



# Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

## Cross Currents

December 4, 2018

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

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

**Sunday Dec 9, 2018**

***God's Not Done  
with Us***  
**Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6**

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### FROM PASTOR JEFF

Friends,

I know this is a busy time of year and that we are all inundated with activities and events that we hope to participate in or at least attend. The same is true of the church and you will see many articles in the newsletter about upcoming events and opportunities for ministry. I want to highlight a couple of events that have not yet gotten much attention but that you will surely want to have on your calendar.

First, the Chancel Choir is preparing a Christmas Music Special for Sunday, December 16th during the 10:30 am worship service. They have been hard at work for several weeks making ready for this event and I know that you will want to be here to both support them and be ministered to by their efforts. The program they are presenting will be a combination of narration and special music that will help us all to prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day! Mark your calendars and plan to be with us for this very special music celebration.

Second, the Children's Choir will present their interpretation of the Christmas Season on Sunday, December 23rd during the 10:30 am Worship Service. This is always one of the highlights of the Christmas Season and the church year. The children have been practicing for months to offer you their very best in word and song. Make the commitment to be here for this very special celebration of the Christmas story. Nothing quite says Christmas like having the perspective of our children as they share their talents in music and song. This will be an extraordinary day and I know you will want to be here.

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### HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Help is needed for the Christmas Lunch on Sunday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of individuals willing to help with cooking, the setup of lunch and the clean up afterwards. If you are available to help please contact Cheryl Simerly, 704-577-8717, [Cheryl@csimerly.com](mailto:Cheryl@csimerly.com) or Dave Carpenter, 803-831-9031/[carpenter48@carolina.rr.com](mailto:carpenter48@carolina.rr.com).

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### BASIC TRAINING GOES CAROLING

BASIC Training, our fellowship group for 2nd - 5th graders, will eat together at the Christmas lunch on December 9 and then join the Christmas Caroling group going to our homebound. For more information contact Kate Lemond, [klemond526@gmail.com](mailto:klemond526@gmail.com)

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As we look ahead, the year will soon be winding down and the new year will be upon us. With that evolution of the calendar, we will have two unique services. On December 30th we will have our last worship service as Steele Creek Presbyterian. I understand that this is a very painful reality for many of us and that it is hard to consider what that means for our church family. Yet, I am sure that those who care so deeply for this church family, will want to be here for that final worship service. I look forward to seeing a full house for this unique day in our history.

As exclusive as that day will be, there will be another historical day in the ongoing ministry of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church that I hope and pray all of us will support. On January 6, 2019 we will join together as the new Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill. Thus, the history, tradition, and ministry of both Steele Creek and Pleasant Hill is not coming to a close but evolving for a new and exciting future.

I have talked to so many of our members, in both churches, who are excited about what God has in store for us as a new congregation. I join in that excitement and look forward to serving and growing with you in this new endeavor. I have also heard from a few who say they will not be a part of the new church. I can understand the hurt that comes with leaving behind our campus. I cannot begin to comprehend why those who profess a love for this church, would choose to walk away from their church family. It's true that things will not be the same for both churches, but the people who know and love us and have served alongside us, will still be there. They will be joined by similarly committed Christians who will be a part of the new ministry, but the core of our church families will not change unless we quit on one another! I hope that any of you considering moving to another church family will prayerfully consider staying with the family that you know and love. Together, we can be better than ever and continue the rich and faithful ministry of Pleasant Hill and Steele Creek. May God grant us the strength, vision, and courage to continue building and growing His church!

Grace and Peace,  
*Jeff*

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### **SESSION CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The session has called a Congregational Meeting for December 9th immediately following the worship service. The purpose is to hear a report from the Nominating Committee and a request to amend the Bylaws of the Cemetery Committee. We may also have a report on the sale of the church property.

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### **MUSIC REHEARSALS**

The choir will be meeting on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm instead of Thursday nights for Dec 5 & 12. They will resume their Thursday night practice on Dec 20. The praise team now meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. If you are interested in singing with us, please let Brian know.

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### **ANNUAL STEELE CREEK CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

The lot will be open through Sunday, Dec. 9. Weekdays from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Weekends from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm.

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### **TUNE UP YOUR PIPES!**

We will go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins on Dec. 9th after the Church Christmas Lunch. Our plan is to leave the Church around 1:00 pm. The bus will go to Sharon Towers and Merrywood. The rest of us will go in cars to carol to shut-ins close to the Church. We hope to get back to the Church around 3:30.

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### **TOY DRIVE FOR ASHE COUNTY**

The children of BASIC Training are holding a toy drive for the children of Ashe County. SCPC has been supporting this community, one of the poorest in NC, for almost 50 years. Please bring new, unwrapped toys and drop them off in one of the donation boxes between now and December 9th. There is a donation box outside Lorie's office and in the Narthex. They

## CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH HONORING OUR SENIORS

Our annual Christmas Lunch will take place after worship on December 9th. This traditional holiday meal is a gift for our Senior Adults but monetary donations and desserts from others will be appreciated. There will be a special visitor at the lunch that your children will not want to miss!

