

Mulberry Messenger

March 2011

Session gathered for an all-day retreat February 5 to discern from God what our purpose is, what our core values are, what our foundational beliefs are, and how we will strive to live these out in the life of the church. For six hours they studied the Bible, talked, listened, and prayed, and at the end of the time together, the following Covenant was produced, based solely on scripture. Session has officially adopted this Covenant for Mulberry and during worship in Lent, will communicate why this is important for the life of this church. Please read it, pray over it, and know that your leaders see this as a guiding document for the future of Mulberry. And be sure to thank a Session member when you see them for their hard work and willingness to listen to God's will on behalf of this congregation.

Covenant for Mulberry Presbyterian Church February 2011

God's purpose for Mulberry Presbyterian Church is to love God through sharing the unconditional love of Christ by serving, loving, teaching, and praying for ALL people.

We will live out this purpose through these core values:

LOVE

We will love God by deepening our relationship with God.

We will love our neighbor by offering hospitality, compassion, acceptance, and inclusiveness to all people.

We will love our neighbor through our primary mission to make disciples.

FAITH

We value faith in living an authentic, committed life to God.

Our foundational beliefs are:

IN GOD

God is the Creator of all that is and has a plan and purpose for all creation.

We know God best through scripture, which teaches "God is love" (I John 4:8).

Therefore,

We will show God's love through word and deed, evangelism and service.

We will worship God with biblical preaching.

We will provide multiple opportunities for Bible study and exploration.

IN JESUS

God's love sent humanity God's only son so that those who believe will have eternal life. Jesus shows us the way, the truth, and the life that God intends for us. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Therefore,

We will tell others about Jesus through what we say and do.

We will follow Jesus' example in our daily living.

We will celebrate and be renewed by the sacraments of Baptism and Communion.

We will be the Body of Christ in this world.

IN FORGIVENESS

We are all in need of God's forgiveness. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven for our sins by the amazing grace of God. We have a responsibility to live lives in forgiveness to others, "forgive us our debts AS WE FORGIVE our debtors."

Therefore,

We will recognize our need of forgiveness through weekly confession in worship which will include a time of silence.

We will offer healing services on a regular basis.

We will preach, teach, and lift up the need for forgiveness.

We will hold each other personally accountable as we bring the need for forgiveness to another's attention if appropriate, not engage in conversation where forgiveness is not apparent, and lead people to reconciliation when possible.

IN PRAYER

Prayer is how we communicate with God, our state of being in relationship with God. God's will is for us to pray continually, to forgive others before we come to God in prayer, to ask and seek and knock on God's door in our prayer. God will hear and answer us in God's own time and God's own way. Therefore,

We will offer opportunities for the congregation to pray in worship.

We will encourage testimonies to be given about the power of God and prayer.

We will create small groups where prayer is central.

We will engage in daily prayer.

We will offer prayer meetings and prayer services for our community.

We will preach and teach about prayer.

We will strive to live out these purpose, values, and beliefs by:

- ✓ Being intentionally welcoming and inviting of all people, treating everyone equally regardless of race, class, economic status, gender or sexual orientation.
- ✓ Accepting Session decisions regardless of personal opinion.
- ✓ Only engaging in conversation that is constructive, respectful, and loving.

This covenant is grounded and guided in scripture. Several key biblical verses were studied in creating this covenant. Among the most influential passages are:

The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commandment – Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-27

For God so loved the world – John 3:16

Forgiveness and Prayer – Ephesians 4:31-32, Mark 11:24-25.

February Session Highlights

- Session approved a Covenant for Mulberry Presbyterian Church. This covenant will be explained in detail to the congregation throughout several Sundays in Lent. There will also be a time for discussion as well as a Sunday to affirm this covenant for the church.
- Because of the covenant, the importance of the sacraments became very apparent. Session approved to move to monthly communion beginning with the Maundy Thursday service in April.
- A task force was created (Phil Egel, Henry Sadler, Mark Zagar) to work on recommendations about the concerns of safety and accessibility regarding the front of the sanctuary.



