



Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Cross Currents

February 20, 2018

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

Sunday February 25

Keeping the Faith

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16

Romans 4:13-16 & Mark 8:31-38

FROM PASTOR JEFF

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing to all of you to ask for your prayers for a hurting and broken nation and especially our youth. We are all devastated by yet another event, this time in Florida, where the innocent are killed by those who are either mentally disturbed or just plain evil. It is hard to know what our response should be.

First, I do believe in prayer! I know, as I said in my sermon Sunday, that there are so-called "celebrity" critics who have taken up the mantra that prayer is powerless. Some have gone so far as to suggest that if you voice support and offer your prayers, you are somehow culpable in the shootings themselves. Unfortunately, I have even seen this sentiment echoed by some of the young people who are rallying together to try and bring about change. This is an attack on the very faith we profess and should be treated as such, not to mention it is a lie. Prayer does help! Prayers unleashes and amplifies the power of God and the love of God. Prayer comforts and brings about healing where nothing else can. God loves us all and grieves over our cruelty toward one another. He alone truly comprehends the depth of pain and hurt that families, friends, communities and the nation are experiencing. Prayer also pulls together the community of faith and unites us as nothing else can. Let's make sure that in our hurt and frustration, we don't allow false prophets, stars – so anointed because they can sing or act, let's make sure we don't allow them to define or limit the power of our faith, our love, our God.

Secondly, I commend the youth of our nation for wanting to stand up and engage in the dialogue surrounding these horrible events and how to prevent them in the future. At the same time, let's not shield our children from the reality that

LENTEN SERVICE AND LUNCH

Steele Creek will host the first Community Lenten Service and lunch this Wednesday, February 21 at noon. Lunch menu will be: Turkey and Ham sandwiches, Vegetable Soup, Chips and Banana Pudding.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

It's time for the prayer shawl ministry to get back up and running after the holiday break. Let's plan on meeting this coming Thursday, February 22, at 10:00 to catch up on what we've been doing. Wanda, we will miss you but realize it is a bit too far for you to drive for our little gathering. Mary Margaret, it's fine for Henry to come. Children bring joy whenever they are present.

**BOX TOP DEADLINE IS
MARCH 1!**

these are complex issues with many facets and that there are no easy answers. We cannot jail enough people! We cannot eliminate enough guns! We cannot really legislate our way out of this nightmare! We can evaluate the fundamental changes that are taking place in our society. Human life is losing its sacred value! We have all become calloused to the taking of life. Our society regards life as cheap, easily forfeited for the ease and comfort of lifestyle. We have become reactionary in all venues of our public life. Disagree with me and you are my enemy! Where has this sentiment come from? Where is the respect for all viewpoints? Why can we not discuss policy and culture without drawing up sides and launching vicious verbal attacks against those with whom we disagree? This is especially true in politics where we accuse those we disagree with of wanting to kill the elderly, poison the water, destroy the planet and where we speak of "hating" the other side, and indict them for having "Blood on Your Hands".

We hide behind the distance created by social media. We post things and force others to choose sides by saying they must like our rant or post this same message in order to prove they are our friends. We dare others to disagree and then we drop them for our followers if they do. We say things online that we would never say to someone else in person. We use our social networking to, in fact destroy, the network of our society. We entrench ourselves in our viewpoints and wall ourselves off from others, especially those who might offer some alternative insight. We have, in many ways, become cowards who rattle off diatribes, knowing there will be little or no repercussions. And then we feel validated because no one openly opposes us. In truth others are usually ignoring us because they are not willing to be attacked for having a different view. Thus, we gather in chat rooms and on websites and through social media venues where we only hear our views echoed and repeated and where we never have to deal with dissent. Thus, we convince ourselves of our own self-righteousness and further alienate ourselves from one another.

Furthermore, we have allowed for the continued breakdown of the home and the abandoning of our responsibility as parents. Too many of us rarely discipline our children. We have bought into the fundamentally flawed perspective that discipline stifles creativity. We forget that discipline, guidelines, rule, parameters within which we must all function define us as families and a society. We who are Christian, have forgotten that we are disciples of Christ, meaning we follow Jesus within the discipline, the instructions and constraints of His example and God's Word. We rush to the schools to defend our children when they get into trouble, rather than reinforce the schools discipline with added discipline at home. We teach, not the golden rule of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!" Instead, we propagate the conflict rule of "Do unto others before they do unto you!" We refuse to advocate for family and Christian values, because we have allowed our faith to be turned against us, "Thou shalt not judge". We forget that judging has to do with deciding where others stand before God, it has nothing to do with discerning what is good and right and best for our society.

March 1 is the deadline to turn in Box Tops for Education so that Steele Creek Elementary will receive funds for this school year. If you have been collecting at home, now is the time to bring them in! There are collection boxes in the narthex and in the entrance to the education building. We will continue collecting after March 1 but the money earned will not be applied until the next school year. Let's collect as many as we can before March 1!

