



REACHING OUT IN LOVE  
BECAUSE OF THE ONE WE LOVE

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Volume 1

Issue 4

**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

## Mulberry's Building Campaign: Why Redesign the Front of the Sanctuary? Rev. Chris Carrasco

At their July meeting, your Session decided to adopt a new vision for the front of the sanctuary. Why? Have you tried to get from the sanctuary to the office? It requires quite a bit of tricky maneuvering to dodge all the wires and cords, go up and down about 7 stairs, and hold onto the railings in hopes of not losing your balance. Numerous trips, falls, and close calls have been made by younger and older members alike. We have to find a way to solve this problem for the sake of the safety of our congregation.

Also, if you have experienced some mobility challenges such as being in a wheelchair or needing to use a walker or cane, you may find it next to impossible to get into the church office from the sanctuary. As we strive to become a welcoming church that meets the needs of all people, we need to create a more accessible way to navigate from the sanctuary to the office.

During youth and children's Sundays, have you had a hard time seeing our younger members as they lead worship from the floor? I remember having to dodge heads when Christian participated in the Thanksgiving service last year just to see him. Do you have a challenging time seeing the pastor when she is preaching? A higher platform that extends out into the sanctuary will help to solve most of these visibility issues.

What about those times we have skits or plays or multiple people involved in worship? On those special Sundays the current platforms are simply not adequate to hold everyone. A larger platform would allow more flexibility in

worship and the ability to incorporate more people in worship.

And what about those beautiful, hand carved choir railings that have become such an important and integral part of this church? They will be honored as we place them front and center along the wall from door to door, including underneath the cross. Every time we come to worship, we will see them and be reminded of those who have gone before to build this church into what it is today.



On Praise Sundays when our Mulberry Praise leads worship, the front becomes quite a jumble with wires and cords and stands and people. The hope is to simplify our sound system to go completely wireless and eliminate potential tripping hazards. We also hope to create more space upfront so Praise members do not have to move stands and microphones during worship.

The sound system itself would receive an upgrade with the elimination of the microphones that stand on the ground to amplify the choir. Instead microphones would hang from the ceiling, be much less obtrusive, and do a better job of picking up the music of our wonderful choir. We will also be able to digitally record our services and then upload these recordings onto our new website.

Our temporary screen that looks a little tacky up there

on a wooden stand will be replaced with two aesthetically pleasing screens that will come down from the top of the speaker cabinets. Since they will be retractable, they will hardly be noticed when they are up, and when down they will provide worship with an enhanced experienced of graphics and the bulletin liturgy in large print.

Don't forget the organ! Session decided to put this at the top of the priority list. The organ has already been repaired and restored to tip top shape and is leading us once again in worship. We plan on using it for years to come as we honor and enjoy this beautiful musical instrument.

Whew! That's a lot. The vision has been born. On September 25, the task force will formally present this proposal to the congregation. More details and information can be found on our website at [www.mulberrypc.com](http://www.mulberrypc.com). You will find a letter and pledge card in the mail within a week of receiving this Messenger, if you haven't already. Session invites you to support this vision with them. What an opportunity we have! I feel privileged to journey with you as we discern together what God would have us be and do.

### Thomasboro Elementary School Needs List

- Large glue sticks
- #2 pencils
- Pocket folders with prongs,
- Pocket folders without prongs,
- Black and white primary composition books,
- Crayons or colored pencils,
- Boxes of tissue,
- Hand sanitizer,
- Packs of wide-ruled notebook paper,
- Packs of post-it notes,
- One inch 3 ring binders
- Highlighters

## September Session Highlights

### Listening to God

The Christ Candle was lit, Jack Guy led us in devotion and prayer; Rev. Chris read Mark 10:46-52, reflecting on the healing of blind Bartimaeus.

### Listening to Others

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

### Listening to God's Will

- The pastor will be away October 17-19 for a small church conference.
- Communion was set for October 2 at the table.
- The Breast Cancer Walk on October 1 and plans for Room in the Inn were mentioned.
- Life Groups will begin in October.
- Trunk or Treat is planned for Saturday, October 29.
- Help for Thomasboro Elementary School is very much needed and appreciated.
- The commissioners for the October 11 Presbytery meeting at Siler Presbyterian in Wesley Chapel will be Phil Egel and Vance Schrum.
- A congregational meeting was set for October 30 for the purpose of electing the nominating committee.
- The September 25 Sanctuary presentation to the congregation was evaluated, along with the process for both the capital campaign and stewardship efforts.

**Going Out Into the World** We ended holding hands in prayer by Jack and will meet again on October 23 at 6:00 PM.

## Evangelism

### Mark Zagar, Coordinator

We all know what a great loving church family we have at Mulberry. But how do we get the word out? Along with the forthcoming website, we need more ideas of how to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are soliciting Evangelism ideas right now. Please speak with Mark Zagar or Chris Carrasco if you can think of a way to let our community know about the great things happening at Mulberry.

## Discipleship

### Mike Hood, Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who participated in Education Sunday during the Sunday school hour on September 11. Teachers from each Sunday school class spoke about their curricula, the purposes of their class and related activities. These presentations gave the congregation a good overview of how each class contributes to the discipleship ministry

at Mulberry. In addition, Henry Sadler and Barbara Campbell spoke about how Sunday school has shaped their lives and their walk with the Lord. Ken Fuquay closed the gathering by emphatically reminding folks of the centrality of God's word to all Christian education.

