



Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Cross Currents

August 21, 2018

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

**9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship**

Sunday Aug 26, 2018

**Gearing Up
for Battle**

Ephesians 6:10-20

FROM PASTOR JEFF

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday (8/26) is a historic day in the life of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. After worship, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting on the "Plan of Merger". If this vote passes, we will merge with Pleasant Hill Presbyterian effective January 1, 2019. Passions run high on both sides regarding this monumental decision. Those who are opposed to the merger mostly want to maintain our rich tradition and long history on this site as the second oldest church in the city of Charlotte. Those who support the merger mostly are looking for a vibrant future in a growing neighborhood and the potential to continue our historic ministry in a new portion of the Steele Creek community. I hope and pray that we will all spend the remainder of this week in prayer, seeking God's will for the body of Christ we know and love as Steele Creek.

Let me remind us all that we will have worship at our usual time of 10:30 am. I expect all of us to attend first and foremost to worship God. That is and always will be our purpose. After worship the Congregational meeting will take place. The Session has laid out the following process for how the vote will proceed following worship:

1) When you arrive on Sunday prior to worship, there will be 4 tables in different parts of the Sanctuary where you can check in if you plan to stay for the meeting and vote. Only those who are currently on the "Active Roll" and present are allowed to vote in the congregational meeting. You will be given a ticket when you check in that you can exchange during the Congregational Meeting for a ballot.

THANK YOU

Lynda Williams has expressed her appreciation for all the prayers, cards and phone calls she has received following her surgery. Your thoughtfulness and concern have brought her comfort.

LADIES CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, it's almost time for Circle Meetings to begin for the fall! Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 11th, at 10:00 AM. Our new books are available in the office, "God's Promise - I Am With You" by Amy Poling-Sutherland. You are welcome to stop by the office and pick up your book now (please leave your name on the list), or they will be available at our meetings. Cost is \$10.00, which we will collect at the meeting.

2) The Session has set a limit to the debate. After the motion is brought to the floor by the Merger Committee, an individual may speak to the motion only once and each speaker will be limited to 1:00 minute. We will provide for an alternating order against and for the motion as we work through the debate. No amendment to the motion will be allowed because both churches must vote on the same motion.

3) When debate is concluded, ballots will be passed out to those who have a ticket. Members will fill in their ballots which will be collected by the Session, brought to the front of the church and counted in the presence of the congregation. The vote tally will be announced, and the Congregational Meeting will be dismissed. Anyone wishing to review the ballots may do so with the Clerk of Session after the meeting is dismissed.

4) Finally, both the Diaconate and the Session decided, as leaders in the church, that they should take a stand on the Plan of Merger and share it with the congregation. This past Sunday (8/19) these two Boards voted, in their separate meetings, on whether to endorse the Plan of Merger. With all 14 members voting, the Deacons voted unanimously to support the Plan of Merger. With 13 of 14 members voting, the Session also voted unanimously to support the Plan of Merger, with one abstention.

I am sure that church will be well attended on Sunday. It may also be that there is media present. Let's all make the commitment to conduct ourselves in a way that reflects well on the church and brings glory and honor to God. All those who are so invested in the life of the church as to want a say in our future, should rededicate themselves to joining with us in the worship and mission of the church, regardless of the outcome of the vote. Please pray for the church and for your fellow members as we move toward this important vote. May God grant us wisdom and His peace as He continues to shower His blessings upon us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

CHRISTIAN GROWTH KICK-OFF

Come join the Christian Growth team as we kick-off a new year of Sunday School and a new school year on September 9 at 9:30 am in the Bledsoe Family Life Center. Whether you attend a Sunday School class each week or not, this is a great opportunity to learn what will be happening in 2018-2019. Highlights of the morning include:

- Juice, milk, coffee and doughnuts will be served
- Bible Trivia games for adults and children (prizes will be awarded)

Look forward to seeing you then!

