

I was just thinking...

Ronny Russell, Lead Pastor

Highlights of the year...and it's only the end of February!!!

Some exciting things have been happening at Mission in 2011 and we're only two months into the year.

Here are just a few:

- We had around 25 couples to attend the Art of Marriage workshop in February. Only time will reveal how much this teaching will impact marriages and families for years, perhaps even generations to come. That isn't just hype, it's a reality! Our thanks to Jim & Barbara Lowder and their passion for staging this event.
- There have been several professions of faith at both the Mission and Stanfield campuses. We'll wind up with about a dozen baptisms and changed lives. An awesome work of the Holy Spirit.
- We've had sermon series that have generating a lot of interest as well as changing lives. Topics for these series have included "American Idols," "Once Upon a Marriage," and the current series "Revealed" which is about the Holy Spirit.
- On March 13 we'll begin a 40 Days of Prayer emphasis. Existing small groups will be taking some time to study prayer and other groups will be formed for this six-week emphasis. Everyone at Mission will be asked to pray for the church and the major transitions it faces over the next couple of years.
- We'll also be having a sermon series on prayer beginning on March 13 and ending on April 17.
- At the Mission campus on January 2 we had a deacon ordination
- Also at the Mission campus on February 6 we had Boy Scout Recognition, giving recognition to these partners in disciple-making at Mission.
- We've had a Parent/Child Dedication service at Mission, also on February 6 with six families participating.
- I took a Sunday away from preaching on February 20 and went to Stanfield to hear Pastor David finish up the series on "Once Upon a Marriage." At Mission Pastor Jeremy kicked off the "Revealed" series. I can't put in words how proud I am of these two for the powerful teachings they presented that day.
- Worship teams at both campuses take their calling seriously every week to provide opportunities for people to express their love for God.
- Children are being disciplined as a result of adults who see their calling as making disciples of children.
- Our students' ministry is doing some very remarkable things as our adolescents in grades 7-12 come together on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. They have developed their own praise and worship team as well as a tech team.
- There is no shortage of vision for the future. When our ministry teams meet, there is a lot of exciting discussion about where God is leading us in the future.

Pause and give thanks when you read this for the wonderful church that God is growing in our two communities, Mission and Stanfield—one church worshipping and serving in two communities. Because of confidentiality we cannot tell you all the experiences of changed lives but believe me, they are awesome. And God is just beginning.

Want to join this movement of God? Find a way to use your gifts and talents to **love God, connect with others, and serve the world.** Invite your friends to one of the services.



Fellowship Club

We will continue our theme of 'Caring for Others' as we show love and encouragement to 'our soldier', **Marty Little**, who is serving in Afghanistan. Each person is asked to bring an item to fill our box to mail to Marty.

This month you will be treated to lunch. The menu is: Grilled Chicken, Ham, Baked Potatoes, Tossed Salad, and dessert. YUM!!

After the meal we'll play the 'Corn Hole' game - men versus women, and then pack the box for Marty!

Arnold & Rachel will serve as host & hostess for the March meeting on Monday, the 14th at 11:30am.

BBQ Chicken Fundraiser to benefit Hospice of Stanly County, March 25th, 2011, 11A - 7P at West Albemarle Baptist Church, located at 336 Church St, Albemarle. Help is needed to circulate flyers and solicit lunch orders, sell tickets, bake cakes, cook, and help at the church the week of the benefit. If you would like to help, or purchase tickets, call 704-983-4216 or call Reggie Simpson, 704-485-8342.

Coming in April: Journey to the Cross

Last year Mission began an Easter experience called "A Journey to the Cross" as a self guided, experiential journey through the final hours of Jesus life. While Christmas gets much more attention, hype, and commercialism, Easter is THE reason why we do what we do as a community of faith.

This year, we are excited to continue this important experience for attendees of Mission and guests.

As with last year, we can't host this experience without you!

There are several areas that we need volunteers this year. Those areas include:

- Station Attendants
- Refreshments
- Set-up/Tear Down
- Prayer Counselors
- Host/Greeter



The dates for this years Journey to the Cross will be April 17-19 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

If you are interested in volunteering any of the evenings listed above please contact Jeremy at the church office or jeremyh@missionchurch.org

Memorials

General Fund:
In Memory of Sequel Gladden
by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crayton

In Memory of H.B. & Martha Hatley
by Mr. Van Hatley

In Honor of Mission Baptist Church
by Baptist Women of Mission

Challenge to Build:
In Memory of Viola Crayton
by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Downer

Sunday Worship Times

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

Mission @ Stanfield 10:00am
<http://missionstanfieldworship.ning.com/>

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

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 21, 2011

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Ronny Russell - ronnyr@missionchurch.org

Music Ministry Leaders

Kolis Moore - music@missionchurch.org

Koni Huneycutt - music@missionchurch.org

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Thomas Childers - thomaschilders27@yahoo.com

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The Mission Messenger

A Publication of Mission Baptist Church

March, 2011

Volume 32 Issue 4



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A New
Message Series
Starting
March 13th

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Thank You...

A special thank you to everyone who helped make the Art of Marriage such a special event. For those of you who were unable to attend this time, we do plan to offer this series again in the future. Below are some of the evaluation comments written by those who participated that Friday night and Saturday.

- I think this is a conference all married couples should attend.
- This conference has truly blessed me and I know God will use it to better our marriage.
- The viewing experience was perfect-couldn't have been better. I wanted more!!!!!! The book and video were superb (serious and funny-good combo).
- All couples need to experience this.
- Makes you take time to think, talk, interact.
- It was all great; could not have been better!
- Engaging, interesting, and pertinent; professionally put together
- Videos excellent quality with lots of wisdom

If you would like to know more about the Art of Marriage or attend a future event, please contact Barbara Lowder, Denise Smither, Corletta Barbee, or Charlene Lowder.

