

# Big News From Littleton United Methodist Church



## Haley's Comment

Dear LUMC family,

This month completes my fourth year of service at Littleton UMC. In one sense it feels like only yesterday that I came here. In another sense it feels like I've been here for many, many years. Our journey together began rather tentatively as we got to know each other and learned to work together. Now as we look back over these years, we see many accomplishments and achievements gained through working together.

I consider it a great honor to have been appointed to this church. Few churches in our entire Conference have the potential which Littleton UMC has. We minister in a great mission field at Lake Gaston with opportunity for real growth. We have a wonderful leadership team for our church life and program. We have a rich heritage and a wonderful historic sanctuary. Our folks have demonstrated time and again the capacity to be deeply committed to serve God and respond to needs and opportunities in our world today. As I prepare for another year of service at Littleton UMC, I pray that God will continue to bless our ministry together.

By the time you receive this newsletter the Trustees will have begun the work of painting and repairing the church bell tower. Imagine how nice our church facility will look when the work is completed. Added to all the painting, cleaning, and repair work that was done last year, our church will really look like the vibrant active church we are. A clean well-cared for church certainly gives the image that its members care. I am amazed and grateful for all the work that has been done in the past year to accomplish this. In past generations faithful members of this church sacrificed and invested themselves in their church so that we can have these beautiful and historic facilities in which to meet. Let us be good stewards of this legacy in order

that we can pass these wonderful facilities on to the next generation.

May God bless you and help us to continue to work together for the Kingdom of Christ.

Because of Him we serve,

Pastor David Haley

## **New Parsonage Proposal**

There will be a Charge Conference on Sunday, June 4, during the Sunday School hour to vote on a recommendation from the Trustees and the Administrative Council regarding a proposal for a new parsonage. Dr. Bill Simpson, Rocky Mount District Superintendent, will be leading this meeting. All Littleton UMC members are urged to be present for this Charge Conference.



## **Pastor Refuses to Quit**

Pastor David Haley has announced that he intends to continue several controversial aspects of his ministry at Littleton UMC. In our modern culture people's lives are shaped by TV and other media rather than by God's Word. People would much rather hear a sermon that is a sort of spiritual vitamin pill and gives them a good feeling. Pastor Haley refuses to quit preaching the Word of God.

In our culture people want a nice church to attend without any call to commitment to the Kingdom of God. Our busy lives are so full that it's hard to find time for serving God. Pastor Haley refuses to quit challenging the Littleton UMC folks to put their faith into action and get involved in what God is doing in our community and in our world.

In our culture people often show little concern for carrying out Jesus' instruction to take the Gospel into all the world. Our excuse is that we should take care of our own needs before making any effort to reach out beyond. Pastor Haley refuses to quit preaching the whole Gospel for the whole world, challenging us to meet needs and proclaim the Gospel near and far.

In our culture pastors often act as though they are in competition with other pastors and churches in the community. This sometimes looks like a competition for "dollars" in the offering plate. Pastor Haley takes seriously "the Communion of the Saints" as stated in the Apostles Creed. He refuses to quit building relationships with and working cooperatively in ministry with other churches who claim the historic orthodox Christian faith. Pastor Haley believes there are enough unreached persons in our community to fill a dozen strong churches, if we take seriously our responsibility for outreach and evangelism.



## **Esther Jadhav Visits LUMC**

Sherry Watson, UMW President

**Pictured above: Esther Jadhav & Pastor David have their picture taken after church on Sunday May 21. Esther preached the sermon that day. Pastor**

**David presented Esther with a cross and flame necklace which was handcrafted by LUMC member Alan Burtchell.**

Esther is serving at Asbury College in Wilmore, KY as the Coordinator for Intercultural Programs. She is from Mumbai, India. She has a BA in Anthropology and Sociology, and a M.Div. degree. This month, at the Kentucky Annual Conference, Esther receives her commission as a probationary Elder.

Esther came to Littleton to teach the UMW India/Pakistan Mission Study. "Purely delightful" was how one UMW member described Esther when the program ended. Everyone thought she was an excellent speaker, and none of us wanted to say good-bye when our time together came to a close.

