

Mulberry is Hosting a Super Bowl Party

Mulberry is hosting a Super Bowl party February 7 at 5pm. We'll have the projector and multiple TVs set up in the Fellowship Hall and the Assembly Room in the Education Building. Come join the fun as we cheer on the Saints; cheer for the Colts at your own risk!

We will provide one main entrée, but are asking everyone to bring something as well (snack food, dessert, etc). PLEASE RSVP so that we can have an estimate of how much food we'll need.

While there won't be separate child care, we will open the additional rooms on the side of the Assembly Room (Awana game room) for children's activities and provide some toys/games. If you have thoughts on anything the kids can do, or if you can bring something for them (maybe a video game system), please contact the office with your suggestions.

If you want to bring something comfy to sit on, you're welcome to do so.



There is a new **Young Adult Sunday School Class** meeting in room C4 on Sunday mornings at 9:15. We hope you'll join us!

February: Love



I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men." So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.—Luke 15:18-24

God's Promises 2010

January: <i>Faithfulness</i>	September: <i>Eternal Significance</i>
February: <i>Love</i>	October: <i>Communication</i>
March: <i>Salvation</i>	November: <i>Caring Provision</i>
April: <i>Potential</i>	December: <i>Presence</i>
May: <i>Attention</i>	
June: <i>Joy</i>	
July: <i>Wisdom</i>	
August: <i>Belonging</i>	

Visit mulberrychurch.org for more resources

A Note from Steve...

I am typing words I never thought I would type in South Louisiana: Don't forget that Mardi Gras is coming. Imagine that! Because of the incredible excitement of the Saints going to the Super Bowl, Mardi Gras might actually sneak up on us. My encouragement to remember that Mardi Gras is coming has nothing to do with parades or king cake. It certainly isn't because I need more beads at my house. Actually, it isn't really even a focus on Mardi Gras as much as a focus on the spiritual significance of the season. As you know, Mardi Gras (*Fat Tuesday*) is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is the day of celebration and excess before the beginning of the Lenten fast leading up to Easter. My encouragement for you today is to consider your participation in the Lenten fast beginning the day after Mardi Gras.

Fasting is voluntarily denying an "otherwise normal function." It's not stopping something that we shouldn't do anyway, ceasing to sin in a particular area – that's called repentance, not fasting. No longer indulging in food (gluttony), giving up a destructive behavior, or breaking an unhealthy pattern – these are not fasting. When we fast, we don't abstain from something we don't like that much anyway and replace it with something that is a preferable choice. Fasting is choosing to abstain from something that is perfectly acceptable and perhaps even beneficial for the sake of gaining something greater – specifically spiritual growth. Consider what you will choose to sacrifice as an intentional act of discipleship to Jesus.

When Jesus discussed fasting in Matthew 6, he taught that *when we fast (not if)*, we are not to make a public show of it but to practice it as a personal act of devotion to God. There are various ways that we might practice fasting. You may believe God is leading you to abstain from eating a particular food or engaging in a particular activity for the forty days of Lent. Or perhaps you will fast by abstaining from food for a particular time period during the forty days, such as one or two days each week. Choosing to fast from something significant to you that is a normal part of each day will help make the experience more meaningful for you.

As you fast from an item or activity for a time period, remember to replace that item with an intentional pursuit of Christ. A simple prayer ("God, I'd love a coke right now, but I want to know you more so I'm drinking water.") or a time of prayer, scripture study and personal worship during a normal mealtime will increase your appetite for knowing God, even as you are especially aware of your appetite for the item you are sacrificing.

Finally, here are a few helpful reminders:

- Be realistic and specific about your fast. Have definite guidelines for your fast – exactly what you will be abstaining from and for how long.
- When you fast from food, drink plenty of liquids
- Keep a journal of your thoughts and prayers during your fast. Be sure to take time to listen for God's voice in addition to expressing yourself to God.

In Christ,

Worship and Media

Creating worship experiences that are authentic, relevant and engaging, with excellence, that encourage freedom.

The past several months this article has focused on the qualities listed in the statement above. It is my hope and prayer that we would embrace these qualities in our worship, not only corporately but also in daily life. Our authenticity in worship would flow over into our conversations and actions, so that the words and actions of our worship match our daily life in such a way that others say, "He is the real deal, isn't he?"

Our relevancy in worship would help us to always remember that others are around us that need Him, so that the words and actions of our worship make sense to us and those around us. Our purpose in worship is always to engage God. Unfortunately many of us tend to leave Him out of most of our lives, even our "worship" experiences.

