

# I was just thinking...

Ronny Russell, Lead Pastor

Here's the text of the announcement I made to the congregation on January 17—for those who weren't there or for those who need clarification. To receive the handout, call or e-mail the church office: [charnel@missionchurch.org](mailto:charnel@missionchurch.org) or call—704.436.6603. We'll send it to you.

For a long time I have been the lead pastor of Mission Baptist Church. In a few years that will change. The reality is that I am nearing the point in time when I will think about what most people call retirement.

Fact is, I have never considered retirement as a possibility in my life. How can one retire from being a servant of Jesus Christ? Certainly no one ever retires from being a Jesus follower.

However, I have thought about **refiring**. Being pastor of MBC has been a great spiritual adventure. I'm sure God has more such adventures for me through other venues.

What that means is that at some point in time I will no longer be the lead pastor of MBC. In all of this, I want to state clearly that I care deeply about two things—primarily the work that God has called me to do and secondly, I care deeply about Mission Baptist Church.

I like to use sports analogies and I think there is one that fits here. A coach and a team prepare for a big game. They work to develop their game plan and then carry out that plan in the arena. But when that big game is over and the final horn is sounded, what do they do? The answer is that they begin almost immediately to think about the next game or the next season.

That's what I've been doing a lot of over the past couple of years—thinking about the next season of my life and ministry. I have talked with family, I have talked with a very small number of people in the church about this, I have talked with friends outside the church, but most of all, I have talked with the Heavenly Father.

Today, I am ready to present a plan to you for the next part of my own spiritual journey and for yours as well. Over the next four years I propose to gradually diminish my role as Missions' lead pastor. At this time the plan is to reduce my role by 25% in each of the next four years. I will be raising my own financial support to make up the difference.

One of the goals of this plan is to make the transition from one lead pastor to another as smooth as possible. Hopefully this phased plan will help to make that possible.

During that time I will not be moving so much toward retirement as I will toward a new spiritual adventure; i.e., a **re-firing**, not a retiring. I feel very strongly that God is calling me to be involved in local and global missions. God has given me a passion, I believe, for helping people grow out of spiritual and material poverty around the world, namely in Honduras and South Africa. This plan will enable me to say yes to that new calling.

What will this mean for MBC over the next four years? The first year you probably won't notice much difference. I will still be here about 75% of the time. Jeremy will be doing the Sunday morning teaching a little more frequently. After the first year, the changes will become a little more noticeable but by then a process will be in place to make the transition go smoothly.

During the first year, the Personnel Team will begin a process for finding a successor. Let me add here that at this point that nothing about the process has been determined. The timetable may even change from four years to another span of time. We will continue to rely on the Holy Spirit's leadership for all of that.



## Grace Life Conference

This conference is a practical, Biblical explanation of the “how to stop depending on yourself, instead of Jesus Christ in you”. You also learn the Christian's identity in Christ and of your freedom from law through God's grace. In it, each participant hears how it is possible for them to live in a heart to heart relationship with God by transferring their dependence from themselves to Jesus Christ in them.

- When: Sunday, March 21, 4pm-7:30pm; Monday & Tuesday, March 22-23, 7pm-9pm
- Where: Mission Baptist Church, 12444 Mission Church Rd., Locust, NC
- Conference Speaker: Mark Maulding, founder and president of Grace Life International.
- Cost: \$50 new attendee, \$10 per alumni (Due by March 6, \$5 additional after 3/7/10)

Brochures available on table in church lobby. Contact church office for more information or visit their website at [www.gracelifeinternational.com](http://www.gracelifeinternational.com).

## New Small Group

**Marriage Small Group Begins Sunday, February 14, 9:45am-10:45am**

Tim and Denise Smither will be leading a small group focused on marriage. The discussion and group time will center around the book *"The Marriage You've Always Wanted"* by Gary Chapman. **If you have questions or would like to participate you can contact Tim and Denise at 704.436.3555 or [tsmither@vnet.net](mailto:tsmither@vnet.net). Sign up sheet will also be available in the church lobby.**

## Grace Through Suffering

Grace Through Suffering is a women's event being held Saturday, February, 6th at First Baptist Church in Albemarle. Featured guest speaker is Marti Sullivan with music by Chad Pollard and The Parkwood Baptist Praise Team. Registration and light breakfast begins at 8:00am with the conference beginning at 9:00am and going until 4:00pm. The cost is \$10 per person. For tickets call 704-982-2111 or email [gracethroughsuffering@gmail.com](mailto:gracethroughsuffering@gmail.com).

