

Vol. 6 - Issue 3/4
March/April 2008

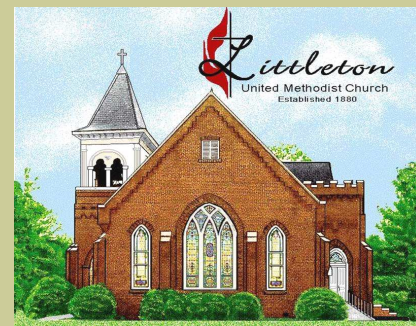
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Big News

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. This past November, we received, at the conclusion of our All Saints celebration, crocus bulbs. The crocus bulbs were to serve as a reminder that in the midst of deadness, the power of life remains at work. Over the last few weeks, not only the crocuses, but the daffodils and all manner of spring flowers have been blooming around the lake. They are right on cue, anticipating and then participating in our celebration of Eastertide. The coldness of winter has receded and the blessed rains of Spring have arrived encouraging the earth to join us in our praise of Christ. While the sense of newness and rebirth that nature is providing is most welcome, it is not what Easter is about, anymore than Easter is about chocolate bunnies and sugar coated eggs. Spring is but a pale garment clothing the body of our Lord who has risen from the grave.

Easter is about resurrection. It is about an event which occurred in a rock-hewn tomb some two thousand years ago (roughly speaking) and continues to occur in tombs today whether they be dug into the soft earth or excavated within the deadness of our own lives and thoughts. The promise of resurrection means that death does not have its hold on us because there is someone who can speak to our deadness and call us forth from our tombs. We are no longer merely bodies but we are a body, the body of Christ. We are a resurrected people who live resurrected lives. Let us reflect during this season about those places within us and outside us that need to experience resurrection, that need to

have their deadness driven away so that they can truly live into the greater glory of our God and Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob Licht

Trip to the MERCI Center

Richard Sherman

On January 29th eleven members of the LUMC motored down to the MERCI Disaster Preparedness Center near Golsboro. The MERCI Center's Mission of stockpiling goods for Disaster Relief always has some work to do for the volunteers. Many of the goods that are donated or purchased come in bulk and need to be inventoried, separated, repacked or checked for expiration dates. Low tech but busy hands are just the ticket. We packed school kits, hygiene packs, sewing kits and 5 gallon buckets of relief supplies. I called MERCI today (Feb 19) and they had been shipping supplies this morning to the Tornado victims in Hookerton NC.

If you haven't been to the MERCI Center, give it some thought. A nice drive through the NC countryside, some work for a good cause, lunch with your friends and home before dark. Ya'll come.



Above: Gail Workman and Marian Harries handle the sewing machines.

Below: Dick O'Sullivan, Alan Burtchell, Lois Weaver, Bill Weaver, Martha Sherman, Rev. Rob Licht, Irene O'Sullivan, Richard Sherman and Sherman Merchant (not pictured) round out the rest of the work team.



From The Administrative Council

Ed Angel, President

Little United Methodist Church continues to serve our Lord and Savior through the many activities in both our church and community along with the international mission activities in which we are involved. Rev. Rob has completed the Bible study on the Book of Revelation. Look for his Bible studies to continue after Easter. Richard Sherman is leading "Stop Hunger Now" which will be held at our fellowship hall on March 29. The purpose is to prepare high protein enriched meals for only \$2000, which will feed roughly 10,000 meals to children in 3rd world countries. Donations and volunteers are needed on the 29th. The missions committee will be traveling to the Merci Center in April, all are invited. We're also involved in the Zoe Ministry which cares for orphans in Africa through the donation of blankets. Many of these children know nothing but suffering and struggle. Often they bury their parents due to AIDS and then immediately face the struggle to survive without parental guidance. A trip to El Salvador is planned for 7/30 - 8/7. This is a very rewarding experience in which we work alongside families building them new homes.

Rev Rob is recommending we restructure our Nurturing Ministries Committee into a Nurturing Ministries Council, consisting of; a Shepherding Committee headed up by Liz Solovieff. The purpose of the shepherding committee is to identify and welcome visitors and strangers, and develop a system to gather information and to make sure Pastor Rob is aware of who has visited our congregation. There will also be a Discipleship Committee led by Helen Burtchell responsible to making sure that parishioners have welcome opportunities to engage in acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion. Plus a Congregational Care Committee led by Jean Houston, whose purpose is to keep track of prayer concerns and relaying them to Sue Merchant on a weekly basis. The Congregational Care Committee will also coordinate with Pastor Rob on who needs to be visited and keep him informed of upcoming concerns (i.e. surgery etc.).

