



The Mulberry Messenger

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Small Group Study Opportunities Abound at Mulberry

In order to meet the need for every member to intentionally grow as a disciple, Mulberry has numerous opportunities to engage in small group study and discussion of scripture.

On February 8, Mulberry is showing the movie *Fireproof* at 5:00. Even if you saw it in theaters last fall, it is worth watching again. The movie, from the producers of "Facing the Giants", depicts

the story of firefighter Caleb and his wife Catherine as they face real-life, common struggles in marriage. Through the support and challenge of his dad, Caleb tries once more to save his marriage, and in the process not only rediscovers love for his wife but also realizes God's love. It has a practical, applicable message for healthy relationships today. The growth opportunity doesn't stop with the movie. Small groups going through



the fireproof material will begin February 15 and last six weeks. Programs for children are also available at church during this time. There are also other discipleship resources related to *Fireproof*, including *The Love Dare* book for couples and *Fireproof Your Life*.

Fireproof isn't the only way members can be involved in discipleship this spring. The Sunday night Bible study on James continues at 6:00, and both Beth Moore Bible studies have resumed after the holiday break. And, of course, Sunday School classes offer an opportunity for scripture study and personal growth at 9:15am each week.

Awana Adult Challenge

Hope you're practicing your verses!
Here's the upcoming schedule:

February 1st: **Genesis 1:31**

February 8th: **John 17:17**

February 15th: **Psalms 86:11**

February 22nd: **Psalms 147:5**

Let's show the kids the we are up to
the challenge.

Fellowship Continues with Lunch Following Sunday Services

Join us after service on **Sunday, February 1st** for a Soup-er Bowl Cook-off (hosted by the Men's Committee). Don't pass up your chance to vote for the best soup around while filling up on great food and great companionship with your fellow church members. And, on **Sunday, March 1st** we will have a potluck lunch after service. We hope you'll join us, and bring a dish for everyone to enjoy. These are great opportunities to get to visit with old friends and to become acquainted with new ones. Can't wait to see you there!

A Note from Steve...

Recently, some friends returned a Bible to me that I had left at their house several months ago. (Yes, I did have another one that I had been using since, and Cindy and the girls got me a new Bible for Christmas!) I was excited to get it back because I was familiar with where everything was in it. Passages of scripture were on the same side of the page as I had remembered, the Bible was the same size in my hands, the color of the page and print was just right. Do you know what I mean? When we are very familiar with something, we know many details and intricacies about it without even thinking. I hope we are that familiar not just with the book, but with the words of scripture and with the God revealed in scripture.

Psalm 139 tells us that God is that familiar with us. It begins: "O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD." God made us, and God knows every part of us. Read the entire Psalm and marvel at God's familiarity with us.

The amazing thought is that as much as God knows us, God loves us. We might cringe thinking, "God knows even that about me." Yes, God knows "even that," and God loves us. Sin separated us from God, but Jesus has bridged that gap. Romans 8 asks what can separate us from the love of God? Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He

who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all... ." And verses 37-39 add, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." How incredible that the God who created us and knows us loves us absolutely!

I have enjoyed focusing on underlying, foundational issues these past few Sunday mornings through the Building Blocks series. I hope and pray that God is using it in all of our lives to help strengthen these areas that subconsciously influence so much of our lives. We'll continue this series through February, and in March we begin the Reality TV Series. Each week we'll use the theme from a reality TV show as a jumping off point to explore the life to which we are called in Christ. By the way, if you miss a Sunday and want to catch up, each week's service is available online (www.mulberrychurch.org – click on the Media link), usually by the following Monday.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." (Heb 10:25). See you soon!

In Christ,

Music

Thank you all for your well wishes, prayers, and concern during the past two weeks. Again, it is a tremendous blessing to be part of such a wonderful church family.

We have felt your love and prayers through it all.

With love,
*Chris, Kelly, and
Spencer*
Matt. 6:25-34



CDO News

Registration for the 2009—2010 school year is upon us. We will begin registration the first of March. We will send out forms by mid-February. Registration is on a first come first serve basis. Children have to be at least 10 months old when school starts in September, and our oldest class will attend Kindergarten during the 2010-2011 school year.

If you need a tax receipt for tuition paid during 2008, or our tax ID number, please see Charlene. We will be glad to provide you with that.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day the week of February 14. If you need help in deciding how to celebrate—we asked our 4 year olds and here are their suggestions:

Jaimie H.—Go to McDonalds

Ashlyn G.—Eat at Honeybees

Emily C.—Eat at Chili's

Mallory S.—Sicity's Pizza

Laura H.—Go to Chuck E Cheese

Lyla C.—Mulberry

Alexis R.—Go out & eat at Applebees

Katherine C.—Osaka

Luke A.—McDonalds

Reese S.—Eat at Picadilly

Mardi Gras holidays are Feb. 24, 25 & 26. We will see you on March 3.

