



Friends,

It has been my privilege, and at times challenge, to serve the church as an ordained Pastor for 34 years. My first call was to a small town and church in eastern North Carolina called Pollocksville. I served the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church for 8 years. In 1995, I was called to return to my hometown of Charlotte and serve Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church. I served Pleasant Grove for 11½ years. In January of 2007, I began serving as the Pastor/Head of Staff of Steele Creek. In 2019, the newly merged church of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill extended my call to serve as Pastor/Head of Staff. I am deeply honored to be your Pastor and very excited about what God has in store for us as a family of faith.

The Presbytery of Charlotte requires Sabbath Leave, sometimes referred to as a Sabbatical, in all installed pastors' Terms of Call. A Sabbath Leave is a period of time provided for clergy to disengage from their regular tasks and from the stress of being constantly on call; ministering to the sick, troubled, and dying; and dealing with many other stressful situations. It has its antecedents in the Biblical concept of the Sabbath day and Sabbath year. It is a time for rest, reflection, and recreation; a time for personal spiritual growth; an opportunity for renewed vision and commitment to ministry. It is also an opportunity for the congregation to reflect on the whole nature and meaning of ministry and the place of the congregation in that mission. The Sabbath Leave with its emphasis on rest, travel, study, and reflection is different from other times away for such pursuits as advanced degree work, terminal leave, or career assessment.

The Presbytery of Charlotte's rationale for Sabbath leave is as follows: "Pastors bear the burdens, the anguish, the pain, and hurt of their parishioners on a 24-hour basis unlike those of any other profession. As a result, many if not all experience to one degree or another, symptoms of emotional collapse, stress related illnesses, and "burnout" adversely affecting the minister's personal, family, and parish life, and greatly diminishing effectiveness and personal well-being. For too long, this situation has been accepted, even tolerated as an inevitable part of the job."

Sabbath leave would ordinarily come during the seventh year of ministry in one place. Individual churches and clergy could negotiate for a longer period depending upon the nature of the Sabbath Leave experience. Church professionals, which include heads of staff and associates, are to negotiate a three-month Sabbatical during the 7th year and each subsequent 7 years exclusive of vacation and study leave.

The Session of Steele Creek at Pleasant Hill has graciously agreed to allow my previous service at Steele Creek to count toward my time of service to qualify for Sabbatical leave. In 2014, I took my first ever Sabbatical. This was actually in my 8<sup>th</sup> year at Steele Creek, delayed a year to try and obtain a Lilly Grant for my Sabbatical. Thus, my 14<sup>th</sup> year in ministry was actually 2020, but I delayed my Sabbatical to try and help the church through a very challenging year. With Covid-19 and all the trials it brought to the church – it worked out well for myself and the church to postpone my second Sabbatical.

Now the time has come for my second Sabbath leave in 34 years of ministry. With the Session's permission, I will be away from the church for Sabbatical for the months of August, September, and October of 2021. I confess that I have mixed emotions about this time away. I am truly blessed to serve as the Pastor of Steele Creek at Pleasant Hill. I am excited about the work of the Visioning Committee and that we will be launching our new direction as a church in November, when I return. I feel a bit guilty at taking such an extended break. I know that many others serve in stressful situations who are not allowed such possibilities. I also know that Pastors cannot take weekends off and that we are indeed on call 24/7 and that many of my "days off" are taken up with church work, meetings, events, weddings, and funerals. Finally, I find it hard to admit to myself, but the truth is I need some time away. As excited as I am to serve this church, to work alongside of such dedicated servants of Christ, and to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ, I am exhausted. My physical and spiritual health need attending to, and I look forward to this Sabbath rest and renewal.

The Session and staff of the church are well prepared for my absence. The pulpit will be filled by a variety of guest speakers and pastors. As part of my time away, I will be preparing myself to provide leadership in our new Vision and Mission. I will be praying, studying, traveling, resting, exercising, spending time with my family, and renewing my body, mind, and spirit. It is my prayer and my belief that God will bring me back, empowered to better serve the church in the years to come. I ask for your understanding, your continued active involvement in the life, worship, and ministry of the church. I covet your prayers! Please pray for me and our church in this time of Sabbath rest for us all. Thank you for your love and support!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

**VIRTUAL SERVICE** – Please be sure to comment when you are watching our virtual service. This is how we are taking attendance and we want you to be counted. And remember, we are open on Sundays for worship if you are comfortable joining with us, using the precautions we have in place. You are welcome to bring a beverage **with a lid** into the Sanctuary now. No food please.

**TITHES** – Please call the church office if you would like to drop off your tithe to ensure a staff member will be available to let you in the building.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP** – will be available beginning this Sunday in a limited number. These will be on the two tables outside the Sanctuary doors. They will also be available, every Friday, in the very near future on our web page.

**PEW PADS ARE BACK** – starting this Sunday. Please be sure to sign the pad on your pew and pass it down, welcome any visitors, and greet those who are sitting near you.

