

Just Walk Across the Room

by Rev. Chris Carrasco

Is it really that simple? Evangelism has become an abused, misunderstood, intimidating, and ignored word in many Presbyterian churches. But is evangelism really as simple as developing friendships with others, learning about their story, and then listening to the Spirit's guidance about how to bring your faith into the conversation?



Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, first taught a class then wrote a book based on those exact principles. Evangelism isn't about handing out the right tract, memorizing the right bible verse, or scaring people into believing in Jesus. Evangelism has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being. All you need is a heart that's in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your "Circle of Comfort" and into another person's life.

"Just Walk Across the Room" will be our evangelism focus for June and July. A five week sermon series from May 29 through June 26 will provide the scriptural understanding and practical suggestions for doing evangelism. You will learn how you can participate in the model first set by Jesus, who stepped down from heaven 2,000 year ago to bring hope and redemption to broken people living in a fallen world.

Come to worship ready and open to learning how you can partner with the Holy Spirit to share your faith story with others in a non-threatening even joyful way. It only takes a willingness to walk out of our comfort zones, across the room, to engage another person in conversation.

But in order to really incorporate evangelism into your way of life, set aside Thursdays starting June 9 at 10:00 AM or 6:30 PM to really learn more, ask questions, and reflect on what you can do. Evangelism isn't just for extroverts or people who have that "gift." Every single one of us can do it and our 7 week class on Thursdays in June and July will give us the knowledge and encouragement to try it out for ourselves.

I am excited to offer this personal, relational way of doing evangelism to the congregation at Mulberry. I have grown so much in my understanding of what evangelism is and what it is not as I have read this book and gone through the materials. My prayer is that our love for God in Jesus Christ will be contagious and that we will take that walk across the room to meet another person, get to know them, and eventually share what God means to us.

Our newly adopted covenant says, "We will love our neighbor through our primary mission to make disciples." Let's bring that covenant to life NOW! Please be part of this new effort to incorporate evangelism into every aspect of our individual lives and our church life. Imagine the impact the Spirit could have through us if we just gave it a chance! "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!" (Matthew 28:19)

Chris

May 2011 Session Highlights

Listening to God - As the Christ Candle was lit, Gloria Vereen led us in devotion and prayer then Rev. Chris read from Matthew 16:24-26 and reflected on self-denial.

Listening to Others - Gloria shared her faith journey and we prayed for the church and various members who are hurting or in need.

Listening to God

- † Pastor Reported: Vacation May 16-23; task force to report in June; discussions beginning about renting daycare wing; explanation of passing of Amendment 10-A
- † Hospitality: Sign ups for Lemonade on the Lawn (June to September), Communion set for June 5
- † Evangelism: Thursday class starts June 9 on evangelism “Just Walk Across the Room”
- † New Items: Hamilton Grant to be submitted for \$500 to begin Room In the Inn this winter; supporting our Seminary student Ken Fuquay with the seminary matching grant program for \$800; showing hospitality (per our Covenant) by allowing food and drinks to be enjoyed in our parlor.

Going Out Into the World - We ended holding hands in prayer led by Gloria and will meet again on June 26 at 6:00 PM.



Coordinators' Corner

Hospitality Ministry by Linda Sadler The Visitor's Reception Room has hosted almost 10 visitors since Easter Sunday. Please encourage the visitors to come back to Mulberry. Starting in June thru September, we are beginning Lemonade on the Lawn for everyone after church. We have some Session members who have signed up to help but we need more volunteers. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thanks to all those who have volunteered and to those who will volunteer. Please call me if you want to help. Let's continue to practice Christian Hospitality at Mulberry.

Service Ministry by Bev Sadler Session has just endorsed a grant request for \$500 to purchase beds to begin our Room in the Inn program this winter. More donations such as pillows, blankets, sheet sets, and toiletry items will be needed soon. Keep your ears open for more information and ways you can help!

Resource Ministry by Vance Schrum Building and Grounds, Personnel, and Business are busy taking care of their respective ministries. There will be a Saturday Church Work Day during the month of June. Look for details and exact date in upcoming bulletins. Thanks to those who continually show up for our clean up and work days, especially to one of our newest members Kris O'Reilly.

The Discipleship Corner by Mike Hood The Discipleship Corner this month features Children's Worship and Children's Sunday school. Jana Barnette is responsible for selecting curriculum and providing materials to those who teach in these two programs. The curriculum currently in use for Children's Worship is *A Year's Worth of Children's Church*. Each lesson includes a Bible verse, a story, sharing, exploring, a craft and a prayer. The curriculum for Children's Sunday school is *Faith Weavers*, a multi-age level collection of lessons which provides a take-home worksheet to reinforce each lesson. Brenda Hendricks is now responsible for scheduling teachers and for providing logistical support for both Children's Worship and Children's Sunday school. If anyone is interested in teaching either Children's Worship or Children's Sunday school, they should contact Brenda Hendricks or Mike Hood.

