

3:16

THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16

"A twenty-six word parade of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet solid enough to weather two thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God's treatment is prescribed in John 3:16." (excerpt from Max Lucado's 3:16).

3:16 will be presented on the morning of November 1st during the service. The musical meditates on various aspects of the verse John 3:16. It includes selections by Chris Eaton, Paul Baloche, Micheal W. Smith, Chris Tomlin and Travis Cottrell. It will be a great worship experience. Join us as we focus on the importance of such a simple, yet profound verse.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING from The Staff of Mulberry!



Adult Challenge

Top 6 Teams

(at the time this article was written)

1. **The Two-Edged Swords:** Mike Gray, Hank Babin, Jennifer Bouly, Amy Clemons (29 points)
2. **The Winners:** Amy Lewis, Victoria Ledet, Marsha Siddle, Suzanne Wunstell (27 points)
3. **No Pressure:** Steve Graves, Chris Babb, Mary Dowden, Haley Kraemer (26 points)
4. **Roger's Raiders:** Roger Kraemer, Courtney Kraemer, Christy Barnes, Lydia Voigt (25 points)
5. **Brave Knights Serving Jesus:** Brandy Jabert, Kelly Babb, Susan Waldron, Joel Waldron (24 points)
6. **Scripture Warriors:** Bill Hall, Melonye Hall, Dianne Kirkpatrick, Claudette Smith (24 points)

A Note from Steve...

ALERT: this weekend your neighborhood may be swarmed by lots of unique and unusual creatures walking the streets!! But do not be alarmed; it will not be an invasion of aliens or enemies. It's Halloween, and kids will flood the neighborhoods dressed as superman, Hannah Montana, a pirate, batgirl, one of the X-men, a princess, or one of many other favorites. Get your candy and a big smile ready.

While Halloween is a fun opportunity to masquerade as something we are not, we unfortunately often wear masks throughout the year. They may not be as easily identifiable as some you'll see this weekend, but they are all around. The mask of a steady smile when there is unspoken pain deep within. The mask of "I have everything under control," when in reality we feel as if it may slip away at any moment. The mask of the "perfect" family, when conflict, mistrust, and bitterness swirl just below the surface. The mask of confidence to hide our insecurities.

This year, after Halloween passes, take off your mask. Not just your seasonal costume, but your mask that hides and covers you. Let down your guard. Reveal the true you. Allow others in. Be honest before God.

And as you do, find grace in the cross. Find love and acceptance in God's presence. I believe you'll also find understanding and acceptance in the body of Christ. Because while it feels as if you're the only one hurting and vulnerable and uncertain, the reality is that we all are. We all are in need of grace. We all search for love. We all need God. And we have the unique opportunity to give and receive grace and love as God's children - without the costumes!

In Christ,

Steve

Worship and Media

Authenticity: Conforming to reality and therefore worthy of trust, reliance, or belief. Truthfulness of origins, attributions, commitments, sincerity, and intentions.

Relevancy: a measure of how pertinent, connected, or applicable something is.

Imagine attending a school or a conference that was in a language you did not understand, or the information was not immediately useful to you in your workplace or life. Would you continue to go to this event or school? Would you become confused?

Sometimes that is how people feel when attending church. They are looking for a quality experience that brings them closer to God, yet they may not understand all of the "church words" we speak or sing. Also, time is important to people. What we do in church must be relevant to your life, other members, and those outside of our church, and the time we spend in service should be valuable and useful to everyone.

Last month, I focused on authenticity – the ability of every Christian to live a life of worship through all we do and say. Authenticity lends credibility to our faith and honors God. Relevancy keeps us mindful that others may not be as far along the path with God as we are, and also reminds us that many are not even on a path with God. Look for ways to be a relevant witness to those around you this month. Remember they are watching. Be authentic and relevant.

In Christ,

The groups leading in service this month are the Sanctuary Choir on Nov. 1st, Testament on Nov. 8th, Sonnettes des Joie (Handbells) on Nov. 15th, and Children's Choir on Nov. 22nd. Join us for a great month in worship.

Chris





Children's Ministry



Here comes the holiday season! How will you express your gratitude to your Lord for your abundant life and the precious gift of salvation through Him? How will you share His love with other people? It is wonderful to experience the joy of a thankful heart, I know. But what do you plan to DO? Love is not just a feeling, but a choice, and an action; love is not just a noun, it is a *verb*. And, as we have learned this month in Children's Church, sometimes loving others takes real work. So...how do you plan to step out in love this holiday season?

I have some really easy ideas for you. Put together a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child, include seven dollars for postage, and bring it to church by November 15. It doesn't get much easier than that. But wait...it does! Purchase a child's book for our young friends at Live Oak church in Pointe Aux Chenes. Bring a food donation for the food bank—you can probably find something in your own pantry—no shopping required! We will be collecting books and food up until our Children's Christmas Party, which will be held at the church on Saturday, December 6. You can help your child experience the joy of giving by allowing him or her to help you fill a shoe box or bring a book or food donation to the Christmas party.

There are endless ways you can reach out to others in our community and all over the world this holiday season. I invite you to email (by November 15, please) your ideas about practical ways to share God's love, not just during the holidays, but *anytime*, to me at mary.dowden@mulberrychurch.org. I hope to share some of your ideas in the December newsletter.

In Christ, *Mary*

Deacons to Serve for November

Bud Barnes & Sharon Bergeron

Deacons' Meeting
November 15th, 7:15PM

We're curious...

If you read this month's newsletter, please send us an e-mail (info@mulberrychurch.org) or give us a call (985-876-3204) letting us know that you did. Thanks for taking part in this survey!

Pray...Give...Get Involved: Help a Child in Need

You can give back this Christmas by participating in The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Program. It's as easy as packing a wrapped shoe box filled with toys and/or other items, including your \$7.00 check to pay for shipping, and bringing both to our church. You can go to The Samaritan Purse website, www.samaritanspurse.org, and follow the instructions available there, or you can pick up an instruction form in the church office.

Boxes need to be delivered to the church office by
Sunday, November 15th

We will be bringing the filled boxes to FBC, Houma during that week, so, please make sure to get your box(es) to us on time. It's so simple to make Christmas special this year for a boy or girl in need!

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

A Place for Life!

2025 Bayou Black Drive

Houma, Louisiana 70360

(985) 876-3204 Fax (985) 876-3131

www.mulberrychurch.org

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th in observation of Thanksgiving.

www.mulberrychurch.org

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October Statistics

Budget Receipts

Attendance

Date	Amount	Sunday School	AM Worship
10-04-09	\$5,916.00	67	135
10-11-09	\$6,388.90	50	101
10-18-09	\$3,685.25	77	129
10-25-09	\$2,848.00	46	120

Budget Goal YTD: \$308,642.82

Budget Receipts YTD: \$245,574.54

Deacon Nomination cards should be turned in by Wed, November 11th.

Also, please remember to turn in your **Budget Commitment** cards.