

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 churchoffice@cscpc.org

**November/December
2020**

Special points of interest:

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- Welcome Emily Cheek (p 2)
- Food Share Program (p 3)
- Christmas Joy Offering (p 4)
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We're on the web...
www.cscpc.org
or Facebook.com/
Central Steele Creek Presbyterian

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

As I write this article for the church newsletter, there have been some monumental events taking place... record number of people turned out to vote this year, despite the global pandemic. The number of cases and deaths related to the COVID-19 virus are spiking and health experts are predicting a dark and dangerous winter with more sicknesses and deaths unless drastic measures are taken to mitigate the spread of the virus. There is some sense of hope as two different drug companies have produced results from vaccine trials that contain over 90% efficacy... but vaccines are only as good as the rate of vaccination among the population. The economic fallouts from on-going pandemic continue as millions of Americans are unemployed and struggling to pay their mortgages or rents. Small businesses are struggling and service industries are barely staying afloat. Against such backdrops, we are approaching Thanksgiving and the Advent Season, which culminates with the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also have church members with heavy and painful hearts as they will not have their loved ones during this holiday and Christmas season. For some, this will be the first Christmas after their loved ones have passed away. The pandemic will also make family gatherings more difficult... which is the case for my family as we worry about my parents' well-being.

Despite the challenges of our current circumstances, I am hopeful because God has a plan for you and me... as well as

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plans for His church at Central. There are always obstacles, resistance and difficulties in seeking and following the will of God. But I hope the upcoming holiday season will recalibrate our perspectives and bring a sense of thankfulness and humility for the blessings we undeservedly receive from our God. Let us be thankful and hopeful as we enter into the season of Advent and learn the true meaning of Christmas as Paul shared... "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

(Colossians 1:15~20)

Happy Thanksgiving and
Merry Christmas to all.
Be safe and well.

In grace and peace
—Mark



Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 704-588-1211

Fax: 704-588-1461

Mark Lee	Pastor
Emily Cheek	Interim Director of Music Ministries
Nadja Sefcik-Earl	Director of Handbells
Christy Martell	Director of Preschool
Lori Cauley	Director of Central Fine Arts Academy
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Lauren Perkin	Financial Administrator
Jeanne McGrath	Financial Secretary
Anthony Tucker	Custodian
Chet Knapp	Clerk of Session

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School (some classes on hold)	9:15am
Worship	10:30am

DEADLINES

January 2021 issue deadline is December 21st.

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Articles received late will be included the next week.

Please let the church office know of any changes in your contact information, such as phone number, cell phone number, address, or email address. Thank you!



THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
Boxed Pasta or Potatoes

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
Canned Soups, vegetables & meats

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

Ladies Gathering!

Due to Covid-19 concerns, the **Ladies Gathering** was postponed. A new date will be set after the first of the year. Any questions, you may call Diane Price @ 704-589-6027. Everyone stay safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Clint Burke; Gary Myers, John's Family Restaurant, Chet & Chris Knapp

In memory of Evelyn Ervin; Bud & Pauline Shaney, Circle of Friends, Kay & Jim Patterson

In memory of Tommy Therrell; Roger & Mary Jane Palmer

In memory of Herman Canipe, Sr; Lucy Choate, John McGloughlin, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leatherman, Jerry Cody, Blair Cody & Tripp, Lynda Tripp, Bob & Susan Hunter, Rozanna Lawing, Paul & Martha Sigmon, Mike & Judy Brown, Pat & Sandy Hart, Jeanne Smith, Glenn & Liz Litaker, John & Janet Maybry, Sonny & Cheryl Canipe, Manley & Annette Caudle, Toni & Greta Lambert, Dorothy Williams, Gary Cline, Sandra Burke, Wade & Cindy Shepard, Bob & Linda Blackwelder, Barry & Barbara Choate, George & Marilyn Hege, Bob Canipe Family, Circle of Friends, Kenneth & Nancy Chapman & family, Kay & Jim Patterson, Mary & Jack Phillips

In memory of Myril Smith; Bud & Pauline Shaney

Notice from Session:

At the October meeting, Session approved a personal loan to Rev. Lee. The Lee family is now renting a house and wishes to purchase a house. The specific purpose of this loan, as spelled out in the legal promissory note, is "to assist Maker in the purchase of a residence." Specifically, the cash will be used for a down payment as the Lee's secure a mortgage. Should Mark's employment with Central Steele Creek come to an end for any reason, the balance of the loan and any interest accrued will be due immediately. These funds have been in a CD drawing interest well below half of a percent and the return on this promissory note will be a far better investment for the church. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Wade Shepard, chairperson of the Finance Team.