SCOTTISH HERITAGE SUNDAY

Be ready to wear your plaid for our annual tradition of Kirkin' the Tartans on September 16. A covered dish lunch will follow in the Bledsoe Family Life Center. Invite your friends and neighbors to this special Steele Creek tradition!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1
Ingrid Ruppalt

September 5
Mike Farnham
Sally Jo Handy

September 6
Anne Dillenbeck

September 9
Kim Davenport
Connor McAliley

September 11
Zach Childs
Eleanor Cunningham

September 12
Reid Cathey
Karsen Pennington

September 13
Henry Cathey
Harper Freeman

September 14
Stuart Berryhill
Sandra Green
Claudia Hess

September 16

- Children and Youth will be promoted to their new classes
- Sunday School teachers will be introduced
- Blessings of the backpacks for children and youth
- **(Bring your backpacks to church with you!)**
- Information will be available about Adult classes and Short-Term Studies

Plan to attend on September 9!

SCRIPTURE AND STARBUCKS WILL RETURN SEPTEMBER 18

Scripture and Starbucks is a time of study and fellowship for women that takes place the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Billie Watt classroom. All women are invited to attend (even non-coffee drinkers)! This year we will be studying Bob Goff's book, *Everybody Always*, where Bob shares some of the stories of his life that have helped him understand what it means to truly love everybody the way Jesus loved them without fear, insecurity, or restriction. The study will be led by Lorie Lewis with Bob guiding us through a DVD component. The first session on September 18 will be an introduction to the study and you will be able to purchase a book, if desired. Please respond to Lorie Lewis if you plan to attend (lorie@steelecreekpres.org) or 704.927.4293.

DO YOU KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE PARABLES OF JESUS?

Sometimes our Western ears hear something different than what a first century Jewish audience would have heard. To understand the Parables and recognize their teaching and challenges for us today requires us to dig into the history and culture that surrounds them. Context matters and reveals a lot about how and what these Parables were meant to teach us. If we consider the original audience and the original setting of these stories, we hear details and challenges that we might not notice as we read them in the comfort of our homes and 21st Century life.

Come explore the parables with a new perspective in a new Sunday Short Term Study led by Cooper Lewis, September 9 - December 9 at 9:30 am in the Multi-Purpose classroom (off the Family Life Center). This study will explore the book "Short Stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine. An introduction to the study will take place on September 9 after the Christian Growth Kick Off activities.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Alexander Dai

September 17

Beth Carroll

September 18

Marion Briggs

Liam Cathey

September 19

Cindi Bridges

Wimberly Earp

Jamey Ferguson

September 21

Geoff Boot

Mary Combs

September 22

Jim Baber

Roger McAllister

Rick McCombs

September 23

Nancy Maske

September 24

Carolyn Baber

Thomas Nowak

September 25

Annette Hines

September 26

Ann Councilman

Ann Helms

Rex Turner

Kate Walker

Bill Wert

September 27

Stephen Smith, Jr.

September 28

Kelly Bledsoe

THIS WEEK

Aug 21-28

Tuesday

Men's Basketball 7:00p

Wednesday

Staff Meeting 10:00a

AA Meeting 8:00p

Thursday

The 10,000 plus meals that we packed in May 2018, were added to a shipping container holding 285,120 meals and shipped to Madagascar, for Distribution by Adventist Development and Relief Agency. This organization nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Madagascar. A copy of this information letter is on the bulletin board. See you at the next packing event!

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) if you plan to attend so she can make a reservation. Hope you will join us!

PRAYER UPDATE*

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

Family of Taylor Galvin – Killed in Iraq. Leaves behind wife & 5 children (Jana Cathey's cousin's husband)
Erwin Davenport - Stroke (Home)
Jo Ann Freeman - Colon Cancer (Home)
Family of Ted Beachley (Andy Beachley's father)
Lisa Tyte - Health Concerns
Family of Joy & Larry Hein - Both killed in accident (Bill Wert's son's sister in law and husband)

Bob Sadler – Recovering from Lung Cancer Surgery
8/14 (Annette & John Freeman's brother in law)

PRAISE REPORT:

JR Misra - Is doing well, able to resume his normal schedule. (Judy Misra's husband)

**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.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00a
Praise Team Rehearsal
6:30p
Choir Rehearsal 7:00p
Friday
Square Dancing 7:00p
Saturday
Girl Scouts 9:00a
Sunday
10 Cents a Meal Offering
Ethiopian Evangelical
Church 10:30a
Congregational Meeting
11:30 a
American Legion Meeting
2:30p
AA Meeting 8:00p
Monday
Boy Scouts 6:00p
Tuesday
Men's Basketball 7:00p