

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CENTRAL CALLING

9401 S. Tryon Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273

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

May 2016

Special points of interest:

- From the Pastor's Pen
- Preschool News (p 2)
- Welcome New Members (p 3)
- May Calendar

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

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From the Pastor's Pen

But Momma, it only takes two minutes to get to church. (As said by Luke Maybry, circa 1986).

This was the only argument that I ever had with my mom that I can look back on and say that I was right and she was wrong. It was about 6:45 on a Sunday evening and we Baptists had worship at 7:00. I was piddling along, taking my time, when my mother told me to hurry up. We needed to devote ten minutes to get to church, she insisted. I told her to calm down, that we'd be fine because it only took two.

I was right. We lived about a mile and a half away from church. I could have *run* to church in ten minutes. And it's not like we had to fight traffic in Campobello. Those were simpler, easier times back then. It might sound like we were an especially pious bunch, but we weren't. There just wasn't much else to do then. If you wanted a social life, you pretty much had to go to church. And since nothing much else was happening, getting there and spending time there was easy.

Those days are gone. First of all, very few of us live two miles from church like I did. We live and work all over the place: Charlotte, Lake Wylie, Clover, Indian Land, Indian Trail, Matthews... And traffic is a nightmare. Sometimes we really can *run* to church faster than we can *drive* to it. It used to be that Wednesday nights were church nights devoted to Bible study and choir practice. But every congregation that I know of has seen a decline in Wednesday night activities because of traffic. And... even if we could get there as easily as we once did, it's hard to devote as much time to church when time is so much more squeezed. If I only have two nights a week to spend with my family, is it really faithful to give one of those nights to church?

Because of challenges like these, churches have had to rethink what we ask of people in terms of time. Like it or not, people have less time to give. As such, we have to use that time very well. Our church has roughly 308 members with an average worship attendance of 157. Of those 157 in worship, we have thirty active elders and deacons, roughly 20%. That number is wildly high. I know of many congregations with more members, but far fewer elders and deacons. We

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also cannot allow family members to serve on the same boards, nor can our officers succeed themselves. As such, the pool of eligible elders and deacons is much smaller than you'd think.

Therefore our session is proposing the following changes to our structure: 1. That we decrease the number of elders from fifteen down to twelve. 2. That we decrease the number of deacons from fifteen down to six. We will vote on these proposed changes at a congregational meeting on Sunday afternoon, May 15, after worship.

Several other changes accompany this. First, all of the committees will now report to the session. Currently three of them report to the deacons. As such, every elder will now chair a committee and the deacons can focus solely on pastoral care. The congregation would no longer be divided up into shepherd groups with each deacon providing pastoral care to his or her group. Rather, the deacons, in conjunction with the pastor and staff, will be able to focus all of their efforts to caring for people of the congregation.

I also wanted to emphasize that this is unrelated to the conversation among the churches in Steele Creek about a possible merger. Those conversations happened to coincide around the same time, but they are otherwise unrelated. Whether we end up merging or not, we believe that this restructuring is the right thing to do.

These current times simply demand that we do more with less. In some ways this feels like a retreat. It's harder and harder to find people with the time necessary to being an elder or deacon. On the other hand, regardless of how much time we all have, we need to be good stewards of that time. As such, I believe that this is the structure that will best allow us to do that. God has long since started a good work in us. That work has flourished in this congregation for over two centuries and through more change than we care to imagine. God will be faithful to complete that work and use you and me in the process. I hope you will join me in discerning what that requires of us for a time such as this.

—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
John Granger	Custodian
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Rob Vojvoda	Treasurer
Jeanne Sikes	Financial Secretary
Charlotte Burgess	Clerk of Session
Pat Hart	Moderator of Deacons

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:15am
Worship	10:30am

DEADLINES

June 2016 issue deadline is May 23rd.

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Articles received late will be included the next week.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Jack C. Austin, Sr.; Emma B. Young
& Brown Grier classes, Peggy & Ned Lyerly

CSCPC WOMEN'S GROUPS

Circle #1

10:00am, Room 300, May 3

Circle of Friends

10:00am, Room 300, Saturday, May 7

Deborah Circle

5:30pm, Parlor, Tuesday, May 10



THE MONTH OF MAY Boxed Cookies & Crackers

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

THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVERSATION



"But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children, but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven."

Epistle to Diognetus (c. 100-150 CE)

Pastor's Reading Corner

Recommended Book List

The Case for Faith, Lee Strobel; Zondervan, Grand Rapids
Michigan, 2000.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

May has once again come upon us too quickly. We are preparing for the end of another preschool year and it doesn't seem like we've had enough time. We have reached a beautiful place with the children and their families and it's hard letting them go.

Our scripture this month in preschool is Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose". I love that God works all things for our good. I also love that God has a purpose for our lives. Each day, at preschool and life in general, we come up against trying circumstances, struggles and challenges that can throw us for a loop. It helps to be reminded that the Lord is at work in these very things! It is the hope we need to keep doing what He has called us to do!

