



Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Cross Currents

January 23, 2018

**Blessed by God that we
might be a blessing to others**

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Sunday, January 28

One With Authority

Deut. 18:15-20

Mark 1:21-28

FROM PASTOR JEFF

Dear Church Family,

Over the years, Miriam and I have had the privilege to belong to a number of Small Group Ministries. In these special communities we have learned to grow in our faith, build up our prayer life, and develop relationships that have supported us through some of the best and worst times of our lives. A Small Group is much more than a Bible Study, although we do discuss scripture and God's Word to us. A Small Group is much more than a fellowship opportunity, although we do grow especially close to those in our group. A Small Group is much more than a prayer team, although we do spend time in sharing prayer request and praying for one another. A Small Group is a spiritual family that stands together through all the joys and sorrows of life. It is a unique opportunity to grow in your faith and to experience the presence of Christ as encountered in the lives of the people who make up your Small Group.

I would like to encourage each of you to prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to a new level of spiritual growth and maturity. Being part of a Small Group has always been a significant factor in our spiritual development both individually and as a couple. Miriam and I have missed not being active in a Small Group over the last several years and we are looking forward to being part of this exciting ministry, once more. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to either of us about our experience. You should also join with us on Sunday, February 4th, immediately after church, to discuss the launch of our first Small Group. The Group itself will meet on Sunday, February 11th at the church at 5:30 pm. I hope to see you at

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHTS BEGIN JANUARY 25

The winter session of Faith and Family nights will run January 25 - March 15. Dinner will be served each week followed by an adult's study and activities for children. The adult study this session will be "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels (see additional article for more information on the study). Faith and Family Night dinners are served each Thursday, 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm followed by an adults study and activities for children. Look for a reservation card in the bulletin or call the church office by Tuesday at noon.

Upcoming Menus

January 25

Meatloaf, Green Beans,
Rice and Gravy, Salad
Bar, and Dessert

February 1

Chicken and Rice
Casserole, Peas and

our upcoming meetings and I look forward to sharing this exciting ministry with you!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS FEBRUARY 4

The Souper Bowl of Caring began with the simple prayer from a single youth group of:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the Country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Our youth group will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring on February 4 by collecting donations after worship that will be donated to Steele Creek's Ten Cents a Meal Fund to be used to help the hungry in our area. Please help them join the movement of sharing God’s love to those in need by giving generously on that day!

VALENTINE’S DINNER

All are invited to our annual Valentine's Dinner, Saturday, February 10, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Come for a relaxing evening of fine dining and fellowship! Donations will be appreciated to cover the cost of dinner and to benefit Youth Summer Activities. Look for a reservation card in your bulletin or you may make a reservation by contacting Lorie Lewis at lorie@steelecreekpres.org or call direct 704.927.4293. All reservations must be in no later than February 4.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR CAMP GRIER

Now is the time to begin planning a trip to camp for your child this summer! There are many date options open for camp; however, a group from Steele Creek will attend July 22-27. Steele Creek is an official Sustaining Congregation for Camp Grier and our code is 242016. You will need to enter this code when registering your child to receive the Sustaining Congregation discount. In addition to this discount, an additional \$100 per camper will be provided by the church! You can register at www.campgrier.org. Please let Lorie Lewis know when you register.

Carrots, Salad Bar, and
Dessert

February 8

Pork and Gravy, Vegetable
Medley, Cubed Potatoes,
Salad Bar, and Dessert

February 15

Spaghetti, Meatballs,
Garlic Bread, Salad Bar,
and Dessert

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Congregational Annual Meeting is scheduled for this coming Sunday, January 28, 2018, following the end of the Worship Service. The purpose of the meeting is to review the financial and statistical reports for 2017, to receive the 2018 Budget for information, to consider changes in terms of call for the pastor, to elect the Nominating Committee, to have a meeting of the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Corporation, and any other business which may arise out of these matters.

FLOWERS NEEDED

Please sign up to provide flowers for a worship service. Flowers are needed for **January 28** and for February 4 & 18. Please call the church office and let us know which date you prefer. Your contributions are appreciated!

