

# Corolla Chapel 2008 Spring Newsletter



JOHN W. AUSTIN MEMORIAL

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## Is Corolla Chapel A Lighthouse?



Currituck Beach Lighthouse

We recognize that we have a great Christian heritage in this country and that many people are raised in the faith of their parents. However, many of these folks grow into the maturity of life and never make faith in Jesus their own faith.

*They never really come to know Him in a personal way, as their own personal Lord and Savior. We know that God does not have any grandchildren, only children.*

*Therefore, it is our desire and quest here at Corolla Chapel to help people of all faiths, creeds, or religious backgrounds get genuinely connected with Jesus and to make Him the Lord of their lives.*

*The Lord has seen fit to place this little chapel in a unique place. We sit at the foot of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse. In a very real sense we believe that Jesus will*

*make us a different kind of lighthouse that will shine forth the truth of the wonderful news of the gospel.*

*Many people will pass our way on vacation and will hopefully be surprised by the presentation of the gospel in a way that they will for the first time, see how truly wonderful Jesus is and will want to make a full commitment of their lives to Him.*

*We covet your prayers for our quest. If you would like to partner with us through prayer, providing financial support, or in any other way, you can contact us at:*

*[pastor@corollachapel.com](mailto:pastor@corollachapel.com)*

### Special points of interest:

- IT IS OUR HOPE THAT COROLLA CHAPEL WILL BE A SPIRITUAL LIGHTHOUSE ON THE OUTER BANKS
- JESUS IS REAL AND HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH THAT TOOK THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SIN UPON HIMSELF. HE OFFERS YOU ETERNAL LIFE IF YOU WILL PRAY, ENTRUST YOURSELF TO AND RECEIVE HIM.

## The Chapel In New Clothes

Most of you have probably seen the chapel since she was moved across the street to her new location.

The old chapel now abuts a new structure forming a cruciform (cross). The interior was designed to beautifully compliment the old structure while increasing the overall size of the chapel to accommodate more guests.

A new Fellowship Hall was added late last year, with some finishing touches being completed in the first quarter of 2008.

Pastor Strauss has been known for saying "if the barn needs painting, paint it", with regard to women wearing makeup. Well, it certainly is applicable to Corolla Chapel. All I can say is that the chapel sure is pretty in her clothes and makeup.

The next expansion project that we have planned is the addition of an Education Center on the north side of the chapel's structure. The Educa-



tion Hall will be a uniform balance to the new Fel-

lowship Hall.

However, we will not be able to begin work on the Education Hall until we have completed construction of the parsonage. Keep us in your prayers. It is our hope that we will be able to begin planning and possibly even break ground for the Education Hall in 2009

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Corolla Chapel's Pelican Window  
Dedicated to the memory of  
Ruth Strauss



## The Pelican Legend

Ruth Strauss was an amazing example of the Christian life. She knew how to genuinely love people. Sadly they discovered that she had leukemia in the late 80's. One of the last things that she wanted to do before she passed on, was to visit Israel. She and Pastor Strauss did just that in 1994. It was while they were in Israel that they heard the legend of the pelican.

The legend of the Pelican is ancient and pre-dates Christianity. The legend involves what female pelicans do in times of famine. I've read and heard two different accounts of the pelican legend.

As legend has it, if the female pelican could not find food she would a) shake her head violently to break blood vessels in her pouch) that she would peck her own breast breaking blood vessels.

In either case, as the legend goes, she would feed her young from her own blood so that they could survive, in many cases at the expense of her own life. The legend of this selfless kind of love and devotion reminded the early church of the enormous sacrifice that Jesus made for his church. The pelican was

adopted by the early church as a reminder of what Jesus did for the church.

Just a couple of months after returning from Israel, Ruth went to be with her Lord (January 30, 1995). Pastor Strauss designed and commissioned the Corolla Chapel Pelican Window in memory of this wonderful woman.

Now we have two memories, one of the amazing sacrifice that Jesus paid for us and the amazing life of Ruth Strauss.

Now you know.....

## PASTOR STRAUSS GETS MARRIED AND RETIRES



## The Last Few Months

Pastor Straus got married to his new wife Betty in October — WHOOHOO!!!

We mention that in case you have not had the opportunity to reach out to congratulate them. If you would like to, you can reach them at:

2401 Neptune Way  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

We also finished the construction of the chapel's new

Fellowship Hall in late 2007. A big thank you to Scott Austin, who did a great job building a structure that beautifully compliments the rest of the church. It is equipped with tables so that now we can "really" fellowship together.

### WE'RE ON THE WEB

You can find us at:  
[www.corollachapel.com](http://www.corollachapel.com)

You will find pictures of the chapel, a brief history, wedding information, a map to get to the church, and more. We will be adding more content as time permits. Pastor Rick is planning to add a page where he can share his thoughts from time to time.

Let us know what you think and/or feel free to make suggestions on how we can make it better.

## Fellowship Hall

The new Fellowship Hall is finally complete. A big thank you to Scott Austin. GREAT JOB!

We've spent the last couple of months wrapping up some finishing touches on it and finishing it off with some tables.

The new hall can accomo-

date up to 140 people standing, 100 people seated without tables or 68 with tables. We've started using it after Sunday services for coffee and fellowship. It's been nice.

It is an excellent compliment to the rest of the church's structure. So far we have only been able to use it after

Sunday services for coffee and fellowship.

We are looking forward to scheduling and enjoying our first pot-luck there soon. There is something spiritual and uniting about sharing food with other people.