Signup sheets for Life Groups are now in the narthex. Life Groups will meet once a week for an hour and half for seven weeks beginning in October, and will involve participants in Bible study, sharing, and prayer. It is a wonderful way to improve your relationship the God, and to get to know others in the congregation on a more personal level.

## Congregational Care

### Barbara Campbell, Coordinator

Congregational Care continues to care for our members with special needs.

## Coordinators' Corner

We have made five home visits, 11 phone calls, and attended a funeral for the father of a fellow member. Please consider taking a moment to call or visit someone in our congregation who may be in need of a warm "Hello" or listening ear, or just a caring hug. May God continue to bless you as you strive to serve Him.

### Service

#### Bev Sadler, Coordinator

*From Terry Goble: I am very happy to report 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!*

*I'm really excited to be able to take the men and women's coats to the shelter. Kris O'Reilly will be delivering the children's coats to Thomasboro. A very special 'Thank You' to everyone that participated.*



### A Note from Karen Woody-

**Kester** During a late July visit with my parents, Doris and Hugh Woody, I visited the Freedom Village Goodwill store looking for "treasures". I overheard a family ask an employee if Goodwill offered delivery service for purchased items. They were told no, and because I drive a mini-van, I offered to take the furniture for them. With their thanks, the family told me in broken English that "We prayed to the Living God for help and He sent you." The next day we learned that this Gurong family, a mother, father, two sons, daughter in law and grandchild, had just arrived in Charlotte the night before after living in a refugee camp in Nepal for 20 years! Thrilled to immigrate to the U.S. earlier this year, the Gurongs came as devoted Christians, fully trusting the Living God who

provides for them. The day after I met them, Reverend Chris preached on being ambassadors, and she inquired during church if anyone might have household items they could donate to the family. In the weeks to come, donations were received from my family, Mary Lib Stokes, Betty Thomason, Edna Carver, Patsy Caudle, Annette Pearson, Helen Marks, the Carrasco family, and Henry Sadler, and additional assistance was arranged through Harvest Church food bank and Crisis assistance. Although the Gurong family was overwhelmed with joy to receive these generous donations, I'm sure they weren't surprised that God was again filling a need through His ambassadors. As for me, this experience has been a total blessing. One of the brothers calls me from time to time with updates on their progress and prayers for my family. All three sons and the two wives (including another brother and his wife who recently arrived) now have jobs, and the family is attending a small local Nepali church, sharing their time and talents and praying that God will use them to help the church grow. As God has used us to answer the Gurong's prayers, the Gurong's offer themselves in turn to be used by God to answer others' prayers. Isn't it marvelous the way God does that?

### Hospitality

#### Linda Sadler, Coordinator

Mulberry celebrated the last Lemonade on the Lawn of the season on September 18. Many thanks to all of our volunteers for their generous gifts of time and resources.

We have greeted around 20 visitors in the Hospitality Room so far, but we need to continue to invite new faces! Mulberry will celebrate World Wide Communion on October 2. Remember Romans 12:13 and invite a friend!



## NEWS AND NOTES

**Many thanks to our** Mulberry men for leading the service on September 18. Congratulations to Mr. Mike Hood on receiving the 2011 Men of the Church Award. Mike is an important part of the ministry here at Mulberry. He has served and is currently serving on Session, teaches Sunday School and Children's Worship Center, is a vital part of the music ministry and has chaired numerous committees. Mike also assists the men on many of their projects such as the pine needle sale. Thank you Mike for all you do at Mulberry!

**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 October. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex. For more information, contact Hank Sadler.

**The Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure Breast Cancer Walk** will be held on October 1. See you there!

**World Communion Sunday is October 2.** Please plan to attend worship and celebrate communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ worldwide. A special Peacemaking Offering will be received.

**Join us for special music as Mulberry welcomes Ken Fuquay, Earleen Hicks, and Heidi Dove** for a benefit concert on October 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A love offering will be taken for Pete and Karen Slobodjinski.

**Everyone is invited** to attend the Men's Breakfast on Sunday, October 16 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

3 Sharon Whitley, Ben Green  
4 Betty Thomason  
5 Ashley Barnette  
7 Lyn Plemmons, Linda Gaskey  
12 Rylynn Alejo

### October Birthdays



20 Elaine Brown, Greg Rhyne  
21 Ken Fuquay  
24 Martha Graham  
25 David Carpenter

## TIME AND TALENTS

### USHERS

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Jeff Whitley, Jack Guy, Lillian Williamson, Vance Schrum

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Earl Springs, Nelio Carrasco, Denise Thompson

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Mack Cochran, Sonny Brown, Brenda Hendricks, Linda Sadler

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Ashley Barnette, Gloria Vereen

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday—Youth

### CHURCH LOCK-UP

Jeff Whitley

Earl Springs

Mack Cochran

Ashley Barnette

Jeff Whitley

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

10/2 Hope Cochran, Linda Gaskey

10/9 Brenda Hendricks

10-16 Denise Thompson

10/23 Nelio Carrasco

10/30 Jana Barnette

### CHILDREN'S

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Patsy Caudle

Denise Thompson

Jana Barnette

Patsy Caudle

Denise Thompson

### NURSERY

Edna Carver, Doris Woody

Vance Schrum

Nelio Carrasco, Brenda Hendricks

Bev Sadler, Kayla Sadler

Mac & Hope Cochran