CANDY NEEDED FOR SPRING FESTIVAL

March 24th we will once again hold our Spring Festival in the Family Life Center. We are asking for donations of bags of candy for this time of fellowship with our community. If you can donate to help with this event we would greatly appreciate it. Please leave outside Lorie's door.

Fellowship & Recreation

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHTS

Faith and Family Night dinners are served each Thursday, 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm followed by the adult's study and activities for children. Look for a reservation card in the bulletin or call the church office by Tuesday at noon.

NEW ADDRESS

Wanda Kinard
4113 Hearthsides Dr #204
Wilmington, NC 28412-
8324

As I said, there are no easy answers and we should all be wary of those who offer simple solutions. We need to be the voice of reason and openness in a community of the close minded. We need to pray and worship together and set an example for our culture of how we can disagree and still love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We can be the difference makers, who rush not to rally others around our flag, to our cause, but who walk together the difficult road ahead. Let's crawl out of our trenches, come out from behind our walls, get off the "wear a jersey like me" websites and meet in church, worship together. We can then move as one into the difficult and uncertain world of policy and politics where, in fact, the direction is not always clear. Let's be creative together and even when we ultimately disagree, let's not attribute motive and malice to our neighbors but accept them as those who likewise want what is best for all. Let us love one another through these difficult times and glorify God in the process.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

LENT SCHEDULE

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

March 21, 2018

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

March 29, 2018

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

April 1, 2017

Easter Sunrise, Community Service, PHPC 7:00 AM

Easter Worship Service, SCPC 10:30 AM

THE STEELE CREEK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

On Thursday, Feb 22 The Steele Creek Residents Association will hold it's annual meeting at Kennedy Middle School. The featured speaker will be School Superintendent D. Clayton Wilcox. Additional presentations will be from the NC Dept. of Transportation about Hwy 160 and other road projects and Steele Creek Branding efforts. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm, but there will be time to mingle beginning at 6:30 pm. You may stay after 8:00 to meet and mingle also. Membership for the year is \$10.00 per family, but membership is not required to attend the meeting as everyone interested in the community is welcome.

Please be sure to make note of this new address in your church directory.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2

Piper Haston

March 3

Don Baker

Jim Price

March 8

Miriam Pinkston

March 12

Ruth McGaha

Lexie Simerly

March 14

Annette Freeman

March 15

Hannah Maurer

March 16

Linn Lunder

Fabiola Ramos

Brenda Rhodes

Trey Rogers

Michael Walker

March 17

J.T. Bridges

John Hovis

March 18

Joe Gater

Breanna Lunder

March 19

David Dillenbeck

Nancy McNulty

March 20

Eric Lunder

March 22

Ragan Haston

Deb Hawes

Eloise Stilwell

March 23

Gavin Beck

Nate Combs

John McKay

March 24

Drew Walker

March 26

Pam Horack

Judy Spruill

March 27

Robert Kimrey

Roger Palmer

March 29

Rachel Howell

Jacob Vergara

STEELE CREEK NIGHT AT THE CHARLOTTE CHECKERS GAME

Let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day together at the Charlotte Checkers Game! The Checkers will be playing the Binghamton Devils on Saturday, March 17 at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$17.50 and include a free Checkers baseball cap. Please reserve your tickets with Lorie Lewis, lorie@steelecreekpres.org, 704.927.4293. You can meet at the church and ride together or just meet us there. Looking forward to a fun evening with our church family!

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. 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 are two opportunities to participate in this study:

Sunday mornings, through March 11 at 10:20 am, led by Cooper Lewis (Multipurpose classroom)

Thursday evenings, through March 15, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, led by Pastor Jeff Pinkston (Billie Watt Classroom)

PRAYER UPDATE*

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

Louise Freeman - CMC Main (Recovering from back surgery)
Matt Miller - Deployed to Texas for 1 month and then to Iraq

PRAISE REPORT

Jack Ferrell – Home now with medications regulated (Louise Freeman's brother)

**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.*

THIS WEEK

Feb 20-27

Tuesday

Hand Bells Rehearsal
6:30p
Scripture & Starbucks Bible
Study 6:30p

Men's Basketball 7:00p

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 10:00a
CDC Board Meeting 11:00a
Community Lenten Service
& Lunch @ SCPC 12:00p
Stewardship Team Meeting
6:30p

Birds of a Feather 7:00p

AA Meeting 8:00p

Thursday

Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00a

Faith & Family Night 5:30p

Praise Team Rehearsal
6:15p

Choir Rehearsal 7:00p

Friday

Square Dancing 7:00p

Saturday

Girl Scouts 9:00a
Cunningham BD Party
12:00p

Sunday

10¢ A Meal Offering
Ethiopian Evangelical
Church 10:30a
Cheerleading Practice
2:00p

American Legion Meeting

Youth Group Dinner &
Meeting 5:30p

AA Meeting 8:00p

Monday

Boy Scouts 6:00p

Tuesday

Hand Bell Rehearsal 6:30p
Men's Basketball 7:00p

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