



# Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

## Cross Currents

August 7, 2018

**Blessed by God that we might**

**be a blessing to others**

**9:30 am Sunday School**

**10:30 am Worship**

**Sunday Aug 12, 2018**

**The Question Everyone Will**

**Have To Answer**

**Matthew 13:1-16**

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### **NEW! FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MERGER**

In a continuing effort to insure the flow of accurate 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 happen if SCPC votes “No” on the merger?**

The merger committee would disband and PHPC and SCPC would continue on separately. PHPC would form a search committee and seek a pastor who could lead them into the future in a growing community. SCPC would face many challenges. The Airport is still going to expand. The new 12,000-foot runway will technically begin in 2020, although the grading for that project is already complete. The runway will be completed no later than 2022, less than 4 years. It is projected to take planes right over the sanctuary. Inside noise levels would be tolerable but noticeable, outside noise levels would be a disruption to any and all conversation. Additionally, West Boulevard/Highway 160 will be rerouted down Douglas drive and the church would most likely end up on a dead-end road that leads to the Intermodal (Railroad) facility. Finally, the airport is planning to buy up all property between Wilkinson Blvd. and Shopton Road and Billy Graham to I-485 to build an industrial park. Our new neighbors would include, the Air National Guard, the Armory for the North Carolina National Guard, an expansion of the Intermodal facility, Aviation repair facilities and warehouses for trucking and railroad companies.

#### **What repairs need to be made to the SCPC property if we stay?**

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### **TOWN HALL MEETINGS UPDATE**

The next Town Hall will take place immediately after worship this coming Sunday, August 12th. Again, we will have a presentation from members of the Merger Committee and an opportunity for questions and comments. Finally, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for immediately after worship on Sunday, August 26th for the purpose of voting on the Plan for Merger. The complete Plan of Merger, the Mission and Vision Statement, and the Proposed Budget will be emailed to all members who have given us an email address and mailed to all members who do not have email, no later than August 19th. Other parts of the plan such as the Manual of Operations, Wedding Policy, Funeral Policy, etc. will be made available at the church office for anyone who wants to view them. A

For the past 10 years, Steele Creek had struggled to meet its budgeted program expenses (staff, curriculum, operational expenses, etc.) and there has been no money available to replace aging systems. We know that our Air Conditioning System is nearly 30 years old and will have to be replaced. The Multi-purpose room has only one AC blower and the blower in the Chapel has died. The blower in the sanctuary and in the FLC need to be replaced. And the Chillers sitting out back will soon need to be replaced. Air-conditioning projects alone will cost between 1 million and 1.5 million dollars. The roof on the sanctuary needs to be repaired before we start incurring damage. Because we have a slate roof, it would probably cost us around \$500,000 to take all the slate off without damaging it, repair what's underneath and then put the slate back in place. The exterior of the Sanctuary needs to be scraped, the wood repaired, and then repainted. The brick work of the Sanctuary needs to be repointed, the concrete between the bricks filled in where it is missing. And the exterior doors to the sanctuary all need to be repaired. Add to that the replacement of all the carpet in the Sanctuary building and interior paint and cost for the Sanctuary would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the Sunday School building, the windows need to be repaired and/or replaced. The exterior and interior of that building needs to be repainted. All of the individual blowers for heat and AC in each classroom need to be replaced. The wood floor in the FLC needs to be completely refinished. Much of the tile flooring in the rest of the building needs replacing and there are areas where we have asbestos in the flooring and lead in the paint, which requires specialist to remove these hazards before the replacement work and repainting can begin. In truth we would probably need 3 million dollars or more to bring the church up to a fully functional and safe environment. We have about half that amount from selling the manse. The other half would come from either selling more of our property to the Airport and/or from our members. The last time we had a Capital Campaign we raised \$300,000 over 5 years. We just don't have enough money!

### **What would happen to our staff if we did not merge?**

Based on recent trends in giving and additional expenses in maintaining the building, we would most likely have to start cutting back on staff. Keep in mind we have already given up our Parrish Associate, and our Associate positions. We have a part-time Secretary, a part-time Finance Manager, and a part-time Director of Music. We have also eliminated the Custodian and now have a Housekeeper/Custodian combined. To make further staff cuts would probably mean the loss of our Director of Family Ministries and the replacement of the Pastor.

### **What are our membership and attendance trends?**

Summary of the Plan of Merger will be presented at the August 12th Town Hall. Please mark these dates on your calendar and be present with us if you can.

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### **AUGUST FUN BUNCH LUNCH**

I know it is hard to realize but summer is coming to a close. Please join us on Thursday, August 16, at noon for our "END OF YEAR PICNIC". Grilled chicken, potato salad, slaw and salad bar are the menu items with cookies and ice cream for dessert. Don't miss this opportunity for good food and good fellowship with the FUN BUNCH. The more the merrier so invite friends, family and neighbors to join you in having fun. All we ask is a call to either Frances Campbell (704-588-4686) or the church office (704-588-1290) to let us know you plan to attend. We need to know how much chicken to put on the grill!

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### **LET'S GO TO LUNCH!**

We are gathering a group to eat lunch at Amber Jack Seafood and Steak on Tuesday, August 28. We will meet at the church to ride the bus at 11:00 am or you can meet us at the restaurant. Contact Lorie Lewis (704.927.4293 or [Lorie@steelecreekpres.org](mailto:Lorie@steelecreekpres.org)) if you plan to attend

The Session cleaned the rolls a few years ago and our membership was reduced from nearly 600 to just below 350. Our attendance has dropped since 2012 from an average of 210 to 160.

