



The Lake Gaston Charge

Calvary UMC - Corinth UMC - Littleton UMC - Weaver's Chapel UMC

July / August 2019

The Pastor's Portion - Stan Lewis

Pastor: Stan Lewis
email: salewis@nccumc.org

Associate Pastor: Jason DuVall
jason.duvall@nccumc.org

Calvary UMC
136 Calvary Church Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

Corinth UMC
21847 Justice Branch Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
(2nd & 4th Sundays)

Littleton UMC
105 East South Main St.
PO Box 26
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-5385
www.littleton-umc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Weaver's Chapel UMC
2209 Weaver's Chapel Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

As the fledgling Methodist church was growing in the late 1700s, John Wesley already feared what was ahead for the "people called Methodists." In his reflective treatise "Thoughts Upon Methodism" penned on August 4, 1786, he wrote this opening thought.

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out (John Wesley, Thoughts Upon Methodism, August 4, 1786)."

He was of course borrowing a section from 2 Timothy 3:1-5, in which the apostle Paul warned his understudy, Timothy, of the dangers ahead. He wrote

"Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people (2 Timothy 3:1-5, MSG)."

Unfortunately, I personally witness the decline of the church's ability to be a real agent of transformation in the communities around us! I watched our DS speak of efforts to stem racism. I listened to Governor Cooper speak on his initiative to combat opioid addiction. Both of these are very real and pervasive issues! I have heard many other leader speak of change but without any power to actually accomplish it. Each one blames the other! Time and time again, we gather to lament the problem, study the problem, publish the problem but in the

end cannot do anything about it. It is as if we are powerless!

I can almost hear the thoughts. But Pastor that's is the world outside! It isn't! It is the world inside the church as well. Have you ever wondered why the church is declining? Have you ever wondered what we could do to attract new members? It is because we have lost the transforming power of God through the Holy Spirit. We talk about change but we have not first allowed God to change us!

Before we move on let me present a picture. You go to the doctor who tells you she can help you but then either refuses to help or denies that she can help. That doctor would be brought up on charges! But is it not similar to the church? We say many great things, but are powerless to actually bring it to pass.

So how have we lost the power while maintaining an appearance or form of religion? Well we have set aside all three things that John Wesley wrote and Timothy heard from Paul. We chase all kinds of wild doctrines. We do not live a disciplined spiritual life. Lastly and most profoundly, we deny the power of the Holy Spirit!

In essence, we do not believe what we say! We moved from a transformational Gospel to a therapeutic Gospel. Let me explain. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as recorded in Holy Scripture,

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actually changes the lives of people who encounter it. The stories of the Jesus record healings not a “God’s peace be upon you, now go away.” Jesus stopped to transform lives of many. If you cannot think of one, see me and I’ll give you a list.

Yet in a “therapeutic Gospel,” we try to help people be “OK” with their problems. In doing so, we wallow in the problem rather than claiming the transforming power of God to actually change. Let me close with a story.

There were three people standing at the coffee pot on Monday morning. Two were energized and ready to work. The third was obviously not all present. So they asked the third what was wrong. That person said “I don’t know what to do. I was out late Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. I drank, came home late, and got a lecture from my significant other. I felt so bad the next night that I went home to another person. I just feel so bad and hungover.” Well the first person suggested church to find the power to change. The other two laughed. The second suggested therapy. A couple of weeks passed. They were all back at the coffee pot. This time the third person looked different, so they asked what was up. The third person said “O, nothing, I’m the same person that I was a couple of weeks ago. It is just that therapy helped me to feel good about myself.”

Let that sink in a moment. Do we want to “feel good about ourselves”? The Transformational Gospel (and Biblical Gospel) is to “be good” whereas the therapeutic Gospel (and the cultural Gospel around us) helps to “feel good.” We lament the problems of society and get nowhere, because we live out a therapeutic Gospel which gives us the “form of Godliness, while denying the power.”

The solution is not found in changing our attitudes or shifting money around. The solution is found in transformation. The transformation of our hearts! Pray for changed hearts, especially yours and mine!



**Kaye Herman,
Rev. Stan Lewis
and
Rev. Jason DuVall
at the Annual
Conference**

SUMMER SCHOLAR BOOKS Carol Townsend

Nine LUMC volunteers sorted, boxed, transported and distributed a veritable mountain of books to Vaughan Elementary School students this past June 5th. With over 1200 books to choose from, each child was able to select approximately 5 books to take home for their summer reading pleasure. Each book represents a chance for a child to strengthen his/her reading skill, an opportunity to encourage one-on-one time with a parent, a window to a wide world of imagination, or all of the above. What a blessing to all involved!



Photo below:

March 2019 - LUMC volunteers participate in Read Across America (Dr. Seuss Day) at Vaughan Elementary School.



Report from LUMC Church Council Dick O'Sullivan, Chairperson

The week of June 24th thru the 28th we hosted VBS at our Fellowship Hall. The theme for the week was "TO MARS & Beyond". We had 27 children in attendance. Jodie, her teachers and crew did a GREAT job of painting the refrigerator, washing machine boxes and other cardboard items. Pastor Stan cut from plywood two "stand-up Martians". These were painted and stickers were placed on them and they were placed in the lobby so the children would see them as they entered the building. We thank Jodie, her crew and teachers for such a nice job.