Esther's father is a Methodist minister in India. Esther gave us a glance at her younger years, what growing up in India was like, and how she received her call to ministry when she was just 5 years old. Her family always allowed her to follow God's call upon her life. "They have supported me graciously and prayerfully always."

We had many questions for Esther. It was interesting having her compare the two cultures. We talked religion, parenting, marriage, food, fun and. . . oh yes. . . fashion! Traditional dress for women and children, age 12 and up, is an Indian Sari. Made from silk, or sometimes cotton, a sari is worn multiple ways. Signe Ulrich, from Englewood UMC, volunteered to let Esther wrap her in a sari, so we could see how to put it on.

Our UMW group wanted to learn all we could from Esther, about the special needs of women and children in India and Pakistan. Sadly, we learned there are areas in India and Pakistan where women and children are oppressed and the needs are many.

Esther said, "My mission is to help build bridges across cultures." The UMW has invited Esther to come back soon and speak to us about what our church, our UMW, can do specifically to help the women and children in rural areas of India and Pakistan. Her father knows first hand what programs need support.

Whatever we do, whether it's sending supplies or a monetary contribution, 100% would go directly to the source. I hope the next time she visits all of you will be available to hear her speak. You too, will find her "Purely delightful."



### 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.

The United Methodist Church has a number of different designations for clergy. Fully ordained pastors are called "Elders in Full Connection." They are members of the Annual Conference and authorized to function as ordained clergy anywhere. They are normally seminary trained, usually having earned a M.Div. Degree. In the Annual Conference Elders may vote on any matter except the selection of Lay Delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conference. An Elder is ordained to a lifetime ministry of service, word, sacrament and order. He or she is authorized to preach and teach God's word, to administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, and to order the life of the church for mission and ministry.

Some pastors may be "Associate Members" of the Annual Conference. This is similar to the Elder in Full

Connection, except they cannot vote on certain issues at Annual Conference. They are usually ministers who instead of seminary have taken the Course of Study route to ordination.

"Local Pastors" are lay persons who are annually approved by the district committee on ordained ministry. They are authorized to perform all duties of an ordained minister, including the sacraments, while assigned to a particular charge under the supervision of a district superintendent. Local Pastors are required to participate in theological education and pastoral training through the "Course of Study" offered at Duke Divinity School. There is a process by which Local Pastors can be ordained Elders. It requires a college degree, completion of Basic and Advanced Course of Study, and passing the conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Deacons in the United Methodist Church are ordained ministers who serve under appointment like Elders. They are called to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, and to equip and lead the laity in ministries of compassion, justice and service in the world. A deacon has the authority to teach and proclaim God's Word, to lead in worship, to assist elders in the administration of the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, to perform the marriage ceremony where the laws of the state permit, and to bury the dead.

Interim Supply Preachers are appointed to a charge to complete the year after a mid-year pastoral change. They normally preach at worship services but do not provide a lot of pastoral leadership to the church. Littleton UMC was served by an Interim Supply Preacher for 1½ years when Nick Holman was appointed here after Rev. Charles Myers was moved mid-year.

A new category of minister is the "Certified Lay Minister." Trained lay persons serve under appointment and function similarly to a Deacon or Interim Supply Preacher in a local church. They are not authorized to consecrate sacraments. Helen Burtchell from

Littleton UMC is the first person in the Rocky Mount District to seek this designation.

Finally, there are "Certified Lay Speakers," who have received training and are certified to preach, particularly for pulpit supply. We have five Certified Lay Speakers in Littleton UMC. Our Rocky Mount District has one of the strongest Certified Lay Speaker programs in the country.

## Briefly Noted

Pastor David

- Congratulations to Dr. Alan Guidry who recently received his Ed.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Guidry will be joining the faculty of East Carolina University this Fall. He grew up in Littleton UMC and is the son of Rev. Howard & Carol Guidry, grandson of Louise Owen.
- The North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting in Greenville, June 14-17. Ed Angel and Rev. Haley will be representing our church.
- Nursery workers and Sunday School workers are still needed. Contact Martha Hayes to sign up for Nursery duty and Jean Jarvis to sign up to be a Sunday School worker.
- 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 third Sunday of June.
- Reminder to Conversation Dinner Hostess: If you are behind in planning your Conversation Dinner please get it on the calendar soon.
- Several new books have been added to the church library: "Learning to Pray" and "Life After Bethany" are two of them.

