hunger Now" to our pulpit. She will deliver the morning message.



## A Very Busy UMW

Above: Some of the UMW poses with Santa. (Front row L-R: Loretta Woodburn, Irene O'Sullivan, Santa (AKA Alan Burtchell), Laine Parks (UMW President and Santa Breakfast Event Coordinator), Sherry Watson (UMW Past Pres.), Directly behind Loretta & Irene are Marj Prescott & Lois Weaver, The very back row are: Kay Newsom, Barb Reinhardt, Kay Herman, Sue Merchant, Liz Solovieff, Marie Fields (in the Santa hat), Shirley Anschutz & Darla Angel). Left Top: Barney Watson, Lewis Fields, Ed Angel, Marie Fields (Santa Breakfast Event Coordinator), & Mike Herman are preparing pancakes and overseeing the kitchen duties. Left Middle: Marie Fields tells Santa she has been a very good girl this year, while Elaine Parks (UMW President & AKA Rudolph), hands out candy canes. Bottom Left and middle pictures are two little boys from the community visiting with Santa, and Top middle: Kay Newsom and Barb Reinhardt getting ready for the bake sale to start.



The UMW was honored to host the Rocky Mount District Christmas party/luncheon. Marie Fields and Laine Parks coordinated the event. The menu favorites were Marie's Chunky Chicken Casserole and those oh....so...good...UMW homemade desserts!

The UMW recently received a thank you note from the pastors and a very generous donation of \$250.00.

Above Left: Irene O'Sullivan, Shirley Anschutz, Gail Workman, Susannah Sherman, Marie Fields, Sue Merchant, & Darla Angel. They are a few of the UMW ladies who helped out with the Pastor's Christmas Luncheon.

Above Right: Rocky Mount District Pastors enjoying their meal and entertainment during their Christmas party/luncheon.

**From the Trustees**

Barney Watson, Chairman

This year has been a busy one for your Trustee Committee. We have demolished the old Littleton Observer building and we created a new parking lot. Early in 2008 we will complete the planting of trees and shrubs in the two planter boxes and erect a new sign on the corner.

We replaced the thermostats in the fellowship hall in 2007, thus controlling the heating and air-conditioning and ultimately saving on our utility bill.

We will continue to improve the church property in 2008. Any suggestions from our church family are welcomed.



**Sanctuary Flowers**

Liz Solovieff

A calendar has been placed on the bulletin board for those of you that would like to place flowers on the altar this upcoming year. We have had many beautiful arrangements in the past and I hope that we can continue to do so in 2008. Flowers are placed to glorify God and add to our Sunday service. I would encourage you to consider using flowers from your garden which are just as beautiful as the professional bouquets. Due to increasing cost of flowers, please consider placing flowers for two consecutive weeks, if you don't care to bring them home. Flowers will be refrigerated after the 1st Sunday

Usually they are just as lovely the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday you may dispose of them in any manner. Please indicate your desire by placing your name in each Sunday. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

**Outreach**

Helen Burtchell,  
Chairman



We had a good turnout for the Thanksgiving Service. We received enough food and money to help eight families for Christmas as well as Thanksgiving. We also have added two new families for our food delivery program for each month. We will be helping five families with toys for their children as well as food for Christmas. This is a great way to reach

families for Christ all year long. Letting them know that we care about them, and meeting them where they are is very important. My committee is very outgoing and loving towards the people we serve and meet along the way.

That also goes with the Warren Hills birthday parties we do each month. That interaction is so very important to the folks at the home.

I would like to say to those that have helped throughout the year a big THANK YOU, and may you all have a very Merry Christmas. May each of you experience the love and joy that came down that first Christmas, but most of all may you receive peace of mind and Spirit that only Christ can give.

**Do you want to keep up with North Carolina Methodist news ?**

Tim Townsend, Lay Leader

The North Carolina Conference Christian Advocate is your monthly newsletter to bring you important information on missions, Annual Conference, ministries of other churches, and much more. The annual cost is only \$15, or \$22 for two years. Subscription forms are available on the church bulletin board. Pick yours up this Sunday.

As we close out one year and begin another I am reminded of the many blessings of our church in 2007. We began with the opening of a new parsonage, later welcoming a new pastor, and then providing a new parking lot. Then comes to mind the opportunities of worship and praise, special events, social get-togethers, and on the list goes. Thank you for your part in attendance, leadership, participation, financial support, and creativity. Let's make 2008 an even greater year !!

**Library News**

Loretta Woodburn, Church Librarian

Sherry Watson has donated some books and a DVD that are worth checking out from the church library (which is located in the Conference Room). Here is a list of them:

The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual, Getting Through the Tough Stuff, Holy Bible (KJV), How To Get Into The Bible, Knowing The Bible 101, Peloubet's NIV

Bible Study Companion, The Story (The Holy Bible - Today's NIV), The Upper Room Disciplines 2007 - A Book of Daily Devotions, What Every Leader Needs To Know About Leading In Prayer, What Every Teacher Needs To Know About: The Bible; Christian Heritage; Classroom Environment; Curriculum; Faith Language; Living in Faith; People; Teaching; Theology; and The United Methodist Church. The DVD is: Holy Bible - NIV (New and Old Testament on DVD).

**The Engine of Love**

"Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it." (C.S. Lewis)

**Celebrations**

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

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



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