



Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Cross Currents

January 30, 2018

**Blessed by God that we might
be a blessing to others**
Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am

Sunday, January 30
**Great in Strength,
Mighty in Power**
Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39

FROM PASTOR JEFF

Dear Church Family,

The Season of Lent will soon be upon us. Lent and thus Easter come early this year. The word Lent is the shortened version of the Old English term, "Lenten", which mean "spring". The word was picked up by the church to describe the countdown to Easter which occurred in the spring. The early church celebrated this countdown for 40 days, not counting Sundays. The reason we don't count Sundays is because every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection.

Forty days has long stood for the "perfect time" or a substitute for "a really long time". The bible uses the phrase "forty days" or "forty days and nights" to describe a number of events. Noah's flood came upon the earth for forty days. Moses was on the mountain, receiving the law, for forty days and nights. Goliath challenged the Israelites for 40 days before David answered the call. Forty days was the timeline declared by God through Jonah for the destruction of Nineveh, although God relented. Jesus was led into the wilderness, after His baptism, to be tempted by Satan for forty days. And there are many other examples.

Thus, over time the church settled on a time of 40 days to prepare for Easter. This 40 days of preparation was originally used to help prepare new members for baptism and entry into the church. Today, it is a period of penance, prayer, self-denial, repentance of sin, and giving alms or contributions to the church and the ministries of the church. In our culture, it has become popular to give something up for Lent – but has often become trivialized like not eating chocolate or giving up soda or sweets or desert. The point is that this time, whether we give something up or not, is to be used to reflect on God's gift to us in Jesus the Christ. We are to remember that Jesus came to this world, lived the only sin-free life, took our sins upon

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 this coming Sunday, February 4.

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHTS

The winter session of Faith and Family nights started last week and will run through March 15. The adult study this session will be "Just Walk Across the Room" by Bill Hybels (see additional article for more information on the study).

himself, died in our place – paying the penalty for our sin and was raised by God to new life. So, we are preparing ourselves to celebrate Easter, by remembering all that Christ has done for us.

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday. It runs for seven weeks (49 days), minus the seven Sunday (42 days), minus Monday and Tuesday of the first week (40 days). This year's Community Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm. Interim Executive Presbyter, Rev. Betty Meadows, will be our preacher. The marking of the cross on the forehead on Ash Wednesday is to remind us that Lent is a season of penance and that we are following Jesus to the cross.

I hope you will plan to be with us for the Ash Wednesday Service and that you will join us for the other Lenten Services. A schedule has been provided in the newsletter, so you can plan accordingly. I look forward to our journey together through the Season of Lent.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS THIS COMING SUNDAY

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!

LENT SCHEDULE

February 14, 2018

Ashe Wed. Com, Betty Meadows, PHPC 7:00 PM

February 21, 2018

Lent Noon Service, Dr. Greg Busby, SCPC 12:00 PM

February 28, 2018

Lent Noon Service, Dr. Bob Jack, MOPC 12:00 PM

March 7, 2018

Lent Noon Service, Rev. British Hyrams, MPC, 12:00 PM

March 14, 2018

Lent Noon Service, Dr. Jeff Pinkston, PHPC 12:00 PM

Faith and Family Night dinners are served each Thursday, 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm followed by the 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

February 1

Chicken and Rice
Casserole, Peas and
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

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.

FLOWERS NEEDED

March 21, 2018

Lent Noon Service, Mr. Billy Grier, CSCPC, 12:00 PM

March 29, 2018

Maundy-Thursday, Community Service, MPC 7:00 PM

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS DEPOSITS DUE FEBRUARY 18

Middle School Mission Trip - July 8-14. We are headed back to Port City Project, an urban mission experience in the heart of Wilmington, NC designed to love and serve the poor and to challenge youth to do the same. In this week long experience, we will feed the hungry, serve the homeless and restore dignity to the urban community through home repair and beautification projects. This trip is open for all youth who have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade, plus a few high schoolers can attend as assistants. A \$75.00 deposit is due by February 18 to hold a spot on this trip. Total cost for this trip is \$325 but each youth will receive \$100 from fundraising projects, making the total \$225.

Montreat Youth Conference - July 22-28. MYC is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship. This event is open to youth who have completed 8th - 12th grade. A \$75.00 deposit is due by February 18 to hold a place at the conference. Total cost of this trip is around \$375 but each participant will receive \$100 from fundraising projects, making the total \$275.

Contact Lorie Lewis with any additional questions (704-927-4293 or lorie@steelecreekpres.org)

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 processions, 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

Please sign up to provide flowers for a worship service. Flowers are needed for this Sunday, February 18th. Please sign up on the flower calendar in the narthex or call the church office.

IT'S A GIRL!

Page & Monty Sanders are the proud parents of a daughter, Emmerson Sloane Sanders, born January 23, 2018 at 7 lbs. 13 oz. Emmerson was welcomed by her proud Grandparents, Kim & Harry Davenport and Great Grandmother & Aunt, Brenda & Kelly Bledsoe. Congratulations to all!

THIS WEEK

Jan 30-Feb 6

Tuesday

Men's Basketball 7:00p

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 10:00a

AA Meeting 8:00p

Thursday

Faith & Family Night 5:30p

Praise Team Rehearsal

6:15p

Choir Rehearsal 7:00p

Friday

Room in the Inn 4:00p

Saturday

Room in the Inn (cont'd)

Girl Scouts 9:00a

Strings Group Class 12:00p

Sunday

Souper Bowl Offering

Ethiopian Evangelical

Church 10:30a

Youth Pre-Super Bowl

Tailgate Party 11:45a

Cheerleading Practice

2:00p

AA Meeting 8:00p

Monday

Boy Scouts 6:00p

Tuesday

Men's Basketball 7:00p

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 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 25 - March 15, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, let 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.*