## Lay Readers Needed

Additional Lay Readers are needed to read Scripture during the worship service. Readers are on a rotation system so that they typically read every two to three months. Scripture passages are provided by the pastor from the Lectionary readings for that Sunday. Training is also provided. If you are interested, let the Pastor know. A training session will be scheduled for later in June.



## Summer Early Service

The Early Casual Service began Memorial Day Weekend and continues through Labor Day Weekend. The service is at 9:00 AM and lasts about ½ hour, primarily consisting of music and preaching. This is offered as an outreach to vacationers in our area and also for our LUMC folks who want to participate. Dress is casual. The main worship service follows at 10:00 AM.

## 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. Our folks will join 40-50 other United Methodists and Baptists in a special joint project with the Methodist Church of El Salvador. The other groups include a team from the Littleton Baptist Church again this year. The teams 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 through August 7. Cost will be approximately \$850 plus the cost of airfare (\$700). If you are interested in participating or in helping someone to go, let your pastor know.

## Outreach Ministries

Helen Burtchell,  
Chairperson

The annual teacher breakfast is Monday, June 5th, 9am at McGiver Elementary School in Littleton. Let me know if you would like to help with the food preparation or help serve the faculty breakfast. 586-4682



The Beckham/Ransom Circle will meet on June 12, at 10am, at the home of Susan Merchant. (Circle Leader:

Elaine Parks 586-4254)

The Mary Lucy Self Circle will meet on Tuesday June 6, at 1:30pm, in the church board room. (Circle Leader: Liz Solovieff 586-2933)

Watch your bulletin for a date for the new circle to meet again. (Circle Leader: Helen Burtchell 586-4682)

All women of the church are invited to attend circle meetings. Contact a circle leader for more information, or Sherry Watson UMW President 586-7733.

## Summer Fellowship Suppers

Sue Beazley & Helen Burtchell



Sue and Sherm

Merchant will once again host our first fellowship supper of the summer. The fun will start at 6pm. Bring your favorite dish and join the party!



The second supper is scheduled for July 16th, and this will be a float-boat party! A first of its kind for LUMC. All those willing to give others a ride on your boat,

please contact Sue Beazley at 586-5343, or Helen at 586-4682. If you need a ride, please do the same, call and we will make sure you are included on a boat. Let's hope the weather is great for July 16th!

## Women in Christian Fellowship Luncheon

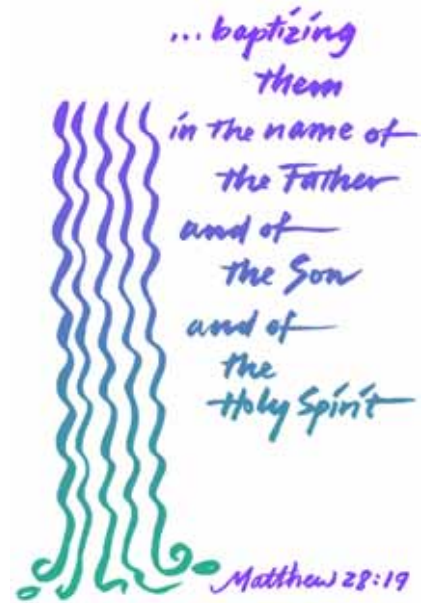
St. Albans Church, on Mosby Ave, will host the WCF luncheon on June 14th at noon. All women of the community are invited to attend. Bring a covered dish and a few friends with you. Lunch is at noon, followed by a short program/guest speaker.



Congratulations to Elizabeth and Greg Solovieff whose granddaughter, Rachel Anne Rauth, was baptized at Littleton UMC on Saturday, April 29. Rachel is the daughter of Rob & Kristen Rauth of Raleigh. Pictured above: Rachael Anne's family witnesses her baptism. Pictured right: After the baptism Rachael Anne was ready to go to her grandparents house to celebrate the occasion with her family.