We are very happy to report that Don Beazley came through his heart operation very well. He had 5 bypasses and is now resting comfortably at his daughter's house in Virginia Beach.

The Trustees report the Parsonage interior paint job has been finished. Only those areas that needed spackle & painting were done.

Lewis has made contact with Kenny at L.G. Awning and he is working on a quote for the big windows in the Fellowship Hall. This is to stop the sun from heating up the hall and causing the A/C to come on more often.

A donation of an icemaker was made for our kitchen and will be installed soon. This will give us a back-up ice maker. Our old one works some of the time but not all the time.

The west tower roof was replaced but we still have a small leak, James Blickensderfer is watching this and will repair it when he finds out exactly where the water is coming from.

Tim Townsend has conducted an audit on the churches' books and has found everything in order. Thanks Tim for taking the time to do that for us.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you & yours.

May the Lord Bless & keep you safe.
Respectfully submitted,
Dick O'Sullivan

Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

July 26, 2019 Acts Food Pantry will be hosted by Calvary UMC.

August 22, 2019
Acts Food Pantry will be hosted by LUMC.

Volunteers are needed!



Photo left:
6/30/19 Jodie Dowhan & Carol Townsend were recognized by the UMW and LUMC Congregation for their outstanding service to our area children. **Jodie** was thanked for her work over the last few months organizing a very successful VBS week. She also has been a long time volunteer with the John 3:16 Center. **Carol** has done an amazing job over the years with our annual book donations to the children at Vaughan Elementary School. (see previous page for photos)



VBS 2019

What a great week we had!! The children had a blast at To Mars and Beyond VBS and are ready to explore where God's Power can take them! Thanks to the MANY volunteers who supported this year's community VBS. It was a fantastic team!





Vacation Bible School 2019





Above: June Conversation Dinner at the home of Bill & Gloria Kuhns
Below: Rev. Jason directs traffic at Weaver's Chapel Fish Fry



**A note from the LUMC
Financial Secretary**
Mid-year statements will go out soon. If there are any questions, call Marie Fields at 252-586-4757

THANK YOU FROM AL & MARJ PRESCOTT

June 18, 2019

Dear Friends in the LUMC,

We appreciate so much the “cake and punch” farewell to say a goodbye to our friends and we want to say a big thank you. We’ll miss and remember the inspiring messages by our pastors and this very caring and kind congregation.

We are getting pretty well settled with a few glitches along the way. We know we’ll enjoy living here and have made the right decision. Blessings to all of you.

Al & Marj

P.S.

Al has done extremely well after his eyelid surgery. His eyelid and below is now turning from a rosy red to pea green! During the Mohs tissue cutting, only one had to be done, which was a nice surprise. Then the other doctor did around 30 stitches in that small area—amazing!

God was with us all the way. Thank you for your phone calls and get well cards.



New address:
Marj & Al Prescott
The Fountains at Albemarle
200 Trade St. Apt. D-201
Tarboro, NC 27886



KAREN INSCOE SHEARIN

Karen Lynn Inscoe Shearin, 52, died on Friday, June 28, 2019, at Halifax Regional Medical Center. She was born in Halifax County the daughter of Linwood J. “Bubba” Inscoe and Dorothy Pearce Eisenson. Preceding her in death are twins Elizabeth Lynn Shearin and Warren Justis Shearin.

In addition to her parents, she is survived and remembered by her husband and best friend, Johnny Shearin; her daughter and best friend, Victoria Shearin; her sister, Tara Inscoe Keeter (Ronnie); her brother, Steve Inscoe; her brother and sister-in-law, David and Michelle Shearin, and her father and mother-in-law, John and Sandra Shearin, who considered her the daughter they never had.

She is also survived and remembered by her two nieces, Cassidy Simonowich (Blake) and Lizzie Keeter; her nephews, Luke Keeter and Brewer Shearin, as well as many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Reverend Stan Lewis will conduct graveside funeral services on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 11 o’ clock AM at Karen’s residence, 214 Eaton Ferry Road, Macon, NC 27551.

Visitation will be held after the service, and at other times, visitors will be received at the residence of John and Sandra Shearin, 184 Eaton Ferry Road, Macon, NC 27551.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Corinth United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund in care of Rose Inscoe, 1569 Inscoe Road, Littleton, NC 27850.



