

CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9401 S. Tryon Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273

phone...704-588-1211 fax...704-588-1461
www.cscpc.org admin@cscpc.org

December 2015

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Special points of interest:

- From the Pastor's Pen
- Thank You (p 2)
- Advent Events (p 3)
- December Calendar (p 4)
- Speaker Series (p 5)

We're on the web...
www.cscpc.org
or Facebook.com/
Central Steele Creek Presbyterian

In this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1
Beginning the Conversation	2
Pastor's Reading Corner	
Advent Season Events	3
December Calendar	4
Preschool News	5
Men's Group	
Women's Groups	

From the Pastor's Pen

There was no place for them in the inn, (Luke 2:7)

I have had the privilege on several occasions to sleep in some very fancy hotels. I've also had the misfortune of sleeping on the cold (or hot) ground. I can say for a fact that the very best place to sleep in the entire world is in my bed in my house. It may not be all that fancy, but it's mine, baby, and I love it. Of all the gifts that we celebrate, the warmth, assurance, and order of our own homes is way towards the top of the list.

Imagine, then, the humility and agony of *giving birth* away from home. We give birth in hospitals these days for good reason, but we always leave the hospital in a day or two to go home to that nursery that we have long since prepared and decorated for our beloved baby. Now imagine if you've just given birth, but you don't have a home or a nursery or a bed or a roof over your head. Imagine.

Mary and Joseph didn't have to imagine. That was life for them. I know this is a politically packed statement, but it's just a fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were all unwanted, undocumented, middle-eastern immigrants in a strange land. Not only were they not home (or a local hospital) when they gave birth, they couldn't even find a cheap hotel. Mary gave birth to the world's savior in the modern day equivalent of a 7-11 gas station by the interstate. Christmas Eve might be a soft and cozy night for us, but it certainly wasn't for Jesus.

And it certainly still isn't for most of the world's population. Just imagine how children in a homeless shelter spend Christmas. Does Santa Claus come down that chimney? Or maybe imagine the *nine million* Syrian refugees (almost half of whom

are children) in the brutally cold, dirty, no-electricity, no-running-water, rat-infested filth called a tent city. I'll bet the sugar plums are dancing all over their heads this year.

If, as we claim, we want to "keep Christ in Christmas", if we actually believe anything at all about Christ, if we celebrate *Immanuel* (God with us), then we have to acknowledge the fact that God was and is with us *uniquely in the world's misery*. As such, we should be uniquely focused on that misery, too, and on doing something significant about it. In 2015, that necessarily means opening our land up to political refugees and immigrants, just like Mary and Joseph were some two thousand years ago. Might that be dangerous, especially given the recent attacks in Paris? Probably. But when were we ever promised safety or security? And besides, I suspect that it will be much more dangerous ten years from now when those nine million children (what's left of them) grow up and understand that western Christians flatly rejected them in their greatest need, all the while singing "Silent Night".

Mary and Joseph were a poor and desperate couple making their way through a very religious yet hostile country that rejected them and made them give birth in a barn. There was no room for them in the inn. Well, we are religious, too, and we've got plenty of inns around here and whole lot of people who need them. I pray that we've got some vacancy.

—Luke



Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 704-588-1211

Fax: 704-588-1461

Luke H. Maybry	Pastor
British Hyrams	Director of Christian Ministries
Sheila Fetner	Director of Music
Tom Schmutzler	Associate Director of Music
David Hines	Director of Handbells
Lisa Caudle	Director of Preschool
Miguel Rosario	Custodian
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Rob Vojvoda	Treasurer
Jeanne Sikes	Financial Secretary
Rhonda Weaver	Clerk of Session
Pat Hart	Moderator of Deacons

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:15am
Worship	10:30am

DEADLINES

January 2016 issue deadline is December 28th

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Articles received late will be included the next week.

Over-night hosts are still needed on Monday nights for the month of December for RITI. Van drivers are also needed. Please contact Mike Brown at 704-588-4805 if you can help in this worthwhile service to our fellow men.



Thank you!

I would like to thank CSCPC, once again for your prayers and expression of condolences. I truly love the CSCPC family. You are wonderful exemplars of Christianity. God bless!!