**THE FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY** – are given to the Glory of God and with Happy Birthday wishes to Leighton Brown on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 31<sup>st</sup> by his bride.

The flowers are also given to the Glory of God and in honor of Charlie Earp's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 26<sup>th</sup> by George & Betty Davis.

### **[SCRIPTURE FOR JULY 25](#)**

**[Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21](#)**

**[Sermon title: Rooted in Love](#)**

**[AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY](#)** – fresh hot coffee, assorted glazed donuts, and sliced bagels with sides of cream cheese will be available before Sunday School and Church in the lobby of the sanctuary. This will provide time to fellowship with friends and to welcome visitors to our church! Please remember drinks with lids are allowed in the sanctuary, but no food in the sanctuary.



**PLEASE JOIN US** – for an evening of great Gospel Music, in our Sanctuary, on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm by The Pathfinders Silver Edition! They have been praising God and singing since 1993. See you Sunday!



**CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT** - As we continue to enjoy being able to do more things together again, why not make plans to join your church family on retreat, September 18-19, 2021. This is a wonderful weekend of relaxation, recreation, fellowship, and study.

We will return to the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC and will be staying in the Blue Ridge Center so we can eat, sleep, and meet in the same building! A Friday night option is available (September 17) for those who would like to head up early and enjoy the mountains (meals will be on your own). The retreat will begin Saturday, September 18 at 11 am and end at lunch on Sunday, September 19. Our own David McAliley will lead two adult sessions on The Miracle of Dreams: Does God Speak to Us through Dreams?

Rooms are hotel style, consisting of two double beds and a private bath. Three meals will be prepared by the facility (Saturday lunch/dinner and Sunday Breakfast) during our stay. Below is full pricing information:

- Rate per room/per night: \$110
- Meal Rate/facility fee (per adult): \$50.00
- Meal Rate/facility fee (per child 3-11): \$31.00
- Under 3 years - no meal/facility fee

Example:

Family of 4 for one night: \$272.00  
(2 adults, 2 children)

**A deposit of \$100 per family unit is due by August 1<sup>st</sup> to reserve a spot.** You may use the link below to register in Realm or contact Lorie Lewis - [lorie@steelecreekchurch.org](mailto:lorie@steelecreekchurch.org).

<https://onrealm.org/SteeleCreekChurch/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MzBmNjBhNzMtOWJjMC00MTIzLTg2Y2MtYWQ1MjAxMmViOTlm>

**OUR CAMPERS HEAD OUT NEXT WEEK** – so please be in prayer for the following as they attend Camp Grier, July 25-30:

Kinsley Byrum

Eleanor Cunningham

Piper Haston

Rowan Haston

Tatum Haston

**MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE** - youth and their chaperones will be in Montreat, June 25-31, please remember them in your prayers as they participate in worship, small groups, and fellowship. Those attending are:

Spencer Beck

Lindsay Jack

Clay Ferguson

Kelly Ferguson

Price Freeman

Donald Horack

Kevin Horack

Lorie Lewis

Connor McAliley

Peyton Snyder

Andrew Tanner

Charlie Warnke

**EMBER CLT** - a city-wide worship gathering for women is taking place on Thursday, August 12, 7:30 pm at First Baptist Uptown. We know this time of year can be a hustle as we fit in last minute trips, prepare kiddos for school...anticipate all things fall. But what if you carved out one night to breathe a little? What if you invited that new neighbor or friend to join you? What if this set apart night is the greatest gift you could give yourself? Time with Jesus and space to worship is always exactly what you need! Contact Lindsay Jack for more information, [weejack18@yahoo.com](mailto:weejack18@yahoo.com).

**NEWS FROM THE CRAFTERS** – Last month our ladies and one gentleman put together 140 Welcome Back to School bags for teachers at three schools. Great job! We also made Christmas puzzle necklaces for girls in Ashe County.

Our next get together will be Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Everyone is welcome! The more the merrier. Bring a sandwich and come to make blankets for stuffed animals to give to EMT's. All you need to be able to do, is tie a knot! We'll also do another craft too. Hope to see you there!

## **Dinners for Eight**

The Congregational Care Ministry Team has decided to try having Dinners for Eight again this Fall. We realize some still may not be comfortable getting together as a group yet. However, we believe there is a sufficient number of folks out there who would enjoy this opportunity to get together with some of our church family and enjoy a meal together. If you have not participated in the past, this is an opportunity to meet new people or gather with old friends, share good food and fellowship outside of church. This event will start in September and run through December, once a month.

We need to have everyone interested in participating register no later than Monday, August 16, to ensure timely notification is made to the groups. Anyone signing up after that date will be placed on a substitute list to fill in when someone cannot make their assigned dinner. To sign up on Realm, click on the link provided below. Betty Small will reach out to you after registration closes.