News from Evening MOPS @ Mission...Our next Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th, 6:00pm in the Connection Café where we will discuss God's Grandscape for Moms: Meditate That! For those of you new to Mission or unfamiliar with MOPS, we are a fellowship of Mothers of Preschoolers (and expecting moms). Please contact Beth Blalock (704.953.1864) for more information or to reserve childcare for the March meeting.

Also, we will have a covered dish Mommy social on Friday, March 4th, 6:30-8:30pm, in the Café...SOOOO, if you have a child under the age of 6, please come and join your fellow MOPS for a night of fun-even if you aren't able to attend or have never attended one of our meetings. This is for ALL preschool MOMS at Mission (and mom friends in the community)!

40 Days of Prayer (Continued from cover)...This important message series aims to: Increase our awareness of the need to pray, Pray in groups for each other and our church, Watch where The Spirit moves in our lives and the life of the church.

What we are asking you to do:

- Join a small group—it only lasts 6 weeks!
- Be willing to facilitate a group-you will receive all materials and coaching prior to the group's starting.
- Be willing to host a group in your home.
- Help other groups with child care-it would be great if groups helped each other with childcare so everyone can have a great experience.

Contact Pastor Jeremy if you would be willing to help in any of the above areas.

Mission Welcomes New Members

Heather Gabbert
1155 Belmont Ct.
Concord, NC 28027

Jody Luther*
5701 Historic Spring
Concord, NC 28025

Dustin & Stephanie Eudy*
16193 Buster Rd.
Oakboro, NC 28129

Steven Kindley*
9771 Fairfield Dr.
Stanfield, NC 28163

Darleen Hudson
12926 Mission Ch. Rd.
Locust, NC 28129

Charles & Christi Edwards
Colby Edwards
Conner Edwards
20812 Running Crk. Ch. Rd.
Locust, NC 28097

*Mission @ Stanfield

Mission Project

'Our Soldier', **Marty Little**, is serving in Afghanistan. You are invited to join the Fellowship Club by bringing items that will be mailed to him. This is a small way to give Marty support and encouragement. Place your items in the basket in the lobby.



Suggested items: Koolaide & Crystal Light singles, hot cocoa, instant coffee, creamer packets, sweetener/sugar packets, coffee stir sticks, Bit O Honey, hard candy, Raman noodles, Easy Mac, Lunchables, Beanie Wieners, beef jerky, microwave popcorn & kettle corn (94% fat-free butter), protein bars, cereal bars, granola bars, bubble gum, gum, sunflower seeds, plastic forks & spoons, tooth brush, tooth paste, razors, foot powder, cotton swabs, sun screen, baby wipes (non-alcoholic), Chap Stick, icy hot patches, multi-vitamins, band aids, antibiotic cream, shower shoes (size 11), deck of cards, hacky sack, stress ball, 2A batteries, fitness and golf magazines, stick-up air fresheners, zip lock bags, and a greeting card from you.

Send encouraging mail to:
Marty Little
Care of ODA Camp Prosser
A CO 17 16 IN
FOB Kunduz
APOAE 09368

This project will be on-going until Marty's tour of duty ends and he returns to the states. Remember to pray for Marty and his family, Rosa, Delanie, and Craig, while he is serving our country.



"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"
Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

duty ends and he returns his family, Rosa, Delanie, and Craig, while he is serving our country.

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"



Children's Ministry: Joining families in encouraging their children to be followers of Jesus!

March 27-Children's Day at 8:30 & 11:00



April 17, 18, 19-Stations of the Cross (Families are encouraged to attend together)

April 23-Easter Egg Hunt (up to 2nd Grade)
Locust Park, 10:00am



July 10-14-Chase the Light-VBS



July 25-29 Summer Camp 3rd-6th boys & 4th-6th girls.
*Forms available in children's lobby area.



Student Ministry

ConnXion @ Night on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm.
Come join your friends on Wednesday nights at Mission!

Camp Caswell
July 18-23
Total Cost \$290
Deposit of \$145
due March 16!



ConnXion A.M.
Every Sunday, 9:45-10:45am, in the Café
Breakfast, fellowship, Bible lessons



Aftershock 2011

Coming May 1st, 7:00pm
An evening of worship with our creative movement team Friends!
Everyone is invited!!!

March Calendar for Worship Care

Hostesses: Mar. 6, Tammy Joyner; Mar. 13, Misty Broadway; Mar. 20, Renee Sides; Mar. 27, Tammy Fisher

8:30 Babies and Ones: Mar. 6, Cami Yost, Wesley Joyner; Mar. 13, Roxanne Hiott, Wendy Tucker; Mar. 20, Keith & Marie Morton; Mar. 27, Susan Honeycutt, Volunteer Needed

8:30 Twos and Threes: Mar. 6, Dewayne Eudy, Michael Sides; Mar. 13, Shelley Hancock, Greg Tucker; Mar. 20, Volunteer Needed, Larry Honeycutt; Mar. 27, Crystal Clayton, Volunteer Needed

11:00: Mar. 6, Barbara & Jim Lowder; Mar. 13, Andrea Burris, Ronnie Hatley; Mar. 20, Mike Geelen, Lore Hatley; Mar. 27, Curtis Grant, Wendy Lucas

Breakfast List for March

March 6: Trey Barbee, Becka Crayton, Ryan Grubbs

March 13: Becka Crayton, Caleb/Ethan Sides

March 20: Mary Helms, Katharine Ross

March 27: Alexandra Buff, Alex/Amber Harkey, Jordon Hartsell