July Anniversaries	Date
Robert & Becky Gibson	2
Blaine & Elaine Parks	4
Alan & Helen Burtchell	12
Duane & Macon White	26
Don & Marti Theune	27

August Anniversaries	Date
Jamie & Elizabeth Inscoe	5
Bill & Gloria Kuhns	15
Jeff & Jodie Dowhan	17
Tim & Carol Townsend	22
Rev. Stan & Teresa Lewis	23
Tom & Karen Powers	24
Mark & Sabrina Mitchell	26
John & Lindie Bishop	27



July Birthdays	Date
Bob Etheridge	1
Thomas Gediak	1
Terry Newsom	2
Eli Jones	7
Terry Priestino	8
Carlton Myrick	9
Jean Rose	9
Tammy West	11
Lee Joyner	16
Dana Keane	17
McKayla Gediak	17
McKenzie Gediak	17
Richard Odom	18
Cheryl Morris	24
Helen Burtchell	26
Nicholas Rowland	26
Sean Webb	27
Jill Priestino	27
Marj Prescott	29

August Birthdays	Date
Sandra Aycock Rowland	1
Don Beazley	3
Tonya Aycock	4
Regina Dickens	4
Clyde Smith	7
Amy Keeter	7
Glenn Keeter	8
Madison Owens	8
Al Prescott	10
Debbie Wilder	17
Lloyd Earl Baird	19
Joann Tripp	23
Barbara Winebrenner	25
Angela Owens	25
Donna Walters	25
Candice Aycock	26
Ashley West	29
Austin Smith	30

LUMC Greeters & Ushers Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee time Host	Communion Stewards
July 7	Loretta Woodburn	Richard Sherman George Alston	Carol Lindley	Les & Susan Powell
July 14	Charlotte Wright	Richard Sherman George Alston	Charlotte Wright	
July 21	Jean Houston	Richard Sherman George Alston	Jean Houston	
July 28	Peg Fowler	Richard Sherman George Alston	Peg Fowler	
August 4	Jodie Dowhan	Richard Odom Matt Johnston	Marti Theune	Mike & Susan Doughtie
August 11	Jean Houston	Richard Odom Matt Johnston	Jean Houston	
August 18	Ann & Gary Herbert	Richard Odom Matt Johnston	Ann & Gary Herbert	
August 25	Carol Lindley	Richard Odom Matt Johnston	Carol Lindley	

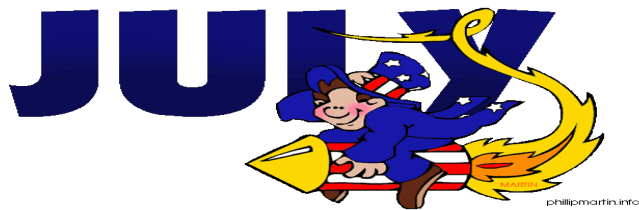


Our young usher,
Stella
(granddaughter of
Sandy Harrell)



LUMC Scripture Reading & Counter Schedule

DATE	COUNTERS	COMMUNION STEWARDS	READER	SCRIPTURE
July 7, 2019	Peg Fowler George Houston	Les & Susan Powell	Jason Duvall	2 Kings 5: 1-14 Psalm 30 Galations 6: 1-16 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
July 14, 2019	Tim Townsend Jeff Dowhan		Jodie Dowhan	Amos 7: 7-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
July 21, 2019	Kaye Herman Susan Doughtie		Jason Duvall	Amos 8: 1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10: 38-42
July 28, 2019	Jimmy King Richard Sherman		Susannah Sherman	Hosea 1: 2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2: 6-19 Luke 11: 1-13
August 4, 2019	Peg Fowler Don Theune	Mike & Susan Doughtie	Jason Duvall	Hosea 11: 1-11 Psalm 107: 1-9; 43 Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 12: 13-21
August 11, 2019	Nancy Wehrman Mike Doughtie		Nancy Wehrman	Isiah 1: 1, 10-20 Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-23 Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12: 32-40
August 18, 2019	Susan Merchant George Houston		Jason Duvall	Isaiah 5: 1-7 Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19 Hebrews 11: 29: 12:2 Luke 12: 49-56
August 25, 2019	Tim Townsend Jeff Dowhan		Matt Johnston	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Psalm 71: 1-6 Hebrews 12: 18-29 Luke 13: 10-17



Tuesday, July 2

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, July 4

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, July 7

12 pm Calvary Church Council

Tuesday, July 9

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

4-6:30 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 11

12 pm LUMC Trustees at Casa Mia's

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, July 14

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary UMC

Tuesday, July 16

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, July 18

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, July 21

3 pm SPRC at LUMC

Tuesday, July 23

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

5:30 pm Weaver's Church Council

Thursday, July 25

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, July 26

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sunday, July 28

9 am Fellowship Breakfast Weaver's Chapel

Tuesday, July 30

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, August 1

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, August 4

9 am Calvary's Homecoming

Tuesday, August 6

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, August 8

12 pm LUMC Trustees at Casa Mia's

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, August 11

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary

Tuesday, August 13

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

4-6:30 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 14

12 pm Women in Christian Fellowship

Thursday, August 15

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, August 18

9 am Weaver's Chapel Homecoming

3 pm SPRC at LUMC

Tuesday, August 20

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, August 22

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, August 23

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sunday, August 25

9 am Fellowship Breakfast Weaver's Chapel

Monday, August 26

9 pm Newsletter deadline

Tuesday, August 27

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Thursday, August 29

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

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



"I really don't think that T-shirt is necessary, now that you're up here."



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