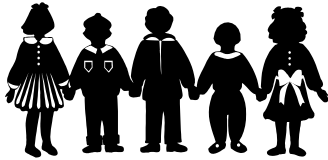
Charlene Patrick, CDO

Children's Ministry

Guess what time it is! It is time to volunteer in Children's Ministry! That's right – God has provided you with plenty of opportunities to serve Him at Mulberry;

- **Children's Choir** needs a helper (Sunday evening 5:00-7:00) – knowledge of music and the ability to play the piano is a plus, but not a requirement. Chris leads this choir, so the helper position is very easy.
- **Sunday evening** childcare needs a fourth person- if you are not actively participating in a Sunday evening small group, then come play with our little ones and show them God's love through YOU! (5:00 – 7:00pm)
- **VBS 09 "The Boomerang Express: It All Comes Back to Jesus" June 15-19** – Keep your calendar open! It is time to staff VBS. We need loads of teachers, leaders, and volunteers to make this outreach event a success.
- **Music Camp 09 "Splash Kingdom: Diving Into God's Love" July 20-24** – Wow! This was a lot of fun last year. Come help us put on a cool musical production. We need leaders for music, motions, drama, and Bible study. Dive In!
- **Awana! (Wed. 6:00-7:30)** – We are *growing!* We have an immediate need for leaders, helpers, and listeners in ALL clubs!
- **Children's Sunday School** – Yes! We still need more Sunday School teachers! Where else can you get away with wearing your pajamas to church?

GOD IS MOVING IN OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY! Each of these programs is an essential part of Children's Ministry. Collectively they afford our children the opportunity to learn about God's immeasurable love and His rock solid promises, and to grow in faith and understanding. You have an *extraordinary* opportunity to make an ETERNAL impact on a child. Don't waste it! Call me or the office, or email me (mary.dowden@mulberrychurch.org)!



In Christ,

Keenager's Korner

Attitude is a powerful word often used in expressing how we feel and react to people and circumstances. I carry in my wallet a writing on "attitude" by a Christian author, Dr. Chuck Swindol. I periodically read it to remind myself of its importance. Each year I put it in my newsletter article, and I'd like to share it with you now:

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our ATTITUDES.

On January 25th, Bro. Steve's sermon was on the "meanings" of sin, justification, grace, redemption, sanctification, and righteousness. Righteousness meaning "right standing with God" and our "attitude" toward God. As Dr. Swindol states, we have choices. I pray this year we will choose to react in a Godly manner in all circumstances. Being righteous, our attitude toward God, and a right standing with Him and others will be our witness for those in our world in need of our Lord and Savior.

A Servant,
Evelyn Head and The Keenagers

Please note that the church office will be **closed** on Tuesday, February 24th in observance of *Mardi Gras*

Deacons to Serve for February

John Wiggins, Mike Gray,
and Jason Harper

**Deacon's Meeting, Sunday, February 8th at 7:15PM & Ordination Council

Congratulations



Chris and Kelly Babb
the birth of their son

Spencer Cade Sebastian

Born 1-20-09 6 lbs, 5 oz
19-1/2 inches

Youth Sunday School Classes

will begin on February 8th.
See you at 9:15 Sunday morning!

Mulberry Ministry Team

Church members: Ministers-at-large
 Steve Graves, Pastor
steve.graves@mulberrychurch.org
 Chris Babb, Minister of Music and Media
chris.babb@mulberrychurch.org
 Mary Dowden, Children's Minister
mary.dowden@mulberrychurch.org
 Charlene Patrick, Children's Day Out Director
charlene.patrick@mulberrychurch.org
 Haley Kraemer, Secretary
info@mulberrychurch.org

Mulberry Baptist Church

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Upcoming Sermons



Building Block Series continues:
February 1st: "God's View of what God made"
February 8th: "Healthy Relationships"
February 15th: "God's Economy"
February 22nd: "Pray. Fast."

And beginning in March, The Reality TV Series:

March 1st: "America's Got Talent" featuring the "Mulberry's Got Talent" talent show during the after-service luncheon.
March 8th: "Deal or No Deal"
March 15th: "Extreme Makeover, Life Edition"
March 22nd: "The Apprentice"
March 29th: "Big Brother"
April 5th: "The Amazing Race"



Did you know...?

...we had 7 babies in the nursery Sun morning?
 ...there are almost 50 kids each week in extended teaching care and children's church?
 ...children's choir has been meeting for months on Sunday nights for music and bible study?
 ...there are 50 kids in Awana on Wed nights?
 ...our policy is that there must be at least 2 adults with every class or group of children?
 ...often, no special skill or teaching experience is needed to work with kids, only love?

If you are interested in more than just knowing these facts but experiencing it yourself, there is a place for you to serve Christ through the children's ministry – weekly, quarterly, and as needed. Just ask Mary!

January Statistics

Date	<u>Budget Receipts</u> Amount	<u>Attendance</u>	
		Sunday School	AM Worship
01-04-09	\$3,704.00	58	79
01-11-09	\$2,234.00	63	83
01-18-09	\$5,897.00	50	113
01-25-09	\$6,363.50	65	138

Budget Goal YTD: \$28,710.96
Budget Receipts YTD: \$18,198.50

Attention Ladies!

Join us for the
Beth Moore Living Proof Conference
 April 3 & 4 at The New Orleans Arena.
 Cost is \$100/person, which includes the conference fee and hotel. We will leave the church parking lot at 3PM on Friday and return Saturday afternoon. Contact the church office to sign up or for more information.