

Romans

Pastor Ronny Russell

Blog: <http://paparon.wordpress.com/>

Beginning in January, January 17 to be exact, we are going to be doing a series of sermon lessons from the book of *Romans*. It will likely continue for at least a year. Here's what Eugene Peterson said about *Romans* in his introduction to the letter in *The Message*:

"...when this letter arrived in Rome, hardly anyone read it, certainly no one of influence. There was much to read in Rome—and much of it was world-class. And yet in no time as such things go, this letter left all those other writings in the dust. Paul's letter to the Romans has had a far larger impact on its readers than the volumes of all those Roman writers put together. What is God up to? What does it mean that Jesus 'saves'? What's behind all this, and where is it going?" (Romans is) the premier document of Christian theology."

In short, Paul explains how it is that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus has caused the world to take a new direction. He also explains the implications of the Jesus-event on the life of every individual. That's pretty hefty stuff, right?

So, over the next year or so we are going to try to unpack a lot of that. We'll be taking a few verses each week and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to us through them.

Why Romans? Why now? Well, sometimes the quarterback just feels that it's time to "go deep?" Now is one of those times.

Yes, Romans is not light reading. It is not terribly complicated either, just profound and deep. But deep shouldn't keep us from sailing into its waters. We should never be afraid of "going deep." There are untold treasures out there in the deep. Remember the slogan that goes with our sailboat logo from Psalm 107:23-24:

²³ *Others went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.*

²⁴ *They saw the works of the LORD,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.*

Let me encourage you to join us on this journey in the following ways:

- **Read through the book of Romans**, just a few verses each week, and together we'll unlock some of its mystery. I'll be giving you advance notice of the passages we will be doing a few weeks in advance.
- **Pray as you read**—before, during, and after the passage. Allow the same Spirit who inspired this Word to illuminate your path with its profound meaning.
- As you read each passage, ask of it this question: **"How does this speak to or impact my life right now, today?"**

Teachers in our Adult Bible Fellowships or small group leaders might want to consider using the sermon lesson each week for all or part of their own teaching lesson. Each week we'll have T.A.Q.s (Teaching Application Questions) in the worship folder with a few starter questions. If anyone wants the full manuscript of the teaching lesson each week, just let us know and we'll provide that for you as well.

Looking forward to meeting you all on the Roman road.

January 17: Romans 1:1-7

January 24: Romans 1:8-13

January 31: Romans 1:14-17

Deacon Ordination

There will be a deacon ordination held on January 3rd at the 11:00 worship service. Newly elected deacons, and their area of service, who will be ordained are Trent Harkey, Care; Reggie Simpson, Community Missions; and Eddie Skey, Finance. Other deacons currently serving are Rodney Furr, ABFs; Paul Graham, Worship; Ronnie Hatley, Building and Grounds; Larry Honeycutt, Senior Adults; Gordon Huneycutt, Vision; Sid Lambert, Prayer; Tom Moore, Missions; Doug Morton, Care; Keith Morton, Preschool and Children; David Ross, Personnel; Billy Talley, Small Groups; Bruce Whitley, Youth.

Mission 411

Mission 411 (formerly Mission 101) will be held on Sunday, January 17th during the Bible Study hour, 9:50am-11:45am. Topics covered include: Mission's vision, core values, and basic beliefs. It also offers a great opportunity to meet other newcomers and find out about small group and ministry opportunities. To register, fill out the communication card on the worship folder, contact the church office or email Jeremy Hyde at jeremyh@missionchurch.org.

New Small Group

What would it look like for us to live every moment of our lives in the embrace of our heavenly father? Every relationship, every interaction, every experience lived to the joy of the father. Over six weeks this small group will explore the idea of spiritual formation.

Dan and Nancy Nicewonger will serve as both host and guide on this six week journey. January 11, 25; February 8, 22; March 8, 22 (6:30 – 8:30pm). Group is limited to 12 participants. Please call or email to reserve your place for this 6 week experience.

Meeting Place: Nicewonger Home, 202 Tanglewood Drive, Locust

Contact Info:

Home: 704-781-5077 Dan's Cell: 704-918-8043 Email: dnicewonger@gmail.com

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.

Fellowship Club



enjoy a time of fun and fellowship!

The Fellowship Club will meet on Monday, January 11th at 11:30 am. Bring your favorite covered dish and

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)

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MEMORIALS

CHALLENGE TO BUILD

IN MEMORY OF REECE HUNEYCUTT BY:
MR. & MRS. EDDIE MAULDIN

CEMETERY FUND

IN MEMORY OF CLAUDE HATLEY BY:
MR. & MRS. CHUCK EUDY

IN MEMORY OF OSCAR & ZORA LAMBERT, JOHNNY & GLADYS HELMS BY:
MR. & MRS. HERBERT MILLER

IN MEMORY OF RANDY CRAYTON BY:
MRS. GAIL CRAYTON

GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF CLAUDE HATLEY BY:
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF H. BERRY AND MARTHA R. HATLEY BY:

MR. & MRS. VAN M. HATLEY

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI EUDY BY:
MR. & MRS. MARTIN STANCIL

Souper Bowl of Caring

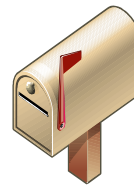
More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group.

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day more than \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest weekend of giving and serving.

