



REACHING OUT IN LOVE
BECAUSE OF THE ONE WE LOVE

November, 2011

Volume I

Issue 5

**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.**

Mulberry Messenger

Thank You Notes Rev. Chris Carrasco

I remember after my birthday and Christmas every year, my mom would make me sit down and write thank you notes for the presents I received. I hated writing thank you notes. Of course people know I'm thankful. Most of the time I told them when I opened the present. Why go to all that trouble of writing a thank you note?

These days the back table in my office is full of thank you notes. Most of which bring tears to my eyes when I read them. I can now fully appreciate those that do take the time to share their gratitude with me over a little visit or gesture I made. Just saying, "Thank You" makes a world of difference and brightens up the rest of the day, if not entire week.

I've read some thank you notes, recently, that were very touching, but they weren't written to me, they were to you, Mulberry Presbyterian Church. As former members and current friends of our beloved church generously send in donations to our Capital Campaign Fund, many of them include notes of thanks and appreciation. They give thanks to God for what Mulberry did in their lives and the impact this church had on them. One person even called to not only ask how the church was doing, but to express their gratitude for Mulberry and what it meant to that person and their mother. While the resources are appreciated, the thank you notes mean so much. This church has made such a difference in so many people's lives. It's important to hear those stories, receive that thanks, and know the impact this church has made on thousands of individuals over the past 123 years. Equally important is the

commitment of these individuals, as well as our members, to fund this campaign so that thousands more might be impacted by this loving community of faith.

You may also recall that we are asking for stewardship commitments during this time. On November 6th, we will dedicate both our capital and our 2012 budget pledges. I think it's significant that we make these pledges during our secular Thanksgiving holiday season. Ultimately, these pledges are not to our



treasurer, or our Session, or even our church. These pledges are to God. In many ways, our pledges are our "Thank You Note" to God for who God is, God's faithfulness in the past, God's blessings in the present, God's guidance into the future. Your pledge is an expression of thanks giving (two words) as we give to show our thanks to the One who gave his life for us that we might live eternally with him.

If you haven't filled out your capital campaign or stewardship pledge cards yet, then as you pray about it, do so with joy and thanksgiving. Fill out your pledges in a spirit of gratitude to the God who gave us each other to journey together. Fill out your pledges with grateful hearts to the One whose amazing grace, awesome mercy, overwhelming forgiveness, and unconditional love is yours

each and every day. Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow! Alleluia! Amen.

Chris

Room In the Inn From Henry Sadler

Mulberry's Room in the Inn Ministry is set to begin on December 8 and continue on the second and fourth Thursday of every month through March. We have most of our mattresses and bedding supplies. Initially, our needs will be for toiletry items. Beginning in November, please drop off donations of items listed below in the bin marked RITI in the narthex.

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste (small)
- Mouthwash (alcohol free)
- Hand/bath soap (small)
- Wash cloths
- Small bath towels
- Deodorant
- First aid items
- Combs
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream

A schedule will be placed in the narthex with opportunities for you, your Sunday School class, or other group to volunteer for some of the services. We will need help with preparing meals for twelve people, overnight supervision, setting up and/or cleaning up, and providing transportation.

This is a very rewarding project for all, one that is greatly needed and appreciated by the neighbors it serves. A number of Mulberry folks helped with this project at Paw Creek Presbyterian and Christ Presbyterian last winter. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help. Additional information is included in this month's Service Coordinator's Corner. You may also contact Henry Sadler for more details.

October Session Highlights

Listening to God

As the Christ Candle was lit, Jane Guy led us in devotion and prayer followed by Rev. Chris reading and reflecting on 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, about being the aroma of Christ.

Listening to Others

Jane shared her faith journey and we prayed for the church and various members who are hurting or in need.

Listening to God's Will

- Although weekly giving is down, the year to date total through September is a balance of \$1,813.07.
- Communion was set for November 6 in a circle.
- New members to join October 30.
- Reviewed Nomination Guidelines and elected Phil Egel as Chair and Glenda Brown as Vice Chair of Nominating Committee.
- A Congregational Meeting is called for November 27 for the purpose of electing the 2014 Elder Class.
- Our Capital Campaign is going well with approximately \$22,000 either pledged or received as of October 23.
- Session unanimously agreed to pledge to both the Capital Campaign and the Operating Budget by November 6.

Going Out Into the World

We ended holding hands in prayer by Jane and will meet again on November 27 at 6:00 PM.

Discipleship

Mike Hood, Coordinator

Life Groups have been meeting now for four weeks. One group is meeting at 6:30 on Tuesdays led by Bev and Hank Sadler, and another is meeting at 6:30 on Thursdays led by Henry Sadler and Mike Hood. Meetings last for about an hour and half. During that time, a Bible passage is read, reflected on and discussed, folks share something about their personal lives, and the evening is concluded with prayer. There is always an empty chair at the table, so if you have not decided to participate, there is a place waiting for you. Together we can discover the joy of being disciples.