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## ADVENT-A TIME TO PREPARE

Advent is the season the church sets aside to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. This season lasts for 4 weeks and begins this year on December 2. To help make this a meaningful season for you and your family, please pick up a listing of all the activities available at Steele Creek and an Advent devotional book. Both will be available in the narthex or outside the church office. This year's devotion book is "God with Us" by David Boyd and will focus on ways in which God is with us through Jesus. Also, on December 2, supplies will be available in the narthex to assemble or refresh an advent wreath for your home. Our hope is that you will be able to set aside some time to worship and reflect on the true meaning of this Holy Season-the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior!

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## ASHE COUNTY UPDATE

Steele Creek will sponsor a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help, Basic Training is collecting toys for the party.

### Dates to remember

- Dec. 09 – All presents need to be at the church
  - Dec. 14 – 10:00 am Gift Wrapping party at the church
  - Dec. 14 – 4:00 pm Loading vehicles to go to Ashe County
  - Dec. 15 – Christmas Party in Ashe County
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## CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Ladies! Our Circle will be hosting a Christmas luncheon for our Sharon Tower residents for our December meeting! Ham and turkey will be provided, just bring a side dish and join us. Parking can be an issue, we encourage you to car pool from the church. If you are able to carry a few extra folks in your car, please let Becky Neely know. Or, if you would like to be one of those passengers, also, let Becky know. We will do our best to get you there and help you get your dishes in as easily as possible. This is always a special treat for everyone! Mark your calendar - Tuesday, December 11! We will leave the church at 11:15, lunch will be served at 12:00! See you there!

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## LOVE FEAST CELEBRATION

Every year on Christmas Eve here at Steele Creek, members, neighbors, and friends come to celebrate the

have more of a need for boy's, or gender-neutral toys. Thank you for your generosity!

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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2018

Many thanks to all the individuals and classes who packed shoeboxes, and gave so graciously, money for shipping. We delivered 123 shoeboxes. That's 123 precious lives you've touched with your love. Imagine the smiles when they open perhaps the only gift they've ever received. They will know that somewhere in the world, there's someone who loves them, and they'll know that there is a God who loves them too. Bless you all for your love. Thank – thank you!

---Annette Freeman

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## THIS WEEK

### Dec 4-11

### **Tuesday**

NO Men's Basketball

### **Wednesday**

Staff Meeting 10:00a

Worship Transition Team

Meeting 6:00p

Pastoral care Team Meeting  
6:30p

Choir Rehearsal 7:00p

AA Meeting 8:00p

### **Thursday**

CDC Staff Christmas Party  
4:00p

Sullivan's Trace Annual HOA  
Meeting 6:30p

### **Friday**

*Setup for Christmas Dinner*  
Room in the Inn 4:30p

### **Saturday**

*Room in the Inn*

Girl Scouts 9:00a

### **Sunday**

Children's Choir 9:00a

Praise Team Rehearsal 10:00a

birth of Jesus. At 6:30 we gather for the Love Feast. In this family friendly service, we hear a Christmas message, sing carols while we share Moravian cookies and cider. At the end of the service, as the lights are turned down, everyone lifts a candle to the glory of God. We need at least 28 people to prepare or serve the cookies, cider and candles for this service. Volunteers are asked to come at 6:00 for a quick easy training session. To volunteer, call Walter Neely at 704-588-1069 or Ellen Thomas at 704-351-0904.

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### **PRAYER UPDATE\***

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

**Mary Margaret & Andy Donato** - Expecting their baby this week

**PFC Whitehead** - Serious medical concerns (Kate Lemond/In Chandler Lemond's US Army Unit)

**Thad Carroll, Jr.** - Surgery scheduled for 12/6 to remove adenoids and insert ear tubes

**Theresa McGough** - Brain Tumor (Beth Carroll's Aunt)

**Shannon Malone** - The leg operated on is now infected (Karen Cline's daughter)

**MacRae Elliott's mother** had another fall at home and has a caretaker assisting her in her recovery from hip surgery and latest fall

**Louise Freeman** - Has not been able to come to church and still needs prayer

**Jeff Massey** - In final stages of multiple myeloma (Bob Freeman's cousin)

**Harvey Dick** – In rehab following a fall (Deborah Thrower's father)

**Barbara Sanford** – In rehab for recovery from fall and hip repair surgery (Mary Beth Monroe's mother)

*\*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 a minimum of two weeks but should remain on your personal prayer list until informed otherwise. Thank you for your understanding.*

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Congregational Meeting

11:30a

Church Christmas Lunch

11:45a

Basic Training 11:45a

Caroling 12:30p

Cheerleader Practice 3:00p

AA Meeting 8:00p

**Monday**

Boy Scouts 6:00p

**Tuesday**

The Circle Christmas Lunch

12:00p (at Sharon Towers)

Children's Program rehearsal

4:00p

NO Men's Basketball

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