Due to Sherry Watson being out of town one week in March plus surgery planned for the 18th. Sue Merchant will be taking the lead to issue this newsletter for April and May.

We are truly a God serving church. God Bless you and all our friends of Littleton United Methodist Church.

From The Missions Committee

Richard Sherman, Chairperson

Mark your Mission Calendars. The following is a list of upcoming Mission events for the LUMC:

Mar 29th we will host a **Stop Hunger Now** feeding frenzy. Well, perhaps not a frenzy. But packaging 10,000 meals in less than three hours will at least be busy. The package contains a nutritious meal and most of them will go to feed school children in poor countries. We need everyone's prayers and willing hands - a check wouldn't hurt either.



To learn more about the Stop Hunger Now organization, visit their website at: www.stophungernow.org.

Apr 22 is the projected date for our next trip to the **MERCI** Disaster Preparedness Center.

Jul 29 thru Aug 6 are the planned dates for our annual Mission trip to **El Salvador**. Early plans call for building 7 - 9 homes in partnership with the Methodist Church of El Salvador. This will be my 5th trip and I have come to understand it is possible to build a shining city on a hill one home at a time. Join us.

From The Membership Secretary

Marj Prescott

The Membership Secretary keeps an accurate historical account of the number of members in our church at any given time; those joining by transfer from another church, by profession of faith or confirmation, and those leaving by transfer, withdrawal or death. The church Rolodex is also maintained up to date with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The membership data is computer generated and the pages are placed in two 3-ring notebooks (one for the office and the other for the Membership Secretary). The individual tabbed categories are: chronological (a numbered entry by date of entry, an ongoing historical record), current (present membership), affiliate (a shared membership with another church and our church.), constituent (nonmembers who attend our church regularly), baptism, preparatory (children until age 18), removed members, deaths, changes (a summary of changes listed by

date) and newsletter addressees. In addition, similar data is manually entered in the church historical large bound books.

For the Charge Conference, annual membership changes are recorded in a simplified manner on one or two pages. Correspondence for transfers is also taken care of by the membership secretary.

In 1997, John Beamer used his skills to create the data base presently in use. Wanda, his wife, continuously updated the information until 2004, when Marj Prescott took over. In 2004, the Beamers updated and produced a new church telephone directory. The Prescott's did the same in 2007.

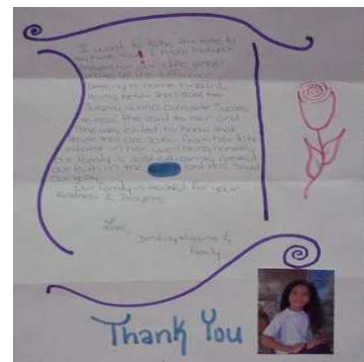
As a matter of interest, a new telephone directory is in the process of being produced, including pictures this time. Any changes from the old directory, i.e. phone numbers, addressees, e-mail addresses, etc. should be submitted to Marj or Al Prescott. Pictures for the directory will be taken after church services. For those not able to attend church, arrangements will be made to have your picture taken at home. Note, there will be no charge for photography.

Thank you from Destiny

Destiny is the student in Scott O'Sullivan's class who was on our prayer list. Dick & Irene O'Sullivan received the following note from her mom:

I want to take the time to say thank you! I know that your prayers for our little angel have made all the difference. Destiny is home now and doing better than ever. Her surgery was a complete success. We read the card to her and she was excited to know that people that are so far from her take interest in her well-being. Honestly our family is just extremely grateful. Faith in the Lord has saved our baby. Our family is thankful for your kindness and prayers.

Love, Destiny Wiggins & family





Left: The Lunch Bunch has been at it again! February 4th, they served up a delicious "Super Bowl lunch" and on March 2nd they treated us to a melt-in-your-mouth roast beef dinner. And they're not finished! Join LUMC members and friends along with folks from the other Littleton churches at noon in our fellowship hall on April 6th & May 4th. Who knows what they will be cooking up for us!

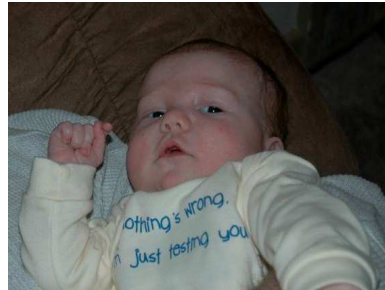


Above: Guest preacher, Rev. Lee Warren spoke at the February Lunch Bunch about "Stop Hunger Now"



Left: January 8, 2008 - Patrick & Colleen Outman with their newborn baby girl, Julia Lynn.