### **What happens to the church property if we are no longer able to function as a church family?**

If the church were no longer able to continue, the Presbytery of Charlotte would come in and help us to close the church down. The property would then be transferred to the Presbytery. The Presbytery is also hurting for money and has recently been selling off closed churches to help pay the Presbytery's bills. Most likely the Presbytery would sell the church property to the Airport.

### **Why not sell the property and relocate on our own?**

- We Lose Critical Mass!
- We Struggle Financially
- Limited Land Opportunities
- We End Up Building Small
- We May Not Survive
- We're Better Together!

### **What would be the staffing of the new church?**

The Plan for Merger calls for the following staffing of the new church:

- Pastor, Head of Staff
- Director of Music (part time)
- Parish Associate (part time)
- Finance Manager (part time)
- Administrative Assistant
- Director of Family Ministries
- Director of Young Adult Ministries
- Custodian/Housekeeper
- Accompanist (part time)
- Office Staff (part time)

### **What will happen to our Day Care if we merge?**

The current expectation for the CDC under the Plan for Merger is to have it continue ministry through the end of June 2019. If nothing changes, we would close the CDC at the end of June 2019. However, the Airport has recently expressed interest in keeping the CDC open and we are starting that conversation. If the merger vote passes, we will pursue that conversation with much more energy and try to get a commitment from the Airport as soon as possible.

### **What will happen to our Sanctuary if we merge and sell to the Airport?**

All through our conversation with the Airport we have emphasized the importance of preserving the Sanctuary. The State Historic Preservation Society has also expressed its support of keeping the Sanctuary in place. Until recently, the Airport has said they would maintain the exterior of the Sanctuary and convert the interior to

so she can make a reservation. Hope you will join us!

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### **INTERESTED IN CHILHULY AT BILTMORE?**

We are considering a church bus trip to the Biltmore House to see the exhibit of Chilhuly glass sculptures in late September or early October. (see details about the exhibit below). The cost of this exhibit is \$65 - \$75, which includes a self guided tour of the Biltmore House itself. There are some added discounts for group rates and advance purchase so, if we get organized early, the cost could be less. If this is a trip you would be interested in attending, please contact Lorie Lewis, 704.927.4293 or [lorie@steelecreekpres.org](mailto:lorie@steelecreekpres.org). If we have a group that is interested, we will pursue a date and purchase tickets.

What is Chihuly? Chihuly at Biltmore represents the first art exhibition in Biltmore's historic gardens, and the first garden exhibition of Dale Chihuly's works in North Carolina. The world-renowned American artist's work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. You can go to [www.biltmore.com](http://www.biltmore.com) for additional information.

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office space. In a recent visit to tour the campus, Airport officials informed the church that they planned to keep the Sanctuary as “sacred space” and rent it out for Weddings, Funerals, and Meetings. They also informed us that they would keep the other buildings on campus and turn them into office space for the Airport. If the merger vote passes, the church will push to get this commitment in writing as part of the purchase agreement.

We will continue to provide information to our members about this process. We have one final Town Hall meeting scheduled for after church on Sunday, August 12, 2018. If you have questions you would like to have answered in this format, please call the church office, or speak to Pastor Jeff or one of your Elders. The congregational vote on the Plan for Merger will take place at a Congregational Meeting called for immediately after church on Sunday, August 26, 2018.

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### **PRAYER UPDATE\***

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

**JR Misra** - Recovering from incontinence surgery (Judy Misra's husband)

**Jo Ann Freeman** – Caromount Hospital for Health concerns

**Family of Leroy Oates** (Trent Haston)

**Andy Moore** - Safe return home on Aug 14 - Anne Marie Moore

**Ms. Angie** - Breast cancer, had surgery and now treatments for the 6 months (Elliott's teach friend)

**Lynda Williams** – Bayview Nursing Home, Beaufort, SC for rehab for hip replacement. Expected to be there for several weeks.

**Family of Holli Duke** (Cody & Hunter Duke's mother)

**Family of Winona Swain Kimrey** (Robert Kimrey's mother)

**Betty Warren** – Health concerns

**Bob Sadler** - Lung Cancer (Annette & John Freeman's brother in law)

**Ms Angie** - Had breast cancer surgery and now receiving treatments for the next 6 months (teacher friend of Linda Elliott)

**Kenny Bolton** – End-stage Lung Cancer (Linda Elliott's friend)

**CELEBRATION REPORT: Heidi Moody** - home recuperating after chemo treatments and successful surgery (David Moody's cousin's wife)

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### **THIS WEEK**

**August 7-14**

#### **Tuesday**

Men's Basketball 7:00p

#### **Wednesday**

Staff Meeting 10:00a

Stewardship Team

Meeting 6:30p

AA Meeting 8:00p

#### **Thursday**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

10:00a

Baker Neighborhood

Meeting 6:00p

Rezoning Community

Meeting 6:00p

Praise Team Rehearsal

6:30p

Choir Rehearsal 7:00p

#### **Friday**

Square Dancing 7:00p

#### **Saturday**

Girl Scouts 9:00a

#### **Sunday**

Ethiopian Evangelical

Church 10:30a

Town Hall Meeting

11:30a

Small Group Meeting

5:30p

AA Meeting 8:00p

#### **Monday**

Boy Scouts 6:00p

#### **Tuesday**

Men's Basketball 7:00p

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