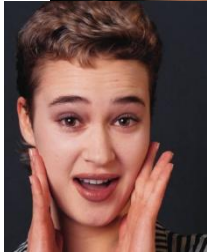




Mulberry Presbyterian Church
 Phone/Fax (704) 392-1030
 Email: mulberrypc@bellsouth.net
www.mulberrypc.com

Women of the Church
 General Meeting
 October 23, 11:00 a.m.
 in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a joyous time of
 fellowship, information and
 surprises!



Or Current Resident

Mulberry Presbyterian Church
 5600 Tuckaseegee Road
 Charlotte, NC 28208

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Mulberry Messenger

October 2010

Transformation: We're Half-Way There!

By Rev. Chris Carrasco



As we are preparing for the Transformation Consultants to come the first weekend of November, I'd like to reflect on how our past and present has prepared us for this significant moment in the life of this church. I felt called to Mulberry because I believe God can use me to lead this church into the future God has in store. A healthy, active, vibrant future is not without some sacrifice, some growing pains, some change. Yet I have absolutely no doubt that because of this church's past, we are prepared to faithfully fulfill our calling from God in the future.

The founding members had a vision when they saw a grove of Mulberry trees where people stopped to rest and renew on their way in to Charlotte. That vision led to a new church, a step in faith that God would provide and was leading them in this direction. They had no idea exactly what to expect, what would happen, if it would grow or not. They simply followed God's Spirit and we are here today because of that risky faithfulness. Ministers were called and God used each one for some positive outcome. The church grew and a new sanctuary had to be built, more land was purchased across the street, and two separate campaigns were accomplished to add wings to each side of the sanctuary. At each step, the congregation had to trust God and step out on faith. No one knew the future or the growth or the ministry impact this church would have.

In the past ten years we have had to face some very difficult decisions. It was painful to get a balanced budget after multiple years of over \$10,000 of deficit spending. It was challenging to resolve some pastoral issues that had developed. It was heart breaking to close the Child Development Center after 20 years of ministry in this community. It was sad to say goodbye to the scout troop. And yet, we have come through all that as a church family. We have stuck together. We have united around ministry.

Looking back over our history, we notice that change does happen. It is a part of life. The only question is "Do we want to direct that change for the better? Or allow it to happen to us as time goes on?" I know the love, the faithfulness, and the strength of Mulberry Presbyterian Church. I have absolutely no doubt that we will seize this significant moment in our history for the glory of God.

As we approach November 5-7, please continue to come to the Building Healthy Churches class which has changed from an information session to an open discussion and question and answer time about this process. There are no secrets or "behind closed doors" discussions. Come share your hopes and challenges and doubts and excitement and

questions about what we will be entering into. Most importantly, please pray for this church continually that God would lead us in this process together.

Transformation has already begun. We are already reaching out to our community more than we have in a long time. Our budget is reflecting significant contributions to our Presbytery and our community. Our Session has transitioned from a managing board to a governing visionary body. Our worship has become more interactive and creative. Our music has been more praise oriented with piano, and Mulberry praise, and “Amens” and applause showing our appreciation. We are halfway there! Yes, we still have halfway more to go together. But I have no doubt we will get there.

You will be receiving a letter from me this month about the actual dates and times you will be invited to participate in this transformation process. Please take full advantage of these opportunities. For now, please keep November 5-7, Friday through Sunday available to meet with, share with, and learn from our consultants. Please come with open hearts and minds to what they have to share with us.

I am both excited and anxious about the next three months of our lives together. I realize there are many different viewpoints about what we are about to go through. But I believe that the same pioneering and visionary spirit of our forefathers and mothers along with the difficult decisions we’ve already made in this church, has prepared us for this moment at this time. May God bless us as we seek God’s will and fulfill God’s calling in this community. And all God’s people said, “Amen!”



September Session Highlights

- Barbara Campbell opened with prayer and sharing a devotion about keeping God in all our church discussion after which she shared “God’s Cake.” Ask her about it.
- Seminary intern Ken Fuquay reported on his progress to date and his plans for the rest of the year.
- Barbara Campbell, class of 2011, and Phil Egel, class of 2012, were elected as the two elder representatives for the nominating committee. A representative from the Men of the Church, Presbyterian Women, and an at-large member will be elected by the congregation at a meeting on October 24.
- We reviewed the Leadership School which some said was the best one yet. The self study will be mailed this week to the consultants. We continued to talk about the transformation process.

Mulberry Presbyterian Church

HOME COMING SUNDAY

October 17, 2010



Dear Mulberry Family and Friends,

Mulberry Presbyterian Church’s 122nd birthday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 17, 2010. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special service in the life of Mulberry, which will include the Sacrament of Communion. Preaching at our Homecoming Service this year will be Rev. Fred Holder. Fred is a former pastor from 1953 to 1959, and we are glad he will be joining us.

After worship we will enjoy a wonderful covered dish dinner in our Britt Stokes Fellowship Hall. It is always good to come back and see those you haven’t seen since last year and to reminisce about the past and dream about the future. Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. with a collective gathering called *Building Healthy Churches* beginning at 10:00 a.m. There are classes for children and adults. Someone will be available to assist you in finding a class. The worship service begins at 11:00 am.

Mulberry has always been and continues to be a warm and loving place to worship. So please, mark your calendars for Sunday, October 17th and join us for food, fellowship and fun. With love and open arms, we look forward to seeing you again.

May God Bless You,
The Mulberry Presbyterian Church Family