Hope to see you for coffee or a meal sometime soon!



Visit us for coffee sometime

## God Is GOOD

I really wasn't sure what the Lord wanted me to teach on as I stepped into my new role as pastor of Corolla Chapel. I had the idea of starting at the beginning with the foundational idea that "God Is Good". As I meditated on this thought, I began to realize just how foundational and crucial this idea is to seeking and finding God. The writer of Hebrews tells us that

*..... without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him!*  
Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

It dawned on me that there was this natural, synergistic relationship between believing that God is good and experiencing Him as fully as we possibly can. Believing that God exists is one thing, but believing that He is good is an entirely different thing.

Even the demons believe that He exists, as James tells us. So it seems to me that God is trying to help us to understand not just that He exists, but that He exists as the quintessence of good. All the good there is has its origin in Him. If we only believe that He exists then we could, and often do, stop there. But if we truly believe that He is good, then we will be motivated to seek for Him and find Him.

If we can strengthen this idea that God is truly good and has our best interest in mind; then we will seek Him and make every attempt to stay within His will for our lives. And then, just as He promised, we will find Him and He will

show Himself strong in our behalf. 2Chr 16:9.

Some people question the idea of God being good because He seems to impose so many rules. I believe that we consider what He has done, that we would conclude that He indeed is completely good. For instance consider the circumstances that Israel was in when God called them out of Egypt. First, Egypt was one of the most advanced cultures on the planet at that time. God took them on an amazing journey out of Egypt to a new place. Then all of a sudden God seemingly changes his tone and begins to give them laws and rules to follow.

When we understand a little more about Egypt, we can understand how truly good God is. While Egypt was advanced in the technologies of the day, they were nevertheless ignorant of micro-biology and generally practiced gross behaviors.

The average person living in Egypt and Nubia would likely never live beyond 40 years of age. Some Egyptian cemeteries have been examined only to find that over one third were infants who died prematurely due to bacteria, parasites, and the like.

Egypt was riddled with unhealthy social practices that resulted in disease and death. Israel would have naturally brought these unhealthy practices out of Egypt with them. God cared too much for Israel to allow her to continue these ignorant practices, so He gave her laws and rules for living that were good. They were given with the

intent that they have "good" health and to extend their physical lives. The "law" was meant to be a blessing to them Jer. 29: 11-13.

Then there were the moral laws and rules.

Was God trying to be a "kill joy"? Not at all! He loves human beings and wants to protect them from harm. He gave laws so that they (and we) would not hurt and defraud each other. His Word or law is good (read Psalms 119) — After God had given Israel His marvelous rules for living in His kingdom, Moses encouraged them that they "should act according to them" and to "be careful to observe them" because these "laws" would be their wisdom and their understanding before the nations. Then the nations would see and declare that God is good and wise. As a result it would be apparent that their health, prosperity and blessings were a result of the counsel, goodness, and blessings of God. (Deut 4:5-8)

God is good. He invites us to be good like He is. He wants us to love people like he does. He asks us not to do things that are harmful to ourselves or others. Love does no harm to its neighbor. Rom 13:10

In conclusion:

1. To the degree that we believe that God is good, to that same degree we will seek him.
2. To the degree that we seek him, to that same degree we will find him.
3. To the degree that we find him, to that same degree we will discover how truly majestic, beautiful, wonderful, and magnificent he is.
4. To the degree that we see how beautiful he really is, to that same degree we will love him.
5. To the degree that we love him, to that same degree we will trust and obey him.
6. To the degree that we obey him, to that same degree we will experience righteousness, peace, and joy (Abundant Life that Jesus Promised) under his kingship now.
7. To the degree that we experience God's Abundant Life, to that same degree we will be able to successfully offer love and hope to a hopeless, suffering world.

By Pastor Rick



**8** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;

Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

**9** Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!

There is no want to those who fear Him.

**Psalms 34:8,9 NKJV**

# “No vacation to the Outer Banks is complete without attending a service at the Corolla Chapel” *Taken from a guest book in a vacation home*

JOHN W. AUSTIN MEMORIAL

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**We are now on the WEB.  
Please visit us at:  
[www.corollachapel.com](http://www.corollachapel.com)**



Limiting our future use of  
“Snail Mail”

## Going Green—Limiting Our Use of “Snail Mail”

Corolla Chapel has a long history of sending newsletters via the US Postal Service.

Mail sent via the US Postal has long been referred to as “snail mail”, since it can take days to get to the recipient. E-mail on the other hand is virtually instantaneous.

Most Americans now have access to the internet and e-mail. God expects us to be good stewards of the assets that He has entrusted us with.

We have been reviewing how we spend the Lord’s resources here at the chapel. The costs of postage continues to rise year over year.

Our costs of printing continues to rise due to the increasing readership. And then there is the labor associated with folding and stuffing the newsletters into envelopes. Corolla Chapel has a very small local congregation.

We love our guests and consider those who visit with any frequency extended family members. We really would like to stay in touch with everyone as much as possible.

However, after reviewing the overall cost and effort of continuing to utilize the US Postal method of getting our newsletters to our members, guests, and partners, we’ve

decided to try a different route.

Therefore, this will be the last Corolla Chapel Newsletter that we plan to send via US Postal Service (Snail Mail).

We say that with the caveat that if you do not have access to the internet and cannot provide us with an e-mail address of a family member or friend who could receive and print the newsletter for you, we will continue to send you one via US Postal Service as a special service, provided you send us a request letting us know that you do not have access to e-mail.