The Rosario Family

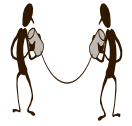
"To my Central Steele Creek Family: Thank you for the many cards, calls and prayers during my surgery in September. I was at my son's house in Union, SC for the recovery. I had the first chemo treatment on 10/26/15 and did ok. I will have another treatment in November and another one in December. Please pray they help! I will still be with my son until then. Thank you!"

Geraldine Norman

"To my church family: Thank you so much for your cards, calls and good wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. It has meant so much to me."

Mike Arnold

The Beginning of the Conversation



"What does it mean to notice the future now? A friend tells the story of caroling in a rough neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina. Our church had offered a "Saturday Fun Day" for kids in Hearthside—kind of Sunday School on Saturday, with songs and lessons and snacks. Twenty kids would come for the fun day, but the congregation had not really made any deeper connections with the neighborhood. Some people from church decided Christmas caroling might help. It went about as you would expect. Strangers walking door to door were not particularly welcome in a place characterized by poverty, drug dealing, and occasional bursts of deadly violence. More people looked out through a slit in the draperies than actually opened a door to the carolers. Given this reception, my friend Paul was surprised when a woman in a bathrobe opened the door and walked down her front steps to join the little group of singers in her driveway. They sang "Silent Night".

*Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so, tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

When they got to the words "Sleep in heavenly peace," the woman lifted her arms and turned her hands up to heaven with tears streaming down her face. The group finished the song. She thanked them, and they walked on to another driveway.

What they did not know when they were singing was that two weeks before, the woman's son had been shot dead in the driveway where they sang. "Holy infant, so tender and mild; sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace." There were thousands of days between one youngster's holy infancy and his violent death in that driveway. His mother knew both events and the path between them. Her baby was gone, her longing for him ever-present. She heard in the carolers' song the news that God's own heavenly peace was his.

The news we share with each other in these short days is that our waiting, watching, and longing for a world made new is matched—and exceeded—by God's own longing for the wholeness of all that God has made. The incarnation is God crawling through the telephone line to get to God's own most beloved. The work of the Spirit is God keeping at it, healing, forgiving, embracing even now until, at the last, heavenly peace is wholly peace on earth."

From "Across the Miles" by Mary Hinkle Shore, The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brevard, NC. **Journal for Preachers**, Vol. XXXVIII, Number 1; Advent 2014.

Pastor's Reading Corner

Recommended Book List

Rogers, John B. Jr. **With All Our Prayers; Walking with God Through the Christian Year.** William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan 2015






Come Celebrate the 2015 Advent Season

<i>Saturday, December 5</i>	<i>1:00pm</i>	<i>VIP Social</i>	<i>FLC</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 9</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>	<i>Speaker Series/Dinner</i>	<i>FLC</i>
<i>Friday, December 11</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Charity Party</i>	<i>FLC</i>
<i>Sunday, December 13</i>	<i>9:15am</i>	<i>Christmas Breakfast No Sunday School</i>	<i>FLC</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 15</i>	<i>9:30am</i>	<i>Preschool Christmas Program</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Saturday, December 19</i>	<i>6:00pm</i>	<i>Concert: "Christmas with The Pathfinders"</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Sunday, December 20</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Chancel Choir Cantata</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Sunday, December 20</i>	<i>5:00pm</i>	<i>Longest Night Service</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<i>Sunday, December 27</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Festival of Lessons and Carols</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Circle #1, 10:00am Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm Worship Team, 6:30pm	2 AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 7:00pm Scouts, 7:00pm	3 Men's Group @John's 6:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	4 AA, 12:00pm	5 VIP Social, 1:00pm 
6 CE Appreciation Breakfast, 8:30am Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Guest Outreach Team, 11:45am Youth Group, 11:45am	7 AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Staff Support Team, 5:15pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	8 Deborah Circle, 5:30pm Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	9 AA, 12:00pm Speaker Series, 6:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 7:00pm Scouts, 7:00pm	10 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Emmaus Board, 7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	11 AA, 12:00pm Charity Christmas Party, 6:00pm	12
13 Christmas Breakfast, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am 	14 AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Christian Ed Team, 4:00pm Central Ringers, 6:30pm	15 Preschool Program, 9:30am Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm Worship Team, 6:30pm	16 AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Scouts, 7:00pm Choir, 7:30pm	17 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	18 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	19 "Christmas with The Pathfinders" 6:00pm
20 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Deacons, 11:45 Longest Night Service, 5:00pm	21 AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Central Ringers, 6:30pm	22 Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	23 AA, 12:00pm	24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am	28 AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Central Ringers, 6:30pm	29 Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	30 AA, 12:00pm	31 New Year's Eve		