Do not be afraid of God and the love and forgiveness He provides. Seek Him. God calls us to do our best in everything, as if we were doing it for Christ. Live with excellence in all things, so that you will worship God through your actions and others will see Him in you.

"It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us **free**."

Galatians 5:1

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**." 2 Cor. 3:17

Christ has set us free, so express your worship with freedom. You have freedom from the thoughts of your peers and freedom to express your worship in any way that God leads. Allow Him to lead, then follow Him. Most of all seek Him, and know Him, then live for Him authenticity, relevancy, excellence and freedom. Make time to encounter God today!

In Christ,



Children's Ministry

Last month I discussed God's Promises and our plans for how we would incorporate it into Children's Ministry. In January, we included lessons on Faithfulness in Children's Sermon, Children's Church, Extended Teaching Care, and Awana large group. I think it is going very well, and I thank all of you that are working to touch upon God's Promises in your ministry activities. I look forward to what is to come.

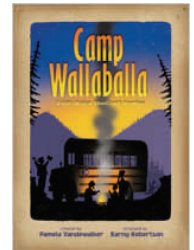
Last month, I also announced that we will have a church-wide meeting in February to discuss God's Promises and how the theme will be carried out in VBS and Music Camp. The date of this meeting has changed. Please mark your calendar for **Wednesday evening, February 24**. We will meet at **6:00PM** to introduce the VBS and Music Camp curriculums. If you have served in one of these camps in the past, I hope you will attend this meeting and volunteer once again for one or both of these important events. Even if you have not worked in one of these camps, or if you are simply interested in what we have planned, I urge you to take a little time to come to this meeting.

Awana leaders will remain after the VBS/Music Camp meeting on February 24 for a brief staff meeting. If you are interested in finding out more about Awana or what it might be like to serve in Awana, you are invited to stay for this meeting and discussion as well.

The **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** will be on **Palm Sunday, March 28**, right after the lunch on the grounds. If you would like to donate small, individually-wrapped, non-chocolate (it melts!) candy for this event, you may drop it by the office by Sunday, March 14. Thanks to your generous spirit in past years, we already have more than enough plastic eggs. The **Children's Ministry Team** will meet briefly on **Sunday, February 21 at 4:30PM** to plan this event.

In God's Love,

Margie



Awana Adult Challenge

Top 3 teams:

1. God's Girls (10 points)-Mary Dowden, Julia Dowden, Jessica Dowden, Chelsea Price
2. Three Bears and A Pig (7 points)-Steve Graves, Cindy Graves, Mike Gray, Laura Gray
3. Pigs Might Fly (6 points)-Chris Babb, Brandy Jabert, Lee Gautreaux, Joel Waldron

Beginner Group Meetings

Sundays, starting Feb 21st @ 6:30PM

4^{first place} health
discover a new way to healthy living

Intermediate Group Meetings Resume
Thursday, February 18th
5:15PM



Deacons

Serving February:

Shannon Lewis
Sharon Bergeron

Regular Deacon's Meeting:

Sunday, February 21st @ 7:15PM

Missing Items

The Kitchen Krewe is missing several linen tablecloths and some silverware. The church's 8-foot blue extension ladder is also missing. If you have borrowed these items, please return them ASAP. Also, if you are borrowing any church items in the future, there is a sign-out sheet in the church office that you need to sign first.

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!

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Houma, Louisiana 70360

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

www.mulberrychurch.org

Mulberry Women's Gathering

Who? Women of all ages from our church and beyond (please invite any friends)

What? A time to come together for the purpose of building and enjoying relationships and discussing some new ministry opportunities. We will have brunch/ breakfast foods; if you would like to sign up to bring something, contact the church office and let Haley know what you will bring!

When? Saturday, March 6th, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Where? Sharon Bergeron's home, 313 Maple

Why? Because we need some fellowship time, and because there are many ways that we can corporately be a part of God's work in our community and the world!

January Statistics

Budget Receipts

Attendance

Date	Amount	Sunday School	AM Worship
01-03-10	\$4,400.00	61	115
01-10-10	\$5,158.05	59	128
01-17-10	\$4,554.00	60	130
01-24-10	\$4,571.63	64	136

Budget Goal YTD: \$28,710.76

Budget Receipts YTD: \$18,683.68

The staff at Mulberry would like to thank those who gave to the recent love offering dispersed among us. Your kindness and generosity are a great blessing to us all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!