Through this mission, people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world - as money is collected to provide food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Children at Survivor Club and Sunday School will be given an empty food can to save coins. On February 7, Souper Bowl Sunday, everyone will have an opportunity to give at the end of the worship services. Be a part of this movement - sharing God's love with those in need. Our collection will be given to West Stanly Christian ministries. Last year \$1240 was given to WSCM from our church family.



Letters of Note...

The Boy Scouts and leaders of Troop 202 would like to thank everyone that donated to our "Coat Drive". Our goal was to gather 75 coats and jackets but we delivered 109 coats and jackets to West Stanly Christian Ministries. We also want to thank everybody who purchased popcorn during our 2009 popcorn sale. It was a great success. *Boy Scout Troop 202*

We would like to thank all of you for your kind words, cards, food, and sympathies in the passing of Claude. Your lifelong support means so much to all of us.
The Family of Claude Hatley

Dear Mission: I know this is a little late, but I wanted to thank you all for your support and donations to our Operation Warm Up mission trip. Your kind prayers and donations were given out to the people of Panther, WV. Not only were they clothed for the upcoming winter, but their hearts were touched and they were thrilled to hear about the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you again for everything.

Love in Christ, *Lauren Souther and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church*



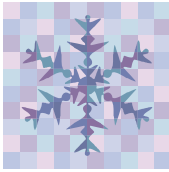
Survivor Club will resume meeting on January 6th.



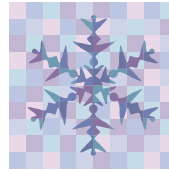
Mission Trip to Honduras

A mission trip is being planned to Honduras August 11-18, 2010. There are three possible ministries the team will be doing: replacing roofs and conducting a medical clinic in a mountain region northeast of the capital city, and a ministry to the families who live in and near the city garbage dump in Tegucigalpa. James Inman is taking the initiative to get this team together. More details coming soon!

At the present time, EVERYONE who is working with children/youth as a teacher, substitute teacher, worship care teacher, or chaperone should have completed the child safety class with a background check. If you have been missed in attending this class and having your background checked, and you are currently serving with children/youth in some capacity, please contact Beverly Cobb to correct this error. THANK YOU to all who have so willingly participated in this process to make our church a safe place for any child or youth to attend!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:
 Joining families in teaching
 their children
 about Jesus Christ



A new year brings a time to think about new or renewed commitments, new or renewed disciplines. I would like to challenge all teachers to begin preparing their lesson the week before it is needed. This gives you time to hear from God what might be helpful to the children's discipleship. Also, please remember that this is precious time to instill the biblical truths in fresh minds. Thank you for all that you are doing to teach children about the one who came to save them!

Not involved in children's ministry, but you believe God would have you become involved. Please begin by praying for the children & teachers in this ministry. Then, if you believe God is calling you to be a part of this foundational ministry, please contact Beverly at beverlyc@missionchurch.org or 704-578-2644.

The Christmas Play

Thank you to all the children who participated in leading us in worship for Christmas. You all practiced so hard to learn songs that would lead others to worship God. Thank you to Mrs. Angie and Mrs. Koni for all their planning and teaching. Also, thanks to all those many parents who helped behind the scenes. Isn't it amazing to be able to use the gifts that

He gave YOU to glorify His name?



Discovery Class for 3rd to 6th graders

In February, we will offer a four week class during Sunday School. If your child has been asking questions about becoming a Christian, and you would like some reinforcement on the answers, this is the class. We will discuss the steps to becoming a Christian, the meaning of baptism

January Calendar for Worship Care

Hostesses: Jan. 3, Shelly Hyde; Jan. 10, Tammy Joyner; Jan. 17, Misty Broadway; Jan. 24, Renee Sides; Jan. 31, Tammy Fisher

8:30 Babies and Ones: Jan. 3, Melissa Eudy, Candice Mullins; Jan. 10, Cami Yost, Wesley Joyner; Jan. 17, Roxanne Hiott, Wendy Tucker; Jan. 24, Natalie Caudill, Evonne Caudill; Jan. 31, Susan Honeycutt, Derek Blalock

8:30 Twos and Threes: Jan. 3, Clint Eudy, Andrea Efird; Jan. 10, Dewayne Eudy, Michael Sides; Jan. 17, Shelley Hancock, Greg Tucker; Jan. 24, Terry Scott, Larry Honeycutt; Jan. 31, Chad Clayton, Beth Blalock

11:00: Jan. 3, Tom Moore, Reba Tucker; Jan. 10, Danny Harwood, Debbie Green; Jan. 17, Barbara Lowder, Jim Lowder; Jan. 24, Richard Tucker, Karen Weideman; Jan. 31, Andrea Burris, Ronnie Hatley



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

Winter Jam
1-10-10
 New Song, Newsboys,
 3rd Day and others
 will be performing!
 Cost is \$10
 Bus leaves at 4:00pm
 See Gerald to sign up!

ConnXion
 will NOT meet
 on December 30th
 or January 6th.
 Resumes on
 January 13th!

January Breakfast List

January 3: Caleb & Ethan Sides, Zachary Honeycutt
 January 10: Madison, Bruce, and Lisa Whitley
 January 17: Emily Honeycutt, Zachary Marin, Kevin Thomas
 January 24: Matt Vaughn, Gerald & Karen Weideman
 January 31: Volunteer needed