Birthdays-December

4 Timmy Hood	18 Max Tolley
6 Nora Carter	19 Lynn McNeill
Mark Clapham	Jeanne Sikes
9 Caleb Dorr	21 Kathy Bricker
Grayson McSwain	28 George Bostick
Jerry Mize	29 Randi Clapham
10 Deborah Russell	31 Charlotte Burgess
11 Diane Faust	
12 Wilma Price	
Eric Smith	
Will Moss	
13 Miles Shepard	
Andrew Burns	
14 Kevin Hyrams	
Stephanie Vojvoda	
16 Matthew Clapham	
Pete Wortman	
17 Geneva Godfrey	
Richard Moss	

Worship Child Care — December 2015

	Older		Younger	
December 6	Megan Tolley	Volunteer	Joan Hedgepeth	Lauren Shaw
December 13	Hope Moss	Volunteer	Dusty Shaw	Deana Carter
December 20	Volunteer	Volunteer	Pam Brooks	Mary Deal
December 27	Volunteer	Volunteer	Barbara Choate	Volunteer

Worship Child Care Sign Up Genius link

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0548afad2baaff2-central>

PRESCHOOL NEWS



December sneaks up on us at preschool no matter how we try to prepare. There is so much we want to do with the children and so little time. In all the busy we don't want to miss the most important thing, Celebrating Jesus.

We will be exploring the sights, sound, tastes and smells of Christmas. This is our opportunity to share with the preschoolers about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and what it means to all of us. They will learn about Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem. They will learn that there was not a single room for them to stay and that Jesus had to be born in a stable. I can only try to imagine what that was like.

We will end our month with a Christmas play and would love to invite each of you to come. It will be Tuesday, December 15 in the Sanctuary. We will start promptly at 9:30am so come a little early and find a seat. Miss Maggie and the children are working very hard on this and you will not want to miss it!

Thank you for always showing your support to this sweet preschool! We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love, Miss Lisa

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES!



Our children will be presenting the Christmas story at the annual Christmas Breakfast on December 13th. If you haven't already notified British or Ardy that your child will take part, please email Ardy at skidmoreaj@gmail.com with their age, gender and if they can read or not.

Advent Readers: We need your voice to help share the Good News! If you would like to participate in reading a passage and lighting the Advent candles please contact Donna Young or the church office. Volunteers are needed for the four Sunday morning worship services from November 29 to December 20 as well as Christmas Eve.

THANK YOU!



DID YOU KNOW?

You may not be aware of this so we are spreading the word literally! Luke's Sunday sermons are posted on our church website and FB page. If you miss a Sunday service, you do not have to miss Luke's message! Please share this news with others.

Website address: www.cscpc.org/worship/sermons.
Facebook: Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Lynn Phillips, sister-in-law of Jack Phillips; Terri Kite, daughter of Lynn Phillips and niece of Jack Phillips; Vaud Phillips, cousin of Jack Phillips; Emma B. Young class.

In Honor of Coelle Snyder; the Brown Grier & Emma B. Young classes.



The Men's Group
Thursday, December 5
6:00pm
John's Restaurant

CSCPC WOMEN'S GROUPS

Circle #1
10:00am, Room 300, Tuesday, December 1

Deborah Circle
5:30pm, Parlor, Tuesday, December 8

Monthly Speaker Series

Family Life Center
6:00-7:30pm*

Wednesday, December 9
Advent Workshop

*Dinner will be served and childcare provided. In order to cover our costs, we ask that adults pay \$5 per plate and children \$2.50. Please call the church office by noon on the Tuesdays preceding each event so we that we can plan accordingly.



THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
Canned soups, vegetables & meats

Please place items in the donation box located in the Church Narthex.