Congregational Care

Barbara Campbell, Coordinator

During October, we made seven visits and eight phone calls to check on our fellow members.

Thank you to Linda Sadler for providing transportation for Esther Martin's doctor



appointments. Special thanks to Annette Pearson for sending notes to members who have missed three or more consecutive Sunday worship services. As always, many thanks to those that provide care for others that we are not aware of.

In the coming Thanksgiving season, let's be sure to remember all in our congregation with special needs who need special prayers. We are all very blessed!

Evangelism Coordinator, Mark Zagar

A BIG thank you to all of you that made Trunk or Treat a HUGE success. We had hundreds of people from our

Coordinators' Corner

community here and you all made them feel welcome and cared for. What fun it was! Deep appreciation goes out to Linda Sadler, who made it all possible. Let's keep thinking of more ways we can reach out in love to our community. Please share whatever ideas you have with me.

Service

Bev Sadler, Coordinator

The Susan G Komen Walk was held on October 1, 2011 and once again this year, Mulberry joined with Paw Creek Presbyterian Church in a collaborative effort to support the cause for breast cancer. Our group had 25 women who participated in the walk that morning. Linda Sadler was instrumental in raising a total of \$3,051 this year on behalf of our team. Awesome! Thank you, Linda! And many thanks to all who donated to support the Mulberry-PawCreek team!

We are currently well under way in getting prepared to be a host church for The Room in the Inn ministry this winter. This ministry is led by the Urban Ministry Center which partners with congregations to open their facilities to provide shelter and food for homeless people during the winter months. We feel that God is affirming this ministry for Mulberry in many ways. First, Mulberry was awarded a \$500 grant from the Presbytery of Charlotte to help fund this endeavor. Our original plans were to use this money to purchase the mattresses and linens needed for the program. However, Henry Sadler, our Room in the Inn coordinator, found a neighboring



church who donated 10 mattresses and bed linens for us to use. This allows us to use

the grant money to do some necessary work to the Chrysalis building where we plan to accommodate our visitors. Mulberry plans to host this program on the second and fourth Thursday evenings in the months of December through March. We will soon be calling upon members of Mulberry to help in the preparation of meals, transportation and supervision for our host evenings. Please prayerfully consider how you will help with the Room in the Inn here at Mulberry.

As the holidays approach, the Service Ministry has several other events we will promote, such as sponsoring a needy family at Christmas and serving a meal at the Men's Shelter. Please let Bev Sadler know if you have any ideas or ways you feel God may be calling Mulberry to serve our community and world.

Hospitality

Linda Sadler, Coordinator

The Worship team is doing well thanks to Sharon Whitley and the choir, Ken Fuquay, and others who help with music.

We have been very busy. The Hospitality Room is open to all visitors—we just need to have more people visit. Many in the congregation have expressed concern about our low attendance. We need to do something about it! Bring someone to church with you. Share Mulberry with others. Be proactive and bring a friend to church; you'll be glad you did and so will your friend!

News and Notes

Mulberry Presbyterian was saddened by the loss of longtime member and friend Edith Beaty on October 22, 2011. A service celebrating her life was held at Mulberry Presbyterian on October 27, 2011. Please keep the Beaty family and friends in your prayers.

We extend deepest sympathy to Margaret Harkey in the death of her daughter Sandra Jean Harkey Huffman, on October 9, 2011. A service celebrating Sandra's life was held at Mulberry Presbyterian on Thursday, October 13, 2011. Please hold Margaret and Sandra's family and friends in your prayers.

The benefit concert featuring Ken Fuquay, Earleen Hicks, and Heidi Dove on October 9 raised a total of \$1864.25 for Pete and Karen Slobodzinski. Many thanks to all who contributed!

From Terry Goble: We had 27 children's coats, 59 women's coats and 26 men's coats donated, for a total of 122 coats collected during our Coat Drive! Kris O'Reilly and I are really excited to be able to deliver them. A very special 'Thank You' to everyone that participated!

November 6 is Dedication Sunday. Please make plans to join with fellow members and friends as we receive commitments and dedicate them to the glory of God.

2014 Elder nomination suggestions are now being accepted. Nomination forms are now available in each Sunday's announcements, or can be made directly through the church office.

Annual Thanksgiving Community Service: Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church. Come and enjoy our own Celebration Ringers as they provide music for the service.

Keep These Friends In Your Heart: Margaret Harkey, 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.

November Birthdays

2 Linda Sadler

3 Bobby Stone III

5 Tim Guy, Esther Martin

17 Lois Andrews



19 Megan O'Reilly

20 Nicole Sadler

26 Craig Caudle

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

11/6: Mike Hood

11/13: Brenda Hendricks

11/20: Denise Thompson

11/27: Hope Cochran & Linda Gaskey

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jana Barnette

Denise Thompson

Patsy Caudle

Jana Barnette

NURSERY

Henry & Linda Sadler

Doris Woody

Vance Schrum, Vickie Aldridge

Nelio Carrasco, Brenda Hendricks