

CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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January 2017

Special points of interest:

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!	

From the Pastor's Pen

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

Sometimes when I have a quiet moment or two, I go back and read old news-letter articles. I have been pastor at this church for almost nine years now, so that's quite a bit of water flowing under the bridge. Sometimes it's encouraging to see where we were then and where we are now. January newsletters are particularly interesting because they're always about the future. January of 2014, for example, was about receiving the Learning Team's Report, which was a series of recommendations from a consulting process. Believe it or not, we have accomplished most of what was on that list. I think the main thrust of that report was for our church to look outward, much of which we have done.

Some of those newsletter articles are arrogant and ignorant. I suggested that we devote January of 2012, for example, to submitting to God. Really? Were we not supposed to do that in 2011? I don't think I mentioned this in that article, but I firmly believed that 2012 would be a pivotal year. I was wrong. It was a good year, as every other year was, but not earth-shattering.

The problem about New Year's newsletters is that they assume too much. They assume that the future is largely ours to control, when in fact, it's not. They assume, therefore, that we can know what we need to do, like a doctor writing a prescription. We know exactly what's ailing us, we think, and therefore exactly what we need to do to fix it. Yet history tells us time and time again that we know none of that.

The most active human actor — I would even argue the *primary* actor — in

Luke's account of Jesus' birth is Mary. Poor, unwed, young (a child herself really), and destitute, Mary becomes a primary actor in God's drama with creation. And what, exactly, does Mary do (other than walk ninety miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem and give birth in a barn)? She "treasures all these words and ponders them in her heart." I think there's something to be said for that.

We pale in comparison, but somewhat like Mary, our future is unknown and risky. We have a lot to lose and the rules are changing rapidly. The one thing we know for certain is that whatever 2017 holds for us, it will be very different than 2016. We have some major decisions to make soon that will have long term consequences.

But, like Mary, we also know that the most major decision has already been made. God has looked upon us with favor. God has elected us for salvation as well as for service. Exactly what that means and how that looks for us in the future, whether we merge or not, whether we leave our campus or not, whether I write 2018's newsletter from this desk or not... I do not know. But I do know, as did Mary, that God is active in our lives and that God will use us. So about all we can do, all we *must* do, is to treasure all these words and ponder them in our hearts. Anything more is to falsely assume that we know a whole lot more than we do. Anything less, though, is to falsely assume that God knows a whole lot less. So pick up those Bibles and dust them off, hit your knees in prayer, and ponder all that God has done and promises to do. Because that, friends, is what 2017 will be all about.

—Luke



Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

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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

February 2017 issue deadline is January 25

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Articles received late will be included the next week.

*Please remember to turn in your 2017
pledge cards!*



THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Canned Vegetables

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

CSCPC WOMEN'S GROUPS

Circle #1

10:00am, Room 300, Tuesday, January 3

Circle of Friends

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

Deborah Circle

5:30pm, Room 300, Tuesday, January 10

THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVERSATION



"To make a difference in our community, we must begin by naming the existing context and evolving to a way of thinking that leads to new conversations that produce a new context. It is the shift in conversation that increases social capital. Every time we gather becomes a model of the future we want to create. If you really get this paragraph, you probably don't need to read any further.

...Our love of problems runs deeper than just the joy of complaint, being right, or escape from responsibility. The core belief from which we operate is that an alternative or better future can be accomplished by more problem solving. We believe that defining, analyzing, and studying problems is the way to make a better world. It is the dominant mindset of western culture.

This context—that life is a set of problems to be solved—may actually limit any chance of the future being different from the past. The interest we have in problems is so intense that at some point we take our identity from those problems. Without them, it seems like we would not know who we are as a community. Many of the strongest advocates for change would lose their sense of identity if the change they desired ever occurred.

Community-as-problems-to-be-solved has some benefits. It values the ability to implement, is big on doing, has a certain honesty about it, and worships tangible results as the ultimate blessing. You might say that this is what has gotten us this far. It is not that this (or any other) context is wrong; it just does not have the power to bring something new into the world."

Taken from: *Community: The Structure of Belonging* by Peter Block; Chapter 2, pgs. 32 & 33.

