
SBCC NEWS



Photo Taken August 28, 2017

SBCC Cross Taken to the POA Building

Taking Up Our Cross...

Amidst all of the painstaking and emotional work of packing up and moving out of our longtime church home in Pelican Square, there was one moment that was so meaningful that I just had to take a picture for posterity. After a number of volunteers and Brunswick Christian Recovery Center helpers transported our remaining items to storage, a remnant remained to deliver our worship service necessities to the Sea Trails POA Building. Heavy rain was on its way, and the Carter's truck bed contained our piano and speakers, so we hurried to get things out of our old digs and into the new. We just made it, unloading the final items as the rain started to fall. Before departing, I had just one more request from this representative sample of our congregation: I wanted a picture of these men and women with our cross, perhaps the most precious and symbolic item in our possession. So with the rain grazing my back as I moved in position for the shot, these folks, on your behalf, carried our cross into the building, smiles all around.

As we noted in our recent series in Luke 14, Jesus said, *"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple"* (Luke 14:27). Though there were some involuntary aspects of our departure from Pelican Square, conditions outside of our control that prompted our need to relocate, we each bear his or her own cross as a voluntary response to the grace of God that has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. When we look at what Jesus suffered on our behalf, the only fitting response to such love is to give ourselves completely to him.

In his classic, *The Cross of Christ*, John Stott provides a poem with a verse that our recent eclipse makes especially moving: "Your cross / eclipses mine, transforms the bitter loss / I thought that I would suffer if I came / To you — into immeasurable gain."

So let a new season of cross-bearing begin at Sunset Beach Community Church. Our move has been challenging, but what will move the heart of our God is the demonstration of our gratitude for His grace seen as we take up our cross and follow him in discipleship and mission. May the cross continually remind us of that great paradox of the gospel: “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 16:25). May God grant us together the strength and courage to bear our cross, coming after our Lord Jesus wherever he leads.

Staff News...

One of the areas in the administration and operation of the church where we’ve experienced change in the past year is in the area of staffing. Denise Burns formerly served as the part-time church secretary, providing stability and important support through this year’s challenging pastor transition period. Following her resignation from that position in May, the leadership and Denise agreed to try an arrangement whereby she would stay on as an independent contractor, continuing to perform various tasks under adjusted hours and payment terms. After a few weeks, based on my assessment of how the new arrangement was working for everyone involved, I determined that it was best to discontinue this approach. I’m grateful for the important assistance Denise provided the church before and after my arrival, and I’m especially grateful for the graciousness she showed me and Carole when we arrived. I know that you all join me in continuing to wish Denise much success and many blessings in all of her endeavors.

Since early June, we have been managing the secretarial and administrative tasks creatively through having me assume some of them while leaving others to volunteers. We decided to hold off on hiring another part-time secretary until it became clearer what our new situation would look like, as that was largely uncertain at the time. In July, knowing that our Pelican Square lease would expire at the end of August, we realized that we needed someone to oversee and administrate the transition and relocation process. We hired Patricia Stark to be our Transition Administrative Assistant, asking her to coordinate our move, yard sale, storage, and relocation activities. Pat’s initiative, thoroughness, persistence, and kindness guided SBCC through an amazing operation. We were thrilled with the work that she did to coordinate all the necessary people and actions needed to enable such a smooth transition to our new situation. We couldn’t have done it without her.

Which is why we’re pleased to announce that the leadership of SBCC has extended an offer to Pat to become the new part-time administrative assistant for SBCC as of September 11, 2017. The change in title from “secretary” to “administrative assistant” is intentional, as we want the church to know that we envision Pat working in a ministry coordination and management role that will be adapted to fit our current needs as a mobile church, one that requires organization and delegation to succeed. She’ll soon establish office hours at our new office, begin assessing and improving our communications practices, and work with the pastor and the elders and deacons to solidify our ministry operations. You’ll notice she helped us carry our cross into our new Sunday location, and I believe she will play a vital role in helping us follow Jesus as a church in the days ahead.



**Patricia Stark, New
Administrative
Assistant at SBCC**

Closing Thoughts

I would like to thank all of you for the way that you have handled our transition to the Sea Trails POA building for Sunday Services. The teamwork and patience you have demonstrated in adapting to a new venue has been a joy to behold. The passion and vigor with which you have sung on Sunday mornings has nearly blown the windows out of our new place. Your resolve to see that building be transformed into a house of worship is inspiring.

Of course there are still kinks to get worked out and adjustments to be made. For example, I'd like to encourage us all to have a missional, hospitality-focused approach to parking and seating. I'd encourage all of us who are pretty healthy and pretty mobile to park as far away from the entrance to the POA as possible, leaving those nearer spaces for those who would benefit from a shorter distance and for newcomers. Similarly, to show hospitality to newcomers who tend to arrive either just before or late to the service, let's fill in the seats at the front and in the middle so that shy newcomers won't have to weave their way through strange territory to find a seat, or be forced to sit on the dreaded front row. In doing these things we can demonstrate the self-denial and hospitality that shows how the gospel impacts our faithfulness in small things.

Carole and I are looking forward to spending our first fall season with you all here at Sunset Beach Community Church and to discovering with you what harvest God has in store for us.

Blessings,

Terry