



Mulberry Messenger

Mulberry 's Renewal Begins

Rev. Chris Carrasco

REACHING OUT IN LOVE
BECAUSE OF THE ONE WE LOVE

September, 2011

Volume 1

Issue 3

**Mulberry
Presbyterian
Church**

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Statement of Purpose

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.

With the beginning of a new school year, the church also experiences a renewal in activity. This September is no different. Besides Women's Circles, Young At Heart, and Knit Wits meeting on a regular basis, we are experiencing renewal in a few other areas also. On September 11, the entire congregation is invited to the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am for refreshments and a better understanding of why Discipleship and Christian Education are so important in today's culture and what we are offering at Mulberry. Please see the Discipleship Coordinator Corner for more details.

We also are experiencing a renewal of our second year of support for Thomasboro Elementary School. With new leadership, new teachers, and an expanded student body extending through eighth grade, Thomasboro needs our help more than ever. Last year we had an incredible 28 people volunteer hundreds of hours and together we made a huge impact! There are so many ways to help. You can volunteer weekly to help out a classroom teacher. You can be a mentor to a student who needs a little extra love and attention. You can donate school supplies, which will be collected the month of September. You can help fix up the school grounds. There are sports and music needs. Teachers need support as they face a variety of challenges in the classroom. The clothing closet needs to be kept in order and stocked. There are always small special projects, like last year when the art teacher needed help winding up balls of yarn. Basically, Thomasboro is full of students who need attention, love, encouragement, hugs, smiles, and just to know that somebody cares about

them. Whatever you can do, however you can give, you will be making a difference in the life of a young person. On October 16 we will celebrate this Thomasboro ministry. It has been a blessing to this church, to those serving, and those being served. Please talk to Mark Zagar if you are interested in helping in anyway - 704-488-8184 or e-mail at ziggies@bellsouth.net.



With a new year begins new initiatives. This year we will host a coat drive for women, men and children throughout the month of September. Though winter seems far away, it will come all too quickly for those who do not have coats sufficient to keep out the cold. Bring coats for all ages and genders to the sanctuary any of the four Sundays in September, and all will be dedicated the last Sunday in September as they are distributed to those in need.

With a new year, we begin the new initiative of Life Groups. Throughout this month, you will have an opportunity to join a life group that will start meeting in October. Life Groups are small groups of people that meet together for Bible Study, sharing, and prayer on a weekly basis for about an eight week period. These groups will help us in our evangelism as we invite visitors, neighbors, or co-workers to these informal get-togethers. These groups will help us as we grow in our understanding of scripture and relationship with God. These groups will help

us care for each other and pray for each other. We will begin with three Life Groups and hope that you will consider signing up for one. Look for sign up sheets in the narthex in the middle of September.

Finally, with a new year we are filled with a new vision. Session has unanimously approved a vision for the front of the sanctuary and they want to share it with the congregation on September 25. Please plan to stay for 30 minutes after worship in the sanctuary to hear about this exciting vision and how Mulberry is moving into the future.

Yes, there is a lot of excitement building at Mulberry. Be a part of this renewal and these new initiatives in whatever way you can. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

Thomasboro Elementary School Needs List

1st Grade
2 large glue sticks, 2 packs #2 pencils, 2 two pocket folders with prongs, 2 two pocket folders without prongs, 2 black and white primary composition books, 1 pack crayons or colored pencils, box of tissue, hand sanitizer

2nd Grade:
2 packs wide-ruled notebook paper, 1 box pencils, 24 count 7 two-pocket folders, 5 black & white composition books, 2 glue sticks, 1 pack post-it notes, 1 pack crayons or colored pencils, box of tissue, hand sanitizer

3rd, 4th, 5th Grades
6 black & white composition books, 5 two pocket folders with prongs, 2 two pocket folders without prongs, colored pencils or crayons, 2 packs notebook paper, 1 pack of dividers, 1 pack post-it notes, 1 one inch 3 ring binder, highlighters

August Session Highlights

Listening to God As the Christ Candle was lit, Jim Brown led us in devotion and prayer then Rev. Chris read 2 Timothy 1:3-7 reflecting on rekindling God's gifts in us.

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

Listening to God's Will

- In September, the pastor will be away Sept. 12-18 for a retreat.
- The Website will be launched in September; a potential weekday worship service is being planned.
- Communion by intinction was set for September 4.
- The cemetery fence and ice machine are fixed. Help is needed to clean gutters.
- September 11 is Education Sunday, celebrated at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- Life Group sign ups will begin in September.
- Approved use of fellowship hall on Tuesdays for music director to hold piano lessons.
- Approved selling vending machines.
- No objections were made to holding a congregational gathering on September 25 for 30 minutes after church for Session to share its unanimous vision for the sanctuary. Capital campaign letter to follow.
- Discussion and concern was raised about a downturn in attendance.

Going Out Into the World - We ended holding hands in prayer by Jim and will meet again on September 25 at 6:00 pm.



Coordinators' Corner



Evangelism

Mark Zagar, Coordinator

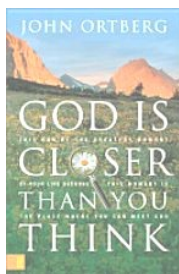
You've heard about it for months, but we will be finally ready to launch our new website in September. This will allow Mulberry to have a presence on the internet it had not had before. It will allow people to hear sermons (and hopefully eventually to see them). It will have pictures, a blog, newsletters, calendars, an introductory video, accept donations through Pay Pal and by credit card, and most importantly, allow those seeking a church to get to know Mulberry a little before they come to visit. Our Facebook page will also become more active, so be sure to "like" us and get all the up-to-date information.