Evangelism on the loose! by **Mark Zagar** Evangelism will be the highlight of June and July as we experience the sermon series “Just Walk Across the Room” from May 29 - June 26 as well as attend the class by the same title on Thursday from June 9 through July 28. Let’s learn more about how we at Mulberry can make evangelism our first priority. My hope is that after this intense time of learning, praying, and studying, we will become inspired to not only be evangelists in our personal lives but also create new and exciting evangelism opportunities through the church. Please share any and all ideas you may have for evangelism in these upcoming months as we partner with the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Congregational Care by Barbara Campbell We have been about taking care of our members. According to my records, we have made four hospital visits, six home visits, 11 calls to check on members and three meals have been taken to homes. Thank you to all who have helped when asked and thank you to those who have done caring things on their own. It never hurts to go that extra mile...We have a Hospitality Guide book from the Charlotte Knights. If anyone is interested in planning a church outing please contact Barbara Campbell for more information.



Dear Members of Mulberry, Elise and I would like to thank you for the wonderful baby shower you gave her and Ben Green. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people in our lives and church family. Special thanks to Linda Sadler for getting the shower together just in time for Audrina's arrival on April 12! Thank you again. In Christian love, Jane Guy, Elise Collins and Ben Green

To my Mulberry Family: We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, food, support, prayers, cards, and visits which we gratefully appreciate. We were happy to see so many people there to celebrate this life. We all love Robert and will miss him greatly. Arlene Stone and family

Softball season is here again! Teaming up with our sister church at Paw Creek Presbyterian, we are participating in a church men's softball league twice a week through June. We need all our men to come and support this team effort—all men are welcome to play, regardless of their softball ability. This is a great way to get to know not only fellow church members but also those from Paw Creek and get a little exercise too. Please contact Nelio Carrasco for more information at 980-355-3234. Play Ball!

Congratulations to Mary Hood, who graduated *summa cum laude* (with highest praise) from Bucknell University on May 22, 2011, majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and minoring in French. In addition to her other writing awards, her thesis, “What Lies Beneath” (a collection of poems), won the Phi Beta Kappa award for distinguished senior thesis. She was a member of the Bucknell chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Tau Delta (English Honorary Society). She will attend the University of Oregon in the fall to begin graduate work in English.

Lemonade on the Lawn returns in June each Sunday following worship each Sunday on the front lawn of the church. Volunteers are needed! Contact Linda Sadler at 704-399-3258 if you can help.

Everyone is invited to attend Mulberry's Father's Day breakfast, hosted by the Women of the Church on June 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Mulberry Presbyterian Church will have a yard and bake sale on Saturday morning, June 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tables will be for rent for \$10 each. Men of the Church will sell sausage biscuits, soft drinks, coffee and orange juice. The Women of the Church will have baked goods for sale. Proceeds go toward the church.

Mulberry Trip to Fellowship Point: The congregation will be going to Fellowship Point, located on Lake Norman in Mooresville, N.C. on August 28. Mark your calendars and be looking for more updates coming soon!

Christian Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to Ken Fuquay of 209 Lamplighter Lane, Mt. Holly, N.C. 28210, in the death of his mother Peggy Fuquay on May 7, 2011. A service celebrating Peggy's life was held on May 9 in Ramseur, N.C. Please keep the Fuquay family and friends in your prayers.

Mulberry was saddened by the loss of long-time member and friend Joy Felker on May 20, 2011. Please keep the Felker family and friends in your prayers.

Keep These Friends In Your Heart:

Family and friends of Joy Felker; Ken Fuquay; family and friends of Robert Stone; family and friends of Rachel Ranson; Annette Pearson, Linda Champion, Hope Cochran, Tim Guy, Curtis Johnson, Lynda Springs, Anna Price, Linda Guy, Ivy and Xander Guy, Lois Andrews, Juanita Holt, Pete Slobodzinski.

Time and Talents

USHERS

- 1st **Sunday** -Jeff Whitley, Jack Guy, Lillian Williamson, Vance Schrum
2nd **Sunday** -Earl Springs, Nelio Carrasco, Denise Thompson
3rd **Sunday** - Mack Cochran, Sonny Brown, Brenda Hendricks, Linda Sadler
4th **Sunday** - Ashley Barnette, Gloria Vereen

CHURCH LOCK-UP

- Jeff Whitley
Earl Springs
Mack Cochran
Ashley Barnette

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- June 5:** Mike Hood
June 12: Nelio Carrasco
June 19: Hope Cochran & Linda Gasky
June 26: Brenda Hendricks

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Denise Thompson
Jana Barnette
Patsy Caudle
Denise Thompson

NURSERY

- June 5:** Vance Schrum and Vickie Aldridge
June 12: Nelio Carrasco and Brenda Hendricks
June 19: Bev and Kayla Sadler
June 26: Mack & Hope Cochran

June Birthdays

- June 1: Helen Marks
June 2: Jack Threatt,
Buddy Holder
June 5: Ali Rhodes
June 9: Lilly McKnight
June 10: Sonny Brown
June 13: Bill Thomason,
Jay Ratliff
June 18: Bradley Hucks
June 21: Pete Slobodzinski
June 23: Jean Cathcart
June 29: Virginia McKnight



Mulberry Presbyterian Church

**Yard
and
Bake Sale**
Saturday June 4
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**Men of the Church will
sell sausage biscuits, soft
drinks, coffee, and
orange juice, plus hot
dogs.**

**Women of the Church
will have baked goods
for sale.**

**Proceeds will go toward the
church.**