Pastor's Reading Corner

Recommended Book List



Community: The Structure of Belonging. Peter Block.
Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. San Francisco; 2008



*Dear Central Steele Creek,
Words can't express the love and support
that you have shown us with the loss of our
mom, Faye Baker. Thanks you so much for
the uplifting prayers, cards, calls & visits. We were
blessed to have a praying Christian mom. Our
hearts are heavy but Mom is celebrating her New
Life. God is good!*

*Love,
Vernon & Judy Knox*



AKILAH'S YAV ADVENTURE

I've been in Dumaguete for the past three months. Dumaguete is a relatively small city located on one of the central islands of the Philippines. My time here, so far, has been different than I imagined. When I first arrived, I got wrapped up in the whirlwind of my new environment. My entire first month was all about figuring out transportation, work placement, and the Filipino culture. I think the first month could be compared to any situation where you uproot your life to move to a new area. I had to figure out what bus to take to get to work only to realize that if I want the luxury of air conditioning, I'll be paying luxury prices. I had to come to terms with the fact that, Filipino people are, on average, much smaller than me, so finding work clothes is not the easiest thing to do.

When I arrived in Dumaguete, I didn't think the language barrier would be as big as it really is. One of the official languages of the Philippines is English, which, on paper is good for me. However, every area of the Philippines has it's own language, including Dumaguete, and English isn't commonly spoken unless you are on a college campus. Luckily, I am taking language classes, however, I've never been the best at learning a new language, so it's been slow going.

I've been in the Philippines for 4 months at this point and I've adjusted to many things. I can now get to work on the right bus; I can go to different areas of the city without having to google map every turn; I can even speak a little of the local language. However, my biggest hurdle is the culture differences between the Philippines and the US. It seems like the closer I get towards holidays, the more I realize that nothing is what I'm used to. Although, that's just a part of being abroad and immersing yourself into another culture, it's still slightly disconcerting.

And to that point, I have to give a shout out to the other two YAVs who are here with me in the Philippines. Being so far away from home, away from family, friends, and all things comfortable is extremely hard. Especially when so many major things are happening while you're away and you can't help but feel like you're missing some important things. Flanny, Katheryn, and I have really created a "home away from home" together. We may be physically separated by a few miles (or in Katheryn's case, by a few islands), but we keep each other sane when things get to be too much; and during this Christmas season, when I'm missing my family and friends, knowing I won't see them for quite a few more months, that's exactly what I need.

I have so many mixed emotions about my time here so far, but I'm still incredibly grateful for this opportunity.

Akilah



PRESCHOOL NEWS

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior! We have had a nice Christmas break and we will be ready to get back to business in January. It seems like the years go by so quickly now and I don't know that I like that.

In January, preschool will be all about a Winter Wonderland. We talk about colder weather, snow, ice and animals that hibernate. I would love to see snow this winter! This is also the time when teachers expect much more independence from the children. This includes carrying their own belongings in, putting on their coats by themselves and being responsible in the classroom. We want to make sure that they will be ready for what comes next, whether it is another year with us or kindergarten.

This is an amazing congregation! We would like to say thank you for all that you do for this preschool. You were so quick to respond to the storm that came through and it allowed us to not miss a beat here at preschool. I know our parents were just as thankful!

Have a Happy 2017!

Love, Lisa

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Margaret "Midge" Caudle; Andy & Beverly Cheek, Robert & Lydia Carter, Cheryl & Ken Sampson, Jeff & Linda Karigan, Herman & Teresa Canipe, Joseph & Elizabeth McCutchen, Noell Duran (Glory to God hymnal).

In memory of Geraldine Norman; Steele Creek Historical & Genealogical Society.

In honor of Ellie Bostick; Anonymous

In memory of Dolores Smith, mother of Donna Winter; Toni & Greta Lambert, Emma B. Young class, Pat & Sandy Hart.

In memory of Carrie Sue Grier; Susan Osmar, Toni & Greta Lambert, Mable Osborne, Circle #1, Rozanna Lawing, Martha & Paul Sigmon, Emma B. Young class, Kay & Jim Patterson, Douglas & Shannan Townsend, Marlene & Andy Crowell, Marsha McDaniel, Jeff & Linda Karigan, Bob & Linda Blackwelder, Herman & Teresa Canipe, Edwin & Dianne Zagora, Annette & Manley