Discipleship Corner

Mike Hood

The Faith Chat Sunday school class led by Hank Sadler, Vance Schrum and Ken Fuquay began a new six-week curriculum on Sunday, August 28, entitled *God Is Closer than You Think*. The six sessions are entitled "God's Great Desire for People," "Where Is God in My World?," "Partnering with God Today," "Listening to the Voice of God," "God Wants a Relationship with You," and "Heaven Breaking Through." The lessons were developed by John Ortberg, a minister at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California. A short video accompanies each lesson, followed by questions and discussion.

In other news, Mulberry will celebrate Education Sunday during the Sunday school hour on September 11.



Sunday school teachers from various classes will share information about activities and events in their classes. We will then sing favorite hymns and have refreshments. If you're not a member of a Sunday school class, this would be a good time to see what a wide range of choices are available at Mulberry and to get involved.

Congregational Care

Barbara Campbell, Coordinator

Here's an update on special needs of our Mulberry members. According to my records, we have received 22 calls regarding medical needs. Five visits have been made to check on members. We are a caring group of God's people and we need to pray for and check on our fellow members. It never hurts to call and say "hello" or "how are you?" or to greet someone with a smile!



Resources

Vance Schrum, Coordinator

All repairs have now been made to the cemetery fence. The new iron fence and brick work are finished and paid for by our insurance. The ice machine was fixed and various manse issues are being worked on. We need help with gutter cleaning and are looking for a few volunteers. Let me know if you'd like to help!

Service

Bev Sadler, Coordinator

For the month of September, Mulberry Presbyterian will be collecting new and gently used coats for men, women, and children. The men's coats will go to the Men's Shelter of Charlotte, the women's to

the Salvation Army Women's Shelter and the children's coats will go to the Thomasboro Elementary School Clothing Closet. Please bring your donations to church and hang them on the appropriate rack in the front of the sanctuary. See Terry Goble for more details.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk will be held October 1. To register, please visit <http://ww.komencharlotte.org>. Under "Komen Race for the Cure" select the first item which is "Register." Then select the second button on the right that says "Join an existing team." Type in "Mulberry" for the team name and "Faith Based Organizations" for the team division. Select Mulberry's team at the bottom, then follow the instructions to join the team. Registration is \$30. For those not walking, donations are also welcome!

Hospitality

Linda Sadler, Coordinator

For the last several weeks, we have not had *any* new visitors. Several of you have asked why and questioned whether we should continue with our Hospitality Room. The simple answer is, if we don't invite people to church, then we won't have any new visitors! Two weeks ago, I went to the Women of Faith Conference in Atlanta. The scripture discussed was Ephesians 3:20 "...God can do anything...more than you can imagine..." So just imagine if everyone invited one person to church, how crowded our Hospitality Room would be. Don't just imagine...do it!



Thank you to everyone at Mulberry for giving me the decorative soccer gift as my graduation present. It is very special to me and I'm thankful for your thoughtfulness. Emmanuel Kainessie (Manny)

PW Fall Gathering. Mark your calendars to join with all the women of the Presbytery on Saturday, September 10 at Matthews Presbyterian Church for the annual Fall Gathering. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Contact Annette Pearson for details.

We extend deepest sympathy to Henry Sadler in the death of his brother Ronald Hendrix Sadler on Saturday, August 6, 2011 in Charlotte. Please keep Henry and the Sadler family and friends in your prayers

Young at Heart begins meeting the second Tuesday of each month on September 13 in the Fellowship Hall. A planning committee meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. to discuss activities for the coming year, followed by a covered dish lunch. Contact Annette Pearson for details.

Be sure to join us during the Sunday School hour on September 11 for Education Sunday. Sunday school teachers from the various classes will discuss activities and highlights, after which we will sing favorite hymns and have refreshments. If you're not a member of a Sunday school class, this would be a good time to get involved!

On September 18, the Men of the Church will share their time and talents as they lead the congregation in worship. Mark your calendar to attend this special service

Congregational Gathering Sunday, September 25 following worship, to celebrate the Session approved vision for the front of the sanctuary Please plan to stay for 30 minutes after worship in the sanctuary to hear about this exciting vision and how Mulberry is moving into the future.

Life Groups are small groups of people that care for each other and support each other on their spiritual journeys, gathering for prayer, Bible study, and sharing. Mulberry will start Life Groups in September. If interested, contact Hank Sadler for details. It promises to be a rewarding experience!

Keep These Friends In Your Heart: 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.

September

Birthdays

4 Curtis Johnson

10 Susan Simpson,
Anna Price

14 Wendy Sawyer

15 Sherry Ratliff

21 Jill Wiggins, Chris Stone,
Mike Stone

24 Barbara Alexander

25 Marilyn Egel, Hank Sadler, Jr.

26 Christina Crump

30 Earl Springs

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

9/4 Jana Barnette

9/11 Patsy Caudle

9/18 Jana Barnette

9/25 Denise Thompson

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Denise Thompson

Jana Barnette

Nelio Carrasco

Mike Hood

NURSERY

Nelio Carrasco, Brenda Hendricks

Bev Sadler, Kayla Sadler

Mack & Hope Cochran

Henry & Linda Sadler