Keep These Friends In Your Heart:

Peggy Fuquay (Ken Fuquay's mother), family and friends of Nada Massey-Bushnell, Linda Champion, Hope Cochran, Rachel Ranson, Tim Guy, Curtis Johnson, Lynda Springs, Anna Price, Linda Guy, Ivy and Xander Guy, Lois Andrews, Juanita Holt, Pete Slobodzinski.

Discipleship Ministry, formerly Christian Education, has been reorganized under the direction of Mike Hood. Mike, as Discipleship Coordinator, will oversee the following education ministries: Children's Ministry, headed by Jana Barnette, who will choose curriculum and provide resources for both children's Sunday school and Children's Worship; Logistics Ministry, run by Brenda Hendricks, who will recruit teachers and volunteers for children's Sunday school and Children's Worship; Youth Ministry, directed by Bev Sadler, who will be responsible for youth Sunday school and the Youth Group; Adult Discipleship Ministry, headed by Ken Fuquay, who will make sure there are teachers and curriculum for adult classes; and Life Group Ministry, organized by Hank Sadler, who will recruit others to form small groups to meet in people's homes for Bible study and faith sharing. Hank is also responsible the "Faith Chat," a Sunday school class that meets above the pastor's office each Sunday.

*Coordinators'
Corner*

Congregational Care Ministry A note of thanks for the people who signed up to provide a meal or transportation. I really do appreciate your willingness to help take care of our church family. If you or someone you know in the church has a need for transportation or meals, please contact me at 704-392-3277. Together we can make a difference. If you would like your blood pressure taken, please call me or Helen Marks and we will arrange a time to take it. If anyone would like to plan a fellowship event for our church, please let me know and I will make sure it goes on the church calendar. Thanks! Barbara Campbell

Hospitality Ministry "When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13). As Hospitality Coordinator, I want to thank Lillian Williamson for continuing to be in charge of the paraments, the collection plate pads, and the flowers every Sunday. Great job! Also, to others of Mulberry, when you get a call, please say yes to serve on this ministry. We need to practice hospitality as well as continue most of our worship traditions while welcoming all visitors to our church. Thank you! Linda Sadler

Business Ministry We are happy to announce that we've found a way to save the church approximately \$70 per month by getting AT & T to remove an additional unneeded phone line from the church office. We would also like to remind everyone that we are now accepting orders through the church office for the Spring Pine Needle Sale. Thanks! Jeff Whitley

Building and Grounds Ministry We are happy to report that we were able to get the leak in the West Wing roof fixed at no cost to the church - a great savings! Please prayerfully consider lending a helping hand to Building and Grounds during various clean up events. Thank you. Earl Springs

Personnel Ministry is now overseen by Coordinator Jim Brown and includes staff evaluations and concerns.

Church News and Notes

To My Mulberry Family - there are really no words to express my thanks for all the prayers, calls and visits from all of you. All the cards were beautiful and so enjoyable to look at. My confinement has been long and trying, but all of you have made it easier. I'm doing very well and my doctor has released me in seven weeks instead of the 12-16 weeks I was expecting. Talk about prayer working! I think...no, I KNOW so. I love all of you and hope to see you soon. Yours in Christ, Linda Champion



Special thanks to all who contributed to Souper Bowl Sunday on February 6. A total of \$83.95 was raised!

Thanks also to all who contributed to Blanket Sunday. To date, over \$155.00 has been raised for the Church World Service Blankets+ Program.

Try out a new search engine and help raise funds for the church! Go to **GoodSearch.com** when you're searching on the internet and put in Mulberry Presbyterian Church as the charity of your search. For every search, the church gets one penny - 20 people searching just five items per day would equal one dollar a day, times 365 would total \$365 per year! Also, if you purchase items online through GoodShop, a portion of your purchase will go toward the church. Download the GoodSearch toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/mulberry-presbyterian-church>.

March 6 is Women's Sunday. Make plans to join us for this special service featuring a performance by an all-women's choir. Choir rehearsal will be held March 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 9 at 7:00 p.m in the Britt Stokes Fellowship Hall as we begin the season of Lent together.