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

Spending (for budgeted items) as of 9/30/20: \$256,195

Income (for budgeted items) received as of 9/30/20: \$241,631

Capital reserve fund balance (9/30/20): \$282,798



**Welcome Emily Cheek - Interim
Director of Music Ministries**

I was born and raised at Central Steele Creek and have always loved to serve through music. This fall, I am graduating from Appalachian State University with a degree in Music Therapy and a minor in psychology. My voice was the primary instrument I studied during music school, but I have also been trained in piano, guitar, and other various percussive instruments. I look forward to serving the church and creating beautiful music for us all to enjoy as we await the hiring of a new music director. After the next few months, I will be attending Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah to complete my music therapy internship.

Central Steele Creek's Morning Coffee Ministry to Y Parents



In September Rev. Mark Lee and volunteers began serving coffee to Y parents dropping off their children who attend the Y Back to School program on our campus. With masks and gloves on we offer coffee to the Y parents in their cars and let them know we support them during these challenging times of COVID19 restrictions. Along with coffee, parents are provided a prayer request form that they can return to Rev. Lee. The prayer requests received have created a special connection between our Y parents and members of our church. In Central's Friday emails and on Sunday during our in-person worship services that are live streamed, we share the prayer requests and pray for our Y parents. One prayer request received was from a young couple facing financial challenges for the down payment on their first home. Members of our church who work in the mortgage industry were able to reach out and provide guidance to the couple. This resulted in a reduction of the amount of the down payment required. From a simple gesture of a cup of coffee we are connecting with our Y parents during this pandemic to let them know God and Central loves them. We ask that you join us in praying for our Y parents as prayer requests include: prayers for family, kids, and finances, and for relatives who are struggling with drug addiction to make wiser choices.

Please contact Jeanne Smith (jesmith8412@gmail.com) if you can help Rev. Lee serve 7a.m. coffee one Wednesday a month, or to occasionally help as a substitute volunteer. Thank you.

Many families in the Steele Creek community are dealing with food insecurity and there is a continuing need. In Steele Creek, the Food Share program which has been held at Christ the King has served 552 families over 5 sessions this past summer and fall. The number of families served was highest (126) in October.

The Mission Committee is supportive of this program as part of the church's long-term commitment to Loaves and Fishes as well as supporting food insecure families this summer and fall. We provided grocery cards to families which were identified by school principals as needing emergency help.

This is also an opportunity to reach out to the other organizations who use our facilities to connect with Central's outreach mission efforts. They could help provide volunteers as well as spread the word about this program to the Steele Creek community.

Birthdays– November

- 1-Scott Moss, Whitney Smith, Cathy Lee & Diane Hayes
- 2-Mark Lee & Rachel Cheek
- 3-Donna Stuart
- 4-Greta Lambert & Joyce Quinn
- 5-Bernard Simmons
- 6-Kevin Kronk
- 8-Wade Shepard
- 9-Dorothy Williams
- 11-David Hillard & John McGloughlin
- 12-Herman Canipe, Jr.
- 14-Tim Hood & Karen Noblett
- 15-Clara Whitley
- 17-Bob Hunter
- 21-Johnny Burgess, Jr.
- 23-Debby Moss
- 29-Rozanna Lawing

Birthdays-December

- 4-Timmy Hood
- 6-Mark Clapham
- 10-Deborah Russell
- 11-Diane Faust
- 12-Wilma Price, Will Moss & Eric Smith
- 13-Miles Shepard & Andrew Burns
- 15-Arthur Perkin
- 16-Matthew Clapham
- 17-Richard Moss
- 18-Max Tolley
- 19-Lynn McNeill & Jeanne Sikes-McGrath
- 21-Kathy Bricker
- 28-George Bostick
- 29-Randi Clapham
- 31-Charlotte Burgess