Pictured left: on Sunday May 7, 2006: Madison Brianna Jordon, daughter of Scotty and Meghan Jordon of Youngsville, NC, was baptized. Madison's mother is a member of Pastor Haley's former church, and her brother, Dylan, was baptized last year at Littleton UMC.



**Bible quiz**

Fifty days after the Resurrection, a number of people who believed that Jesus was the long-awaited Christ gathered in a Jerusalem home. Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind filled the house and something like tongues of fire rested on each person. They became filled with the Holy Spirit and their faces glowed with holiness. They began to utter other languages that the Spirit had given them the sudden ability to speak. It was an uncanny occurrence, one which the church recalls with awe and appreciation every Pentecost.

In a way, the unique and powerful

experience was the birthday of the church. So many people were filled with the Spirit that their enthusiasm and charisma influenced a large number of other people to become Christians that very day.

On that day how many people "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship?"

- A. 2,000 B. 3,000 C. 4,000 D. 5,000

The answer can be found in Acts 2:41.

**Fussy people**

Did you ever wonder if among the thousands of people fed by Jesus with just a few fish and five loaves of bread,

there were some who complained about finding bones in the fish and lumps in the bread?

Some people seem unable to be happy about anything. There may be truth to the notion that those who spend their energy being grouchy all day, always barking about something, are very likely to be dog-tired at night.

The book of James has a lesson for us regarding our complaints and the misuse of our tongues. "How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire" (James 3:5-6, NRSV).

As Christians, may we use our tongues to light the fire of Good News, rather than fires of discontent!



Date	Nursery Schedule
Jun 4	
Jun 11	
Jun 18	
Jun 25	

**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 -	Pre-K: To Be Announced
Jun	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
Jun 4	Darla Angel	Acts 2.1-21; John 15.26-27
Jun 11	Gail Workman	Isaiah 6.1-8; John 3.1-17
Jun 18	Bob Workman	Psalms 20; Mark 4.26-34
Jun 25	Liz Solovieff	1 Samuel 17.32-49; Mark 4.35-41

Date	Greeters • East Narthex	Greeters • West Narthex
Jun 4	Macon White	Betsy Medlin
Jun 11	Loretta Woodburn	Frances & Betsy Howell
Jun 18	Wanda Beamer	Rachael Ricks
Jun 25	Jean Houston	Sally King

**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.

**May Ushers - East = John Beamer & West = Clifton Shearin** (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
Jun 4	Gail Workman
Jun 11	Communion
Jun 18	Marj Prescott
Jun 25	Mary M. Reilly

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, 6/11	Greg & Liz Solovieff
Sun, Jul 2	Ed & Darla
Sun, Aug 13	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan



Births in the Church Family

**Lane and Frank Harris sent an update and a picture of their son Noah**




Lane and Frank Harris are the proud parents of Noah Alston Harris born on April 25th. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. Baby, mother, and dad are doing well. The proud grandparents are George Alston of Littleton, Jean Reese of Newport, and Jimmy and Sue Ellen Harris of Littleton. Great-grandparents are Janie and Franklin Stansbury, also of Littleton.

We love updates and pictures of our church family! please email them to [watsonventures@earthlink.net](mailto:watsonventures@earthlink.net)

*Gospel Concert*  
by  
**Four By His Grace**

**Littleton Methodist Church**  
105 East South Main Street  
Littleton, NC 27850

**July 23, 2006 at 4:00 pm**



**Beverly Guthrie, Carlton McDaniel, Jr.,  
Bret Mangum, Tim Herman, Brooks Bristow,  
Robert Watson, Frank King**

A love offering will be accepted on behalf of **Able to Serve, Inc.**, a non-profit organization that provides services and opportunities to persons with physical and mental disabilities.

For more info contact: [fourbyhisgrace@aol.com](mailto:fourbyhisgrace@aol.com)

**Plan Now  
To Come!**