## Congregational Q & A Meeting

There will be a congregational question and answer meeting on Sunday, February 21 at 4:00pm. This will be a time to meet, discuss, and answer questions concerning the process of Ronny's movement to the role of Global Missions Coordinator. (See Pastor's Page)

## Fellowship Club



The Fellowship Club will meet on Monday, February 8th at 11:30 am. Bring your favorite covered dish and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship!

## Sunday Worship Times

Praise and Worship:  
8:30am and 11:00am  
(worship care provided for infants through age 3)

Mission @ Stanfield 10:00am

Bible Study for all ages: 9:45am  
(Mission Campus)

# The Mission Messenger

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**Next Newsletter Deadline: February 20, 2010**

### Lead Pastor

Ronny Russell - ronnyr@missionchurch.org

### Music Ministry Leaders

Kolis Moore - music@missionchurch.org

Koni Huneycutt - music@missionchurch.org

### Campus Pastor

David Troublefield - davidt@missionchurch.org

### Ministry Assistant

Charlene Lowder - charlenel@missionchurch.org

### Student's Pastor

Gerald Weideman - geraldw@missionchurch.org

### Children's Ministry Director

Beverly Cobb - beverlyc@missionchurch.org

### Pastor of Spiritual Formation

Jeremy Hyde - jeremyh@missionchurch.org

12444 Mission Church Rd, Locust, NC 28097  
704-436-6603 \* Fax:704-436-8658 \* www.missionchurch.org

### Mission Baptist Church

12444 Mission Church Road  
Locust, NC 28097

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**February 7, 2010  
10:00 AM  
West Stanly High School  
Auditorium  
1 Joint Service  
(no Sunday School)**



# MEMORIALS



## CHALLENGE TO BUILD

IN MEMORY OF VANCE & JACKIE CRAYTON BY:  
MR. & MRS. MARTIN TALBERT

IN MEMORY OF REECE HUNEYCUTT BY:  
MR. & MRS. TODD HUNEYCUTT, MRS. FRANCES HUNEYCUTT

## CEMETERY FUND

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT VONCANNON BY:  
MRS. MINNIE VONCANNON

## GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF CLAUDE HATLEY BY:  
MR. & MRS. ERIC VAUGHN

## JUDSON WHITLEY MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF OPAL WHITLEY & JUDSON WHITLEY BY:  
MR. & MRS. DAVID SCHACKMANN

## LAFOLLETTE BUILD PROJECT

IN HONOR OF JOSH & NATALIE CAUDILL BY:  
AMY LAWS, MR. & MRS. CHARLIE DONAHUE, MR. & MRS. FRED LAWS

IN MEMORY OF RANDALL GRUBBS BY:  
MR. & MRS. REGGIE SIMPSON, MR. & MRS. JIM LOWDER,  
MR. & MRS. RICHARD TUCKER, FOUR SEASONS REALTY,  
THOMAS GAS COMPANY, MR. & MRS. THOMAS WHEAT

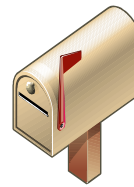
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People are learning what it's like to make a positive difference in the world through the Souper Bowl of Caring mission project. Money is collected to provide food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be a part of this movement - sharing God's love with those in need. **Sunday, February 14, is our collection day.** You will be given an opportunity to give at the end of the worship services. Our collection will be given to West Stanly Christian Ministries. Last year \$1240 was given

to WSCM from our church family. Children may return their cans of coins to Survivor Club on Wednesday, February 10, or to Sunday School on February 14.



## Letters of Note...

Dear Friends, What a Blessing our community has received because of the many volunteers from our service area. Because of your help ringing bells, sponsoring angels, giving monetary donations or working at our cheer shop, etc...we were able to meet the needs of 967 families and made a much brighter Christmas season for over 4, 000 lives that were touched by your volunteerism.

