



Mulberry Presbyterian Church
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"A Mulberry Christmas"

*December 19, 2010
 6:30 p.m.*

*Featuring all
 Mulberry Choirs*

Refreshments will be served

Or Current Resident

*Mulberry Presbyterian Church
 5600 Tuckaseegee Road
 Charlotte, NC 28208*

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Mulberry Messenger

November 2010

Thoughts on Transformation By Mark Zagar

I have been asked to offer my opinion on Mulberry's transition process. I believe it is all about bringing our people to an awareness of those who have not experienced Christ's love or who have become chilled to it for any number of reasons. It is about how to serve in new ways. It is about taking a look outside our doors to see what is going on with the world. If we are to serve others, as defined in Webster's as "different, opposite or contrary," then we must go to them. Being different is not a bad thing, being different by not having the love of Christ in your life is. As Christians we know the power of God's community through the support and confidence gained by trusting in His power.

Several years ago our church family was struggling to maintain. We prayed for God to provide us a way to be strong and succeed again. I am reminded of the story about the fellow who was stranded on his roof top due to high flood waters. Three times a person in a rescue boat came by and asked if he needed help. He refused each time. Before the boat could come again the waters overtook the house and he drowned. In Heaven, he was speaking to God and asked why he would allow him to drown. God replied, "I sent you a boat three times and you wouldn't take the offer for help!" We are being presented our life boat in the form of the transitional process. God has sent us a pastor with a passion to serve and our Presbytery has realized that it must play a proactive role in church development and outreach. Mulberry was chosen to participate in this transitional endeavor because of our history and our people. A few weeks back one of our regular visitors offered a song of praise to honor our church. As part of her introduction, she stated how warm and friendly our church is. That was without prodding. No one paid her to say that. You cannot fake a true loving spirit. People see through that in a New York minute! We have been serving others through many outreach projects over the years with new opportunities becoming apparent all the time. In a few weeks we will be offered ways to readjust our way of serving others. The suggested changes will be a way for us as a congregation to become more aware of the world outside our doors. I would expect us be asked to reach out and touch hearts for Christ's sake. It's already happening. I was having lunch with a business associate and in the conversation I mentioned the need for volunteers at Thomasboro. This person is not a member of our church or any church (I'm working on her though. Pray her up for me!). She signed up, is there every Monday and all she wants is to do more. She has never set foot on our campus. She's doing God's work.

Voting to accept the transition proposal is simply a way for us to move back into being the power house of a church that we know we can be. This transition thing is for each of us. It's for us to look at our community through the eyes of those to be served. What we are being asked to do is to agree to serve others beside ourselves. I look forward to the positive outcome that God will provide for us and future members for the next 122 years!



My family wishes to thank the Handbell Choir for their generous gift to my brother, Robert Cheeseman's, memorial. What a wonderful surprise from Great Friends. My brother was a strong young man and it was very difficult to watch someone you love so deeply Decline so quickly. We know that he is in the Lord's care and suffers no more pain. Bob has been reunited with my father and other family members, and in time, we will all joining him again. Thank you Rev. Chris for your uplifting long distance phone chats and prayers; also for the many cards we received. -Sue Demus and family

Thank you!



This year the Service Ministry had a team that walked in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk for the Cure. Paw Creek Presbyterian Church joined us in the walk. We had 22 walkers, 14 from Mulberry and 8 from Paw Creek. We want to thank all of you that walked and also thank those that donated to this worthy cause. Our grand total was \$2530, with a few more checks yet to come. Thanks again for all your support! - Service Ministry Team

Dear Church Family: Thank you so much for the prayers, calls and cards after my accident. It means so much to me to know that you care. I am doing well but progress is slow regarding the teeth and broken jaw. May God continue to bless this church family as we strive to serve Him. -Love, Barbara Campbell.

Mitchell and I express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the care and support we received during the most difficult time of our lives. The services for Les were very uplifting to us and everyone who attended. Jane Guy and her volunteers outdid themselves with an awesome fried chicken lunch (we're sure there was no food left!) and with the lemonade and cookies refreshments for the visitation. Visitors to our church felt welcomed and comfortable at both services, and many, many compliments were received about how nice all of you were and how what a wonderful service Chris led. Thank you Karen for the bulletin for the memorial service-you outdid yourself! Thanks especially to Chris for the visits, planning of the services, and most of all for your compassion to all of us. We feel so blessed to be a part of the Mulberry family. - Lyn Plemmons

October Session Highlights

- Ronnie Williamson led us in an opening prayer and devotion and later shared his faith journey. Rev. Chris led a reflection on Luke 4:16-30 and prayer was offered for our church and individuals in need.
- It was requested that the pastor's time off be better publicized. In the future, announcements will be printed in the bulletin and better effort will be made as to when, where, and why the pastor is taking vacation/continuing education.
- Phil Egel and Jack Guy reported on the last Presbytery meeting.
- A proposal from building and grounds was approved for \$1400 to remove the half dead tree on the church grounds and dispose of the wood and trim other dead limbs from trees.
- For information purposes, we heard that there will be no Thanksgiving dinner this year at the church. We also heard a concern about not being able to hear prayer concerns. In the future those concerns will be repeated by the pastor through the microphone so everyone can hear.

- The final discussion item was the consultation weekend and voting process. After the weekend schedule was reviewed, the voting process was explained in detail. After much discussion, the motion passed to only allow active members to offer their opinion on whether or not to proceed with this process.

Transformation: Living Into the Vision

By Rev. Chris Carrasco



The Charlotte community needs Mulberry Presbyterian Church. There are so many in Charlotte who are hurting and lonely. So many who have lost hope. So many kids who need good role models. So many people that need to hear about the unconditional love of God. As Christians we have been entrusted with the Good News of the Gospel in order to go out into Charlotte and share this gift with others. Jesus says, "Go and make disciples." He says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." I envision this church in the future busting at the seams with people who make service and evangelism their number one priority. I envision this church meeting the needs, making a difference, and being essential to the well being of the Charlotte community. I envision a church where all feel welcome and at home to experience God in a meaningful way. As we live into this vision, others will be attracted to this spirit of service, will want to join us in making a difference, and will feel welcome to worship God on Sunday mornings. This is the vision that I want to lead Mulberry into.

Living into this vision will not come without some significant decisions. As we face each decision that comes our way, we do so asking the question, "Is this God's will?" Now that our year of discernment is quickly coming to a close, we are faced with one of those significant decisions. Have we discerned from God that we move forward in this transformation process to grow and become a healthier church? Or have we discerned that this process is not for us at this time? The day of our decision is Sunday, December 5.

On November 5-7 we are being visited by our Transformation Consultants who will give us a set of recommendations to either adopt or reject. Based on their experience in church growth and vitality as well as their interaction with us that weekend, they will create a unique list of ways Mulberry can continue its path to being outward focused and making evangelism our first priority. For the four weeks afterward, we will answer questions and have discussions about what these recommendations mean at our 10:00 AM Building Healthy Churches Class. PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO COME TO THESE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.

On December 5, after worship the congregation will be polled by secret ballot on whether or not to adopt the aforementioned recommendations. Everyone who is an active part of the congregation is invited to be a part of the poll. Anyone who cannot come on that Sunday will be invited to send in their ballot ahead of time so their opinion can be counted. This is an open process to get a sense about where we are as a congregation when it comes to making some changes in order to live into this exciting vision.

I have no doubt God is with us in the process. I have no doubt God will guide us if we will continue to discern God's will. I have no doubt that Mulberry will fulfill its vision to grow in a variety of ways. May God bless us in this process!