<https://onrealm.org/SteeleCreekChurch/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OTBmMjE5NWltZWZkYS00YWwLTg4YWQtYWQ2YzAwZWRIMTI5>

## **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

**BEN BROWN SCHOLARSHIP** – The Ben Brown Scholarship Fund provides money for church members who are pursuing post high school degrees. These scholarships are awarded based on need and the availability of funds. Applications can be picked up on the table in front of the church office or emailed (contact the church office). **Completed applications are due no later than August 1, 2021 and must be returned to the church office.**

**THESE DAYS** – for July – September are now available in the lobby of the Sanctuary and the Administrative office, in both regular print and large print.

**DEXTER'S DEVOTION** – Use the link below to read Dexter's devotion for this week.

<https://www.steelecreekchurch.org/dexters-devotions/>

**OUR NEXT RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** – will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2021, from 11:30 – 4:00 pm. Please go the Red Cross website and schedule your appointment. It is only 7 weeks away and this will go by quickly! Thank you for considering a donation to this very important cause!

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE JULY 18**

**Inhouse – 144**

**Facebook & YouTube - 272**

**Total – 416**

**PLEASE REMEMBER**



**Loaves & Fishes needs you!**

**Thank you.**





### Sunday, July 25

09:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship – 10 Cents a Meal  
06:00 am – Music by The Pathfinders  
08:00 pm AA Meeting

### Monday, July 26

09:00 am Preschool Summer Camp

### Tuesday, July 27

09:00 am Preschool Summer Camp  
10:00 am Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, July 28

09:00 am Preschool Summer Camp  
06:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal  
07:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal  
08:00 pm AA Meeting

### Thursday, July 29

09:00 pm Preschool Summer Camp  
07:00 pm Choir Practice  
07:30 pm Technology Team Teleconference

### Sunday, August 1

09:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
08:00 pm AA Meeting

**HAPPINESS IS A PLACE, NOT A DIRECTION.**



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Please help us keep this list up to date. Call in with any information about our church families.



Marguerite Aycoth	Joan Brown	Betty Burgess
Joy Burton	Betty Byrum	Frances Currie
Charlie Earp	Dot Earp	Lenora Fincher
Louise Freeman	Norman Kotraba	Hannah Mauer
John McKay	Margaret Niell	Ann Preslar
Marilyn Price	Gerry Roberts	Betty Warren
Margaret Wert	Lois Yandle	Wayne Whiteside

**PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR:**

The Family of Laura O’Conner – Sister-in-law of Paul & Deb O’Conner

Geoff Boot – Doing much better & anticipates going home on Saturday

Roy Byrum – injury to hand

Adam Butler – Esophageal cancer – son of good friends of David & Clara Giles

Channing Riha – 4-week-old son of Liz & James Riha -heart failure and is very sick – on full life support – parents are friends of Megan Winget

Todd – Out of intensive care from clots in his lung, but still on pain control – Nephew of Gail Brenner

Kip – Two blood clots in lungs, one in heart & pneumonia – please pray for Kip & wife Teri, who are friends of Sandi Lauerman

Christy – Still in hospital and doing much better – Sandi Lauerman’s sister’s daughter-in-law.

Sandi & Dewitt Lauerman – Please keep in your prayers as they are traveling

Charlie King – Duke Hospital – back in ICU – breathing difficulties and lab work concerns – Nephew of Annette & John Freeman

Richard George – Has Covid’s Delta Variant – vaccinated, but has had cancer recently and immune system is weak – Cousin of Dale Willis

Don Armstrong – Had heart valve replacement surgery-doing well – Cousin of Linda Freeman

Katie Hedrick – Cancer – has 10-month-old twin girls – Friend of Phil & Ann Seaman

Keith – Hospice – Friend of Sarah Harkey

Chickie Miller - Cancer

Margaret Neill – Health concerns

Katharine Freeman – Health concern

Anne Preslar – Health concern

Walt White – Anne Preslar’s son-in-law – awaiting heart surgery

Jake – Hodgkin’s Lymphoma - Son of Brooks Runkle

Jeannie Purvis – Cancer

Jordan Driscoll- Health concerns

Karen Barnes – Inoperable, aggressive, stage 4 Cancer – Aunt of Thad Carroll

Mike Spratt – Recovering from surgery

Sue Tanner – Health concerns

John Hovis – Recovering at home

George Thrower – Awaiting a kidney transplant

Joe Furr – Health concerns

**Please pray for our Members of the Armed Forces**

Brian Cox – US Air Force, South Korea  
Olivia Hommes – US Air Force Academy, Colorado  
Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill - Chaplin with the Air Force  
Lexie Simerly – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado  
Will Warsaw – US Navy, Japan  
Gabe White – US Army – Fort Wainwright, Alaska



*"I often think our best creativity  
comes out in the darkest of times."*

**Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill  
15000 York Road  
Charlotte, NC 28278  
704-588-1290, 704-588-0686**

7-23-2021