Below: Julia Lynn at 8 weeks.



Above & Below: Members of a local Brownie Troop helped out with the January Warren Hills Nursing Home birthday party. We're looking forward to their help with our "Stop Hunger Now" packaging event on March 29th.

LUMC Snapshots



A great big "THANK YOU" to the Christian Men at Work (above) for their \$250 donation toward our upcoming "Stop Hunger Now" packaging event.



Finance Committee Update

Mike Herman, Chairman

We are always amazed and blessed with our members and friends for their love and concern for our church and community. A new item that you will begin to see in the weekly church bulletin is the way that we report our support for our Church. You will start to see our annual church budget stated by our weekly need and then how much we received in the previous week's offering. We will also include our year to date numbers as well and how it corresponds to our budget needs. We believe this will help our people stay in tune to exactly where we stand at all times with our financial needs of our Church. Additionally, we have renegotiated our mortgage rate with BB&T and now enjoy a lower interest rate of 7.0% down from the original rate of 8.75%. Then along with the second mile giving by our congregation during 2007, we have been able to reduce our overall debt to \$82,500.00. We also have started discussions concerning our 2008 stewardship campaign and will be developing a new approach this year. We will be reaching out to all of our members and friends to see what areas of ministry we may need to explore or expand upon. We might even determine that there may be personal or community needs that we need to address as a Church as we discuss our overall financial needs. We are fortunate to have Bob Workman that has volunteered to Chair this very important campaign within our Church. Please watch for more information that will be coming in the weeks ahead. Please feel free to contact any member of your LUMC Finance Committee if you have any questions or concerns over your church's finances. Again, thank you for your loving support of our Church and its ministries.

Peace and Blessings,

Mike Herman, Chairperson

Outreach

Helen Burtchell,
Chairman



The Outreach Committee is busy, as always. We ran the Blood Bank on Feb 5th in our fellowship hall. The event ran smoothly, thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

We continue to deliver food to needy area families on the first two Fridays of each month.

On the third Friday of each month we throw a birthday party for the residents of Warren Hills Nursing Home. Each time we visit, I bring communion to Alvin Neville, long time member of LUMC. He told me he is having his 83rd birthday in March. He is so proud of that.

These ministries are very important to those that we reach each week. We bring them God's love, sometimes in the form of a song or food. It all says that we care and God loves them.

From the Trustees

Shirley Anschutz, Chairperson

The trustees will be finishing the work on the parking lot in a few weeks. This includes putting plants in the planters and painting black lines on the gravel to indicate parking spaces.

The new sign to be placed in the corner of the parking lot will be installed later.

A future job at the parsonage will be to extend the driveway to the rear of the house. Please let any trustee know of any jobs that need attention around the church.

Shirley Anschutz

UMW News

Helen Burtchell, Vice-president

Our meeting on February 16th was held in the Chapel. Pat Ziesmann presented the program titled "Spring House Cleaning", about getting your heart and mind in order, and looking at yourself a little closer during this Lenten Season. The business meeting followed the presentation.

UMW Dates to Remember:

April 19th is the Prayer Breakfast at St Paul's. We will car pool, leaving the Fellowship Hall at 7:30am.

April 20th will be UMW Sunday. More info to follow.

May 3rd there is a study on Israel/Palestine, at Rosemary in Roanoke Rapids. 9:30am.

May 17th, "A Celebration of Women" tea. At our Fellowship Hall, 10am. All ladies will be invited to celebrate with us. More info to follow.

August 16th Our Mission Study, given by Pat Ziesmann and Helen Burtchell. It is called "Mission and Music. It should be very good. Hope we see you there.

Adult Sunday School

Don Beazley

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying a course entitled "God, the People and the Covenant" This is a look at God's faithfulness to the covenant as shown throughout the monarchy, the Exile and the restoration of the people to Jerusalem. We are studying the Old Testament Books, Chronicles, Daniel, Nehemiah, Ezra and Haggai.

Sunday School starts at approximately 11:20, in the Board Room, so bring your cup of coffee and enjoy learning about our Bible, our faith and what good friends we have at LUMC.

