

January 13, 2016

From the pastors' Heart & Soul

**COMING UP**

**Sunday, January 17**

8:30a Father/Son Breakfast  
 9:30a Deacon Prayer  
 9:45a Sunday School/  
 Connection Group Meetings  
 11:00a Worship  
 5:00 Youth Activities

**Tuesday, January 19**

10:00a Coffee and Kibitz

**Thursday, January 21**

7:00a Men's Bible Study  
 Noon: VSP Lunch and Program

**Saturday, January 23**

PRBC Hosts Room in the Inn

**Sunday, January 24**

9:30a Deacon Prayer  
 9:45a Sunday School/  
 Connection Group Meetings  
 11:00a Worship  
 5:00 Youth Activities

**Save the Date:**

**Sunday, January 31**

State of the Church Meeting  
 Following Worship, Catered Lunch

**Remembering**

**Our Friends at Home**

Ruby Hodges  
 11211 Quietwood Court  
 Charlotte, NC 28277  
 704-846-3386

What is the most powerful force within the human psyche?

The Apostle Paul says there is only one force in the world for which people will move heaven and earth, a force which people will ultimately, and justly, die for – and that force is love. Love *“bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*

Love endures all things...

Like being mauled by a thousand-pound grizzly bear, and being buried alive, and being tracked by a tribe of Native Americans with blood in their eyes, and being carried over waterfalls in frigid water, wearing elk skin clothes and the fur of a bear, and eating raw fish and the raw liver of a still-warm bison and carving out the innards of a dead horse to weather the night, naked and shivering, inside the carcass.

Love endures even these things. It may be the greatest power in the world.

But according to Alejandro Inarritu's new, raw and gripping film "The Revenant" there may be a force of equal power. Much of the frontier scenery in Inarritu's film is shot in natural light, giving it a breathtaking naturalism, and the powerful truth-becomes-legend story of Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) adds a heartbreaking realism.

Love is real. But so is the hateful power of revenge.

Or, maybe they are two sides of the same naked, human emotion, always warring within us, enduring all things – or inflicting all things – in a quest for submission and supremacy.

This beautiful, awful film opens with Glass wandering in disbelieving agony through what is left of his smoldering outpost home. The image of his dying love haunts him throughout the movie. As he begins a journey through the rugged, frozen terrain of the frontier West, he is mauled by that mammoth grizzly and then betrayed and left for dead.

Exhibiting superhuman strength and tenacity, enduring things that are difficult even to watch, Glass becomes The Revenant ("the returner"). In the end, however, the viewer is left wondering if there is anything to which he can actually return. Or has the journey so depleted him of heart and humanity that there will be nothing left worth returning from?

The final frame of the film subtly, but powerfully, leaves the viewer to decide.

The aching question becomes whether he is driven by love or hate? Driven by a justice which can let go – or by a revenge that both endures all things, and destroys all things, in the process.

Love offers a future. Revenge is the end of the road. Depending on the viewer's perspective, either glint can be seen in Glass's final stare.

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, this visceral film offers a powerful critique in the question it begs of our world. So many divisive issues threaten our peace and our future, and no one could question the want of revenge (which many believe to be justified).

But the question will remain for us as it did for Hugh Glass: when we have responded, will there be anything left to which we can return?

*Love  
 bears all things,  
 believes all things,  
 hopes all things,  
 endures all  
 things ...*

*Tracy*



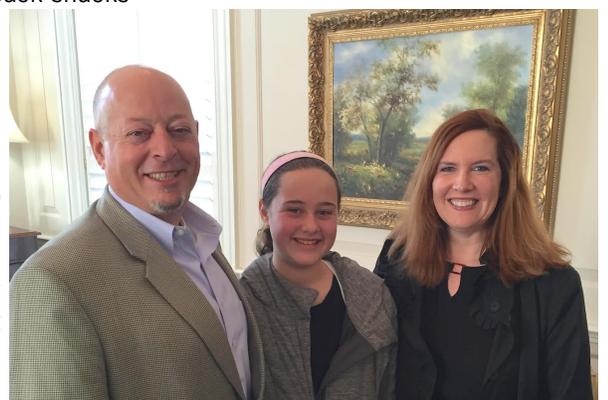
**Deacon of the Week**

**Sarah Ashcraft**

Sarah serves as an Education Specialist with Charlotte AHEC/ Carolinas Healthcare System. An active member of Park Road for 27 years, she and husband Hugh faithfully pack snacks for Sedgfield.