CHILD YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY UPDATE

The implementation of our Child/Youth Protection Policy continues in 2018. This past Fall we held several training sessions for our volunteers who work with children and youth. About 90% of our volunteers have completed their training and we have completed background checks on each of them. We will continue to train the rest of our volunteers in the first quarter of 2018. Also in this quarter, parents will receive a medical information form and a photo release form to complete for each of their children. These medical forms will be kept confidentially on file and will be used in case of a medical emergency or, in the case of food allergies, for planning of activities. The photo release will give us permission to post pictures of your children on our Facebook page, our website and in Cross Currents. Know that as part of our policy, no individual child will ever be identified when we post a picture.

An additional reminder to parents, as part of our Child/Youth Protection Policy, children should only be released to a parent from Sunday School or Kid's Time. If you would like to give permission for an older sibling to pick up a child, you will need to speak with Lorie Lewis. Thanks so much for your support in creating a safe and secure environment for our children and youth at Steele Creek!

WHAT IS SMALL GROUP MINISTRY?

Have you heard the term Small Group ministry and you are not sure what that means for you? Small Group Ministry is a movement to live in a community similar to the first churches that we read about in the book of Acts. These communities of believers lived as a family as they ate together, prayed together, sang together, laughed together, grieved together and encouraged one another. Basically, these groups shared everything – their possessions, their time, and their love. They supported each other in the good and the bad. How could your life change if you had a place where you could totally be yourself and know that you were supported no matter what is going on in your life? How could your life change if you had a group that could pray with you when making tough decisions or choices, and could offer their advice and encouragement? The goal of Small Group Ministry is to provide the opportunity for communities of believers to organize and flourish. Over the next few weeks, you will have the opportunity to hear from several individuals and their past experiences with small groups. The first small group at Steele Creek will meet monthly beginning, Sunday, February 11 at 5:30 pm. There will be a brief Exploration Meeting, February 4 after the worship service. Attending this meeting will not obligate you to participate, but it will be a chance to get more information or to ask questions. In the meantime, if you

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2

Pat Williams

February 4

Andy Beachley

Maegan Childs

February 7

Taylor Hall

Sadler Dockery

February 9

Forrest Hedger

Lisa Tyte

February 10

Isabella Brasch

Courtney McAliley

February 11

Finley Higgins

February 12

Jack Canupp

MacRay Elliott

February 13

Cameron Childs

February 14

Ruth Hunter

Reagan McAliley

February 15

Beth Boykin

February 17

Karen Cline

Jack Cole

February 18

April Campbell

February 20

Bret Hartley

February 21

JR Cunningham

Bill Griffith

February 22

Megan Winget

February 23

Sara Wadsworth

February 24

Betty Davis

February 26

Doris Berryhill

February 27

Jimmy Earp

Jarrett Keels

Cindy Hartley

would like more information, you can contact Sandi Lauerman at sandolauerman@gmail.com or 803.370.0367.

JUST WALK ACROSS THE ROOM

The evangelism team wants to encourage everyone in the congregation to consider attending the study "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels. Bill Hybels is founding and senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. This study will explore the natural and empowering approach to evangelism that Jesus modeled himself. Participants will be encouraged and equipped to step out of their comfort zone to develop friendships and extend care, compassion, inclusiveness to people living far from God. There will be two opportunities to take participate in this study:

Sunday mornings, January 21 - March 11, 9:30 am - 10:20 am, led by Cooper Lewis (Multipurpose classroom)

Thursday evenings, January 18 - March 6, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, led by Pastor Jeff Pinkston (Billie Watt Classroom)
(dinner will be served before this study as part of Faith and Family nights)

Let's begin the new year focusing on how to share the story of Jesus and his love with everyone!

PRAYER UPDATE*

Please update your personal prayer list according to the information below.

Jack Ferrell - Home but not doing well. Has VA appointment on 24th. (Stroke & Parkinsons - Louise Freeman's brother)

Scott and Pam Cato – Scott had a mass on the brain removed and is responding well to treatment (Ann Sanburg's sister and brother in law)

Family of David Warren -(Betty Warren's son)

**This update is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all prayer requests, as lack of space prohibits us from doing so. Prayer requests/updates will be listed here for two weeks but should remain on your personal prayer list until informed otherwise. Thank you for your understanding.*

NEW BOOK DONATED TO THE LIBRARY

Carol and Geoff Boot, our newest members, have donated a children's book to our Church Library. Carol is both the author and illustrator of the book entitled: A Mystery for Maeda. A big "Thank You" to Carol and Geoff for their donation. Stop by the Church Library and check out the book!



TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Thanks to Ann Byrum for donating over 50 lbs. of tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! Members of her family collected these and gave them to her for Christmas and she chose to donate them to our tab collection drive. Remember, in these colder months, that tabs from soup cans count too! Look for our collection containers in Sunday School rooms, the narthex and outside the church office or, if you have a large container like this one, you can drop them off at Lorie Lewis' office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2

In an effort to continue the accurate flow of information, the Session has asked that our members of the Merger Exploration Committee periodically share what is happening in our discussion with Pleasant Hill. Hopefully, this information will keep the rumors and misinformation to a minimum.

What would the name of the “new” congregation be?

The recommendation from the Merger Exploration Committee is that the “new” church would be called - Steele Creek Presbyterian Church on the Pleasant Hill Campus. This would be the name regardless of where the church might be located. It keeps alive the name and heritage of both churches.

How would the church be governed?

The recommendation is that we would have both a Session and a Diaconate. The Diaconate would be primarily responsible for shepherding members, with other duties such as ushering, counting money, etc. This is the same as our current model for the Deacons, although it would be new for Pleasant Hill because they do not currently have Deacons. The Session would be responsible for the administration of the church. The Session would be made up of 16 members, initially, 8 from each congregation. We would maintain two-year terms, but those terms would run on a calendar year, from January to December. The nominating and election process would remain virtually unchanged. Equal representation from the two congregations would be preserved for the first couple of years.

What about things like Sunday School Classes, Circles, and other small groups.

The recommendation is that, initially, all such adult grouping would continue as they are now at both churches. Over time, it is anticipated that those activities will come to reflect the makeup of the new church. Children and youth Sunday School classes and youth groups will be merged from the beginning to help with the “critical mass” numbers for a successful program.

What about worship? What would be the style of worship and how many services would we have?

The plan is that the church would have only one worship service for at least the first 6 months as a “new” church. This would enable us to get to know one another. Afterwards, the Session of the merged church would determine if and when to initiate additional services. The primary format for worship would be similar to what we have now, a blended service. It would be up to the new Session to determine the style of any additional services.

THIS WEEK

Jan 23-30

Tuesday

Men’s Basketball 7:00p

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 10:00a

AA Meeting 8:00p

Thursday

Fun Bunch Lunch 12:00p

Faith & Family Night

5:30p

Praise Team Rehearsal

6:15p

Choir Rehearsal 7:00p

Friday

Square Dancing 7:00p

Saturday

Girl Scouts 9:00a

Youth Snow Tubing 9:00a

Meck12 Girl Scouts

Thinking Day

Sunday

10 Cents a Meal Offering

Ethiopian Evangelical

Church 10:30a

Cheerleading Practice

2:00p

American Legion Meeting

2:30p

AA Meeting 8:00p

Monday

Boy Scouts 6:00p

Tuesday

Men’s Basketball 7:00p

What about programs that are special to both congregations?

The plan is that those programs and events that are special to both churches would remain in place. Much of what we do regarding special services, takes place as Community Services with our fellow Presbyterian churches. This would not change. Other events like Scottish Heritage, Fall Festival, Spring Festival, etc. would remain or be combined. For instance, Pleasant Hill has a weekly meal for seniors and others, while SCPC has Fun Bunch monthly. Initially, we would keep the weekly meal. All programs would be evaluated on a continuous basis by the Session.

Why is it taking so long for the Merger Exploration Committee to complete its work?

In addition to the issues presented so far, the Merger Committee has been working on things like, creating a new Manual of Operations, Administration and Personnel Policy, combining the Child and Youth Protection Policies, studying staffing needs, etc. The Merger Committee hopes to have a comprehensive and well-organized plan for merger when it makes its presentation to both congregations.

When will the Merger Exploration Committee be ready with its plan?

The hope is to have a recommendation ready to present to the two congregations by this Fall (2018) or earlier. If passed by both congregations and approved by Presbytery, the churches would officially merge no later than January of 2019, but possibly sooner.

We hope these questions and answers are helpful to the members of Steele Creek as we continue to work with Pleasant Hill toward a possible future merger. Please keep in mind that the Merger Committee is working on a Plan for Merger which it will present to both congregations when all the details have been worked out. At that time, both congregations will have to vote in favor of the Plan for Merger before it can go into effect. We will continue to provide information to our members about the process. If you have questions you would like to have answered in this format, please call the church office, fill out the Merger Question form located in the Narthex of the sanctuary, or speak to one of your Elders.

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