C-e-l-e-b-r-a-t-i-o-n-s

March Birthdays	Date
Jack May	3
Sally King	6
Keith Fishel	6
Mike Herman	27
Gail Workman	29
Frances Howell	30


April Birthdays	Date
Jack Houston	2
Blaine Parks	2
Betsy Howell	4
Anna Brown	5
Skip Anschutz	6
Maria Pope	11
Rob Licht	13
Greg Solovieff	13
Maj Johnston	14
Jean Jarvis	15
Loretta Woodburn	16
Shirley Anschutz	17
Binky Haley	17
Margie Drescher	20
Richard Sherman	21
Jimmy King	21
Tim Townsend	24
Dick O'Sullivan	27





March & April Anniversaries	Date
Sherm & Susan Merchant	April 11


Nursery - Child - Youth - Leaders / Flowers • Ushers • Greeters • Communion Preparers • Lay Readers

	Nursery Volunteers
Mar 2	Margie Drescher, Jean Houston
Mar 9	Corrine Replogle, Julie Johnston
Mar 16	Lisa Hardy, Ed Angel
Mar 23	Easter—all children in church
Mar 30	Ed Angel, Mike Herman
April 6	Della Batts, Maj Johnston
April 13	Marie & Lewis Fields
April 20	Corrine Replogle, Mike Herman
April 27	Ed Angel, Sherm Merchant


	Lay Reader	Scripture
Mar 2	Don Beazley	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 (insert); Ephesians 5:8-14
Mar 9	Darla Angel	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (insert); Romans 8:6-11
Mar 16	Matt Johnston	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (insert); 1 Philippians 2:5-11
Mar 23	Mike Herman	Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 (insert); Colossians 3:1-4
Mar 30	Elizabeth Solovieff	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16 (insert); 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
April 6	Sherry Watson	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 (insert); 1 Peter 1:17-23
April 13	Lois Weaver	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23 (insert); 1 Peter 2:19-25
April 20	TBA	UMW Sunday
April 27	Bob Workman	Acts 17:22-23; Psalm 66:8-20 (insert); 1 Peter 3:13-32
May 4	Gail Workman	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 (insert); Ephesians 1:15-23

Children / Youth Sunday School	
	3yr - pre-K: AJ Lunde Elementary - Darla Angel Youth - Helen Burtchell Substitute - Anne Smith

Adult Sunday School	
	Don Beazley Mike Herman

March Ushers - Sherm Merchant - Matt Johnston - Al Prescott April Ushers - Ed Angel - Bob Workman - 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 Rob. After church they will stand at the narthex doors and speak to the congregation as they leave. Ushers

Altar Flowers	
Mar 2	Communion
Mar 9	Matt Johnston
Mar 16	Palms
Mar 23	Easter lilies
Mar 30	Sherry Watson
April 6	Sherry Watson
April 13	Communion
April 20	Lee & Barbara Reinhardt
April 27	Lee & Barbara Reinhardt

	Greeters • West Narthex	Greeters • East Narthex
	(Main door)	
Mar 2	Susannah Sherman	Martha Hayes
Mar 9	Maj Johnston	Gabrielle Pamer
Mar 16	Marj Prescott	Sue Merchant
Mar 23	Barbara Reinhardt	Betsy Medlin
Mar 30	Murlean Boswell	Erma Martin
April 6	Jean Houston	Margie Drescher
April 13	Loretta Woodburn	Corrine Replogle
April 20	Lisa Hardy	Marie Fields
April 27	Della Batts	Sue Merchant

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.

	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.
March 2	Greg & Elizabeth Solovieff
March 23	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan
April 13	Ed & Darla Angel
May 4	Greg & Elizabeth Solovieff



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



Above: LUMC members at the MERCI Center Work Day on January 29th. More photos & story on page 3.

Easter this year is: Sunday March 23, 2008 and that makes it special!



As you may know, Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox which is March 20. This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover. This is why the date of Easter moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22) but that is very rare.

Only the most elderly of our population (95 years old and above) have ever seen Easter this early before. The last time it was this early was 1913. For the most of us this year will be the earliest that we will ever see Easter, and none of us will ever see Easter a day earlier!

The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (that's 220 years from now).

The next time Easter will be a day earlier March 22, will be in the year 2285 (that's 277 years from now). The last time Easter was on March 22 was 1818. So no one alive today has seen or will ever see Easter any earlier than this year! I would say that makes this Easter special!

Submitted by Al & Marj Prescott



From Pat Ziesmann: Thank you for all your prayers and cards and calls. It was a special delight to hear from you all. I AM HOME and back to my regular routine, so I will be seeing you around the area.

From Mary Margaret Reilly: I want to thank you for all your calls, cards and visits and especially all the powerful prayers that I have received since my surgery. Thank goodness it is all behind me now, and I can finally look forward to, hopefully, getting back to a so called "normal" life, but there are no ATVs in my future, that is for sure!!! I feel so fortunate to belong to such a loving and caring church. You are all very special, and thank you again. God bless you all....Mary Margaret