Loaves and Fishes Food Share

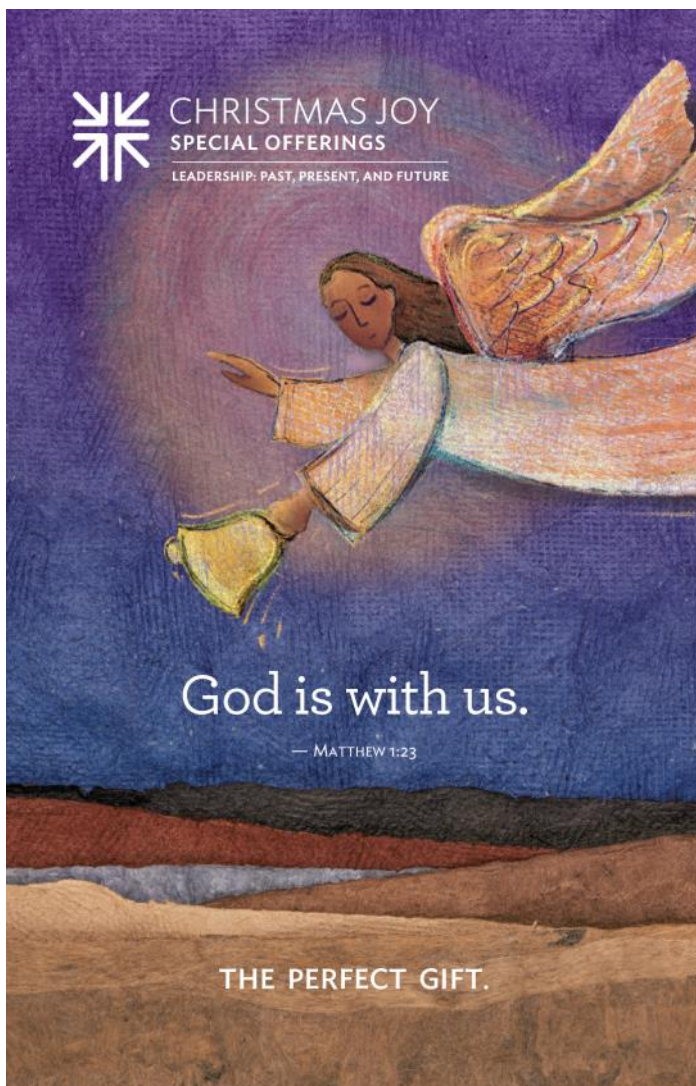


LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

This year, Loaves and Fishes has a special program called Food Share. It provides fresh produce and dairy products, made available through the federal "Farm to Family Food Box" program. Participants pre-register and come to a designated location so that the boxes can be loaded into their cars, using a drive-through style for safety.

As a joint program with Steele Creek Y, the Food Share program will start at our church on a once-a-month schedule. Six volunteers will be needed for one hour (10:30 –11:30 am) on the designated day to help direct traffic and load boxes into cars. The Y and the church will together provide the volunteers. We expect the program to start in December. Please consider volunteering. For more information, contact Jeanne Smith (jesmith8412@gmail.com)

(Continued at top of page)



Please contribute to the Christmas Joy fund, anytime during Advent. You may place a donation in the offering plate, send a donation to the church office or contribute on-line (special offerings). Thank you.

Being Together

“Many hands make light work.”

“Teamwork makes the dream work.”

“If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.”

There are lots of ways to say it — but working together really does make bigger and better things possible. And, lots of times, working together makes it more fun, too. In fact, there are times made better just by our ability to be together, to be with one another.

That is something that really rings true, doesn't it? *Being together.* During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. We have always been together in spirit, and in faith. But we missed seeing each other. We missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal. But that doesn't mean we haven't been together. And we definitely have not been alone.

There is a word that comes up a lot during this season we call Advent in the Church, and it points to the same sentiment, but about God: “Emmanuel.” Emmanuel means “God is with us,” and, in Jesus, we Christians claim that God took on human form to be *with us*. “God is with us” is more than just saying God is along for the ride. It states God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together as we are today — and even when we are apart.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one way we join together as Presbyterians from around the country. We do this to meet the needs of vulnerable people we might not be able to meet as individuals or as single congregations. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

The gifts we share connect us. They also change lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we support church workers and their families who experience critical financial needs through help from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We connect with the young people attending Stillman College, Presbyterian Pan American School, and the Menaul School, supporting the education and leadership development for students of color, who will soon be leaders in our Church and in the world.

“God is with us.” All the time. During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, I can't think of a more perfect gift than that. Thank you for sharing those lessons and those truths, through your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Please give generously, for “if we all do a little — *together* — it adds up to a lot.”