**Welcome New Members!**

Bora, Jackie and Katelyn Kazmirci joined our membership January 10. Bora and Jackie operate Bora Global Sales Consulting, providing sales consultation around the world. Katelyn is in the 6th Grade at Kent Academy. You may know the Kazmircis already from their frequent Wednesday night supper attendance. Welcome!





Park Road Baptist Church  
3900 Park Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28209

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### Ruth's Mission Fund Assists Single-Parent Families

Park Road Baptist Church manages several endowments, each with a specific mission. Have you ever heard of the Ruth Mission Endowment? If you polled a random group of Park Road members, you may have a difficult task finding a member who could explain what this resource is and what it does.

The Ruth Mission Endowment was founded in 1993 by a former member, Benjamin Knott. He established the fund for the sole purpose of assisting single-parent families with everyday challenges. In his life, Knott encountered first-hand the acute challenges single-parents do in raising a family. To assist such families, he set aside a seed investment and chartered an endowment at Park Road for this specific purpose.

The bequest is handled by the Administration Committee. It has grown to over \$200,000 in assets. The interest and dividend income from its portfolio (currently yielding just over 5% annually or \$10,000 a year) is spendable at the discretion of our pastors. Nearly every week, our church is host to any number of visitors seeking help. For the ones who meet the endowment's single-parent criteria, our pastors can tap the Ruth account for assistance, which usually takes the form of groceries, bus tickets, rent or utilities. This aid is done discreetly, without publicity or fanfare, month-in and month-out. Over the past 20 years, assistance has also been extended to church members and CDC staff.

Coupled with other funds in our church budget, the Ruth's Mission Fund provides much-needed assistance to single-parent families who are desperate for help. This endowment is one of the many ways in which our church stands as a beacon of hope for our neighbors throughout Charlotte.

### January 31 – State of the Church Meeting

We now have only one, regularly-scheduled business meeting a year. Please join us following worship on January 31 for a catered lunch, a celebration of 2015, and a look at the year ahead. This meeting will be lively and fun – youth and children should plan to participate. Business items are the election of Deacons and Committee Members, and the adoption of our Missions Budget (including The Next Big Thing). Details will follow.



Park Road will host a Father/Son Breakfast featuring former Panthers' General Manager, Marty Hurney. This event is a great way to get ready for the Panthers playoff game later that day. Join us!

A hot breakfast will be served in the Community Center at 8:30a. (Please be prepared to make a voluntary contribution to help cover the cost.) Marty, who was the General Manager for the Carolina Panthers from 1998-2012, will speak at 9:00a. An RSVP is requested via email to [russ@parkroadbaptist.org](mailto:russ@parkroadbaptist.org) so we can prepare enough breakfast.

Note: Mothers and daughters will not be turned away, but the event is being used to promote the Men's Ministry at PRBC! See you there!



**Christmas Day brought more than the usual excitement this year to the Hedrick household as John, Missy and Piper welcomed Hatley Weston into the world at 12:14a! Merry Christmas, indeed! We can't wait to meet him!**

### Youth Ski Trip: Saturday, January 30.

Youth will meet at Park Road on Friday January 29 at 8p to stay the night in order to get an early start on Saturday. Please let Joey know if you'd like to join!

### Trip to Cuba

In November, Maricela Muñiz Lamelas requested we bring the following on our trip to Cuba in February:

1. Medications (ibuprofen, aspirin, antidiarrheal, Pepto Bismol, acetaminophen, antacid, Tylenol (for children and for adults), vitamins, Benadryl, etc.)
2. Craft materials for children (tracing paper, construction paper, crayons, felt, pencils, eraser, sharpener, scissors, etc)
3. Office materials (pens, rubber bands, plastic notebook covers, notebooks,)
4. Masks or disguises to use in activities with the children, clown or witch disguises, wigs, etc.
5. Candles for the communion table and other liturgical supplies.
6. Gently used clothing especially for children and young adults.

### Father/Son Breakfast This Sunday January 17