We will have our End of Year Program on Thursday, May 19th at 9:30 sharp. It will be held in the sanctuary and I can promise it will be entertaining. You can't believe the little personalities we have. Please join us and help support this sweet ministry of your church!

Love, Lisa

Welcome New Members!



John Matson



Vernon & Sheila Rogers

COMING SOON!

New Directories with Email Addresses!

We are working on new church directories. If you have had a change of address or phone number, please let the church office know. Also, email addresses will be included. **If you do not want your email address included, please contact Allyson in the church office.**



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS:

Happy Birthday to our staff!

May 4 -- Rob Vojvoda, our treasurer

May 21 -- Becky Helms, our kitchen coordinator

May 25 -- British Hyrams, our Director of Christian Ministries



Thank you for all the cards, flowers and desserts I received this week for Administrator's Day and my birthday! You all sure do know how to make a person feel special! Allyson



Help Wanted:

Church wide Work Day!

Please come help on Saturday, May 7th at 9:00am. There are plenty of projects to be done. If you want to help with the kitchen cleaning, please contact Becky Helms.



ATTENTION THOSE WITH GREEN THUMBS:

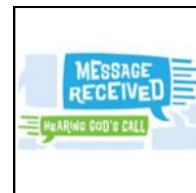


The YMCA is interested in starting and maintaining a small garden next door on their property this spring. They would like our neighborhood children to experience garden to table vegetables. If you can spend just a few hours a week helping the staff and children with this project, please call Kathy Bricker at 704.564.3067 or the church office.

SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Saturday, July 23, 2016

9:00am-3:30pm



Summer VBS is fast approaching! It's only one day, but we need YOUR help to make it a success! Are you able to volunteer...for one hour...for two hours...the whole day? God is doing great things in our community--come and be a part of it! More details to come!! Contact Letarshia Robinson by phone or email to sign up. (704) 965-6175/colert9@gmail.com

Thank you!

Please let our church family know how much we appreciate the cards and calls on the death of our loved one, Jack C. Austin, Sr., and especially the donations made in his memory. It has been most comforting in our time of loss.

Sincerely, The Austin Family

Thank you for all your cards and calls during my illness. They have been most appreciated.

Geraldine Norman

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am New Member Reception, 11:45am Youth, 11:45 @ Lunch	2 AA, 12:00pm Boy Scout Troop Leaders, 6:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	3 Circle #1, 10:00am Publicity Team, 5:30pm B&G Team, 6:00pm Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	4 Bible Study, 11:00am AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 6:45pm Scouts, 7:00pm	5 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	6 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	7  Circle of Friends, 10:00am
8  Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Chrysalis Group, 2:30pm	9 AA, 12:00pm Christian Ed, 4:00pm Staff Support, 5:15pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	10 Deborah Circle, 5:30pm VBS Meeting, 4:00pm Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	11 Bible Study, 11:00am AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 6:45pm Scouts, 7:00pm	12 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Emmaus Board, 7:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	13 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	14 "Ages & Stages" 11:00am
15 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Deacons, 11:45am Combined Youth Group @ Steele Creek 5:00pm	16 AA, 12:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	17 Worship Team, 6:00pm Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm	18 AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 6:45pm Scouts, 7:00pm	19 Preschool Program, 9:30am Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery 7:00pm	20  POTLUCK DINNER OUT & ABOUT GROUP LUNCH, 11:30am AA, 12:00pm	21 Cub Scout Graduation, 12:30pm
22 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Graduate Celebration, Covered Dish Luncheon 	23 AA, 12:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm Cub Scout Leaders, 6:30pm	24 Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm Worship Team, 6:00pm	25 AA, 12:00pm Cub Scouts, 6:30pm Choir, 6:45pm Scouts, 7:00pm	26 Session, 6:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	27 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	28
29 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am	30 AA, 12:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	31 Tuesday Night Basketball, 6:00pm				

Birthdays-May

1 Joe Stuart	25 British Hyrams
4 Robert Vojvoda	28 Pat Hart
5 Lauren (Moss) Spratt	29 Beverly Barbee
6 Linda Blackwelder	Alexis Burgess
Mike Brown	
7 John Burgess, Sr.	
Christopher Canipe	
8 Chris Winter	
9 Akilah Hyrams	
11 Herman Canipe, St.	
12 Kay Patterson	
13 Lester Weaver	
15 Roy Grier	
16 Linda Preston	
18 Mitch Shepard	
20 Joan Hedgepeth	
21 Becky Helms	
22 Joyce Martin	
25 Aiden Hilliard	

Worship Child Care — May 2016

Volunteers			Volunteers	
May 1	Emily Cheek	Wade Shepard	Open	Open
May 8	Allison Burgess	Deana Carter	Open	Open
May 15	Open	Open	Open	Open
May 22	Open	Open	Open	Open
May 29	Open	Open	Open	Open

Worship Child Care Sign Up Genius link

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