Let us pray~

God, we are your Church, together. Because of your son Jesus, we are brought together to serve those who lead your Church but find themselves in need. And we are brought together with students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who have the potential to lead your church and world in the future. In the name of the Christ, Emmanuel we pray, Amen.

DECEMBER HEAD ELDER & USHERS

Head Usher: Becky Helms

Ushers: Martha Osborne, Jeanne Smith, Charlie Bricker, Wade Shepard

Angel Apple Tree 2020

Supporting the Classroom Teachers
at Steele Creek Elementary School



You have heard of crab-apples, but there is nothing crabby about these beauties! Send a sweet blessing to a classroom teacher this year! In lieu of venturing out into crowded stores to purchase classroom requests by the teachers, we are adapting our Angel Tree to Angel-Apple Tree for 2020.

Please donate to become part of a combined harvest of Angel-Apples. Donations collected from church members and friends will be divided among the classroom teachers at Steele Creek Elementary School, providing gift cards so that teachers purchase what is most needed in their classroom.

Please donate December 6, 2020-January 3, 2021:

- During worship service. Use a special Angel-Apple envelope which will be available in the sanctuary or place a check in the offering plate.
- Mail or drop by your check to the church office, remembering to mark Angel-Apple on your check memo line to designate your gift for this collection.

Let us help those who are helping the littlest angels in our classroom!

Happy Holidays from The Preschool!

It is so hard to believe the Season for the Reason is upon us! We have been so busy these last few weeks learning virtually about the Pilgrims and the journey they took to America. We have been working on projects and baking at home, delicious things such as biscuits and corn bread! We have remembered that we need to be especially thankful to Squanto in our prayers because if it wasn't for Squanto we wouldn't have corn to bake with! We are closing up the month of November talking about all the things we are thankful for and how everything we have is a gift from God. We are excited to start reading in the Bible about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the true meaning of Christmas. We will be doing lots of fun projects and we will be baking Christmas cookies at home.



We still have openings in the Virtual Classroom and we are capable of having students living near and far. The children need to be at least 3 1/2 years of age to 5 years old. If you have family members that might be interested in our program and joining our family at Central Steele Creek Preschool, please have them contact me! I would love to speak with them.

From our Preschool family to yours;

We hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas! Christy

2020 Advent Events



1st Advent Sunday Worship
Sunday, November 29

2nd Advent Sunday Worship
Sunday, December 6

3rd Advent Sunday Worship
Sunday, December 13

4th Advent Sunday Worship
Sunday, December 20

Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Worship
Thursday, December 24 @ 5:30pm

All services will be in person and live-streamed.
We hope you can join us for this special Advent Season.

Central Fine Arts Academy Virtually

Central Fine Arts Academy continues as an outreach ministry to our Steele Creek community – but now virtually. The Fall session has just finished with 9 students studying voice, guitar, dance, violin and percussion. The Virtual Format provides health safety and flexibility to both parents and teachers.

We will continue the Virtual classes for the Winter Session (starting the week of January 18th and continuing through March 12th). When we can safely gather again, in-person classes will be started. We miss the in-person connections with children and their parents – which allow us to build relationships with young families.

We will soon be launching our own website to promote the arts academy, CFAACharlotte.org. This will allow an easier way for parents to search the internet for classes near them. Please help spread the word about our high quality arts education program. Share the information with your family and neighbors – in person or using social media. Please see the flyer on the following page.. For more information, please contact director Lori Cauley (Arts@cscpc.org)



Thank you all so much for your cards and kind words following my surgery. I am feeling good and have returned to the office part time: 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday. I plan to resume my normal hours after Thanksgiving.
Allyson Haenlein

Thank you everyone for the cards, calls and prayers. Prayers were answered, I'm recovering well. Love to all.
Charlotte Burgess



Live, online interactive small group classes and private lessons for:

Violin, Guitar, Dance, Drawing, Percussion and Voice.

Group lessons are designed for students in grades K - 5. Private lessons are for kids of all ages!



CENTRAL FINE ARTS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

***Registering Now
for the Winter
Session Starting
January 19, 2021***

Cost: \$25 / 30 minutes
\$45 / 60 minutes

Registration Fee: \$20

Registration and
information at
<http://cscpc.org/cfaa>

Questions about format,
scheduling, instrument rentals
and more call Director Lori
Cauley at 704-274-1878.

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The information in this flyer is neither endorsed by nor necessarily reflective of the views of the Board of Education, the District or any CMS school.