Don't forget Faith and Family Night at Bobcats Arena, Friday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. We're planning a night of fun and inspiration as the Bobcats take on the Portland Trailblazers, followed by a faith testimonial by Will Graham and a Christian Band performance. Carpooling will be available.

The Annual Men of the Church Pine Needle Sale will be held March 12 and March 19. Pine needles are \$4 per bale, with free delivery. Orders can be placed by calling the church office. Help is needed for delivery. Please see Jeff Whitley for details.

Cub Scouts Pack 77 will hold their annual yard sale on Saturday, March 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be available: sausage biscuits for \$1, grits for 50¢, coffee and juice for 50¢. Contact Jane Guy for donations.

Bean Supper Fundraiser, Friday, March 25 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Your choice of three types of beans (Pinto, Navy and Blackeye) plus coleslaw, cornbread and drinks, all you can eat for just \$3. Children under 6 eat free. A very special thank you to Honey Baked Hams on Woodlawn Road for generously donating the ham bones.

Have you ever had questions about your faith? You are invited to be a part of our newest Sunday morning discussion group "Faith Chat." Led by Vance Schrum and Hank Sadler, this group is using a modern DVD series as a jumping off point for discussion about various aspects of faith. All are welcome at anytime to join this open, informal gathering during the Sunday school hour in the youth room above the pastor's office. Let's share our faith questions and then, let's chat!

March Time and Talents

USHERS

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

CHURCH LOCK-UP

Jeff Whitley
 Earl Springs
 Mack Cochran
 Ashley Barnette

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

March 6: Kayla Sadler, Savannah Sadler
March 13: Brenda Hendricks
March 20: Jill Benton
March 27: Denise Thompson

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 6: Jana Barnette
March 13: Patsy Caudle
March 20: Denise Thompson
March 27: Patsy Caudle

NURSERY

March 6: Edna Carver and Doris Woody
March 13: Vance Schrum and Vickie Aldridge
March 20: Nelio Carrasco and Brenda Hendricks
March 27: Bev Sadler and Kayla Sadler

March Birthdays

2nd: Joyce Glines
 5th: Ken Fuquay
 10th: Mary Lib Stokes
 11th: Savannah Sadler
 13th: Eric Miller



20th: Houston Woody,
 Edith Beaty
 30th: Blake Barnette,
 Britt Springs,
 Rev. Chris Carrasco
 31st: Glenda Brown

Dates to Remember...

March 6: Women's Sunday
 March 9: Ash Wednesday
 March 11: Bobcats Faith and Family Night
 March 12 & 19: Men of the Church Pine Needle Sale
 March 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring forward...)
 March 19: Cub Scout's Annual Yard Sale
 March 25: Bean Supper
 March 27: Ten Cents a Meal

Lent

A Poem by Ann Weems

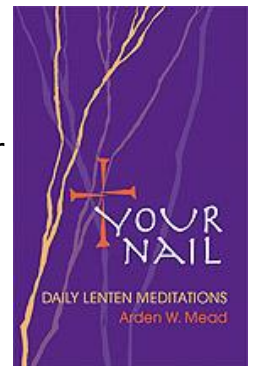
Lent is a time to take time
 to let the power
 of our faith story take hold of us,
 a time to let the events get up
 and walk around in us,
 a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
 a time to hover over
 the thoughts of our hearts,
 a time to place our feet in the streets of
 Jerusalem or to walk along the
 sea and listen to his Word,
 a time to touch his robe
 and feel the healing
 surge through us,
 a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow
 a fresh new taste of God!

image: <http://willhumes.net>

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service
 on March 9 at 7:00p.m
 in the Britt Stokes Fellowship Hall
 as we begin the season of Lent together.

The Adult Education Ministry is providing free copies of the devotional book *Your Nail* and accompanying nail token for your use during the Lenten Season. The daily scriptures, readings and prayers, created by Arden Med invite you to deepen your relation with God...



and join the community of believers at Mulberry in making devotions a daily part of your Lenten experience. The devotional book and token are yours to keep and will be distributed during the Ash Wednesday Service. If you are unable to attend the Ash Wednesday Service, a devotion book and nail token can be provided to you.