All of us here at The Salvation Army would like to send you a big heartfelt Thank You, for all of your time and hard work. God bless you! Sincerely, *Majors Allen & Melinda Johnson, Corps Officer*

Dear Women of Mission, I was very gladly surprised when I was presented with a check from your church. With \$500.00 we will purchase 3,125 pounds of food. That will go a long way to fight hunger in Stanly County. God bless all of you. *Debra Eudy, Providence Church Benevolence Ministry Director*

Dear Mission Family, Thank you for your calls, cards, memorials and most of all love and prayers during the loss of my father. Blessings to you all, *Scott Grubbs and Family*

Mission Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful plant, cards and phone calls following the death of my mother, Nancy Holcombe. Most of all thank you for the many prayers. *Laura Huneycutt and Family*

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Please contact the church office if you have not received your 2009 tax contribution report in the mail.

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February 7-14 is the week of prayer for the Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina. Prayer guides and gift materials will be available the week of February 7th.

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The current sermon series is based on the book of Romans. Join us at our Sunday morning services as we journey through this letter to the early Roman church.





Connect your child's heart to Jesus in a special way this month

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:  
Joining Families To Teach  
Their Children About  
Jesus Christ**

Spend some time outside and talk together about God's creation.

Read the Bible or pray together at a new time.

Have a family worship time. Sign up for ideas in a newsletter at [www.seedsfamilyworship.net](http://www.seedsfamilyworship.net)

Do something together with your children for someone in need.

Ask your child if they would like to invite a friend to church.

Pray with your spouse for your child's present and future needs.

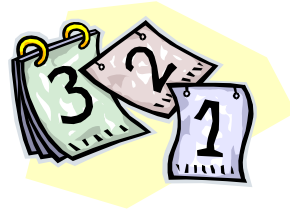


**Discovery Class during Sunday School – 2/14 to 3/7**

**This class is for any child interested in finding out more about what it means to be a Christian. Please sign up ASAP on Worship Folder Tab if your child is interested.**

**Calendar of events:**

- 1) Discovery Class on Sundays 2/14 to 3/7
- 2) Easter Fellowship for Grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 3/19
- 3) Easter Fellowship for 1's to K 3/21
- 4) Children's Day 3/28
- 5) Parent/Child Dedication 4/18
- 6) VBS 7/11 to 15
- 7) Camp for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders 7/26 to 7/30



**February Calendar for Worship Care**

Hostesses: Feb. 7, SuperVision '10; Feb. 14, Beverly Cobb; Feb. 21, Angie Fink; Feb. 28, Michele Roper-Shue

8:30 Babies and Ones: Feb. 7, SuperVision '10; Feb. 14, Andrea Harkey, Kelly Barrier; Feb. 21, Melissa Barrier, Krista Ross; Feb. 28, Wendy Smith, Leigh Anne Veazey

8:30 Twos and Threes: Feb. 7, SuperVision '10; Feb. 14, Lynn Helms; Feb. 21, Shelley Hancock, Greg Tucker; Feb. 28, Kamela Efird, Sue Raines

11:00: Feb. 7, SuperVision '10; Feb. 14, Angie Bumgarner, Jennifer Price; Feb. 21, Trena Shinn, Laura Hamilton; Feb. 28, Curtis Grant, Wendy Lucas



Students meet every Sunday morning in the Café, 9:45am-10:45am for breakfast, fellowship, games, and Bible study.

Students meet on Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:15pm For a time of Fun, fellowship



Charlotte Bobcats Faith & Family Night March 12, 2010



Charlotte Vs. LA Clippers—Family Force 5 Concert to follow  
Cost \$15, \$ to Gerald by February 14th  
Bus will leave at 5:00pm

**February Breakfast List**

February 7: Alex & Adam Fisher, Jordan Griffin

February 14: Stoney & Valorie Hatley, Tyler Huneycutt

February 21: Jackson Skey, Trey Barbee, Rachel Barrier

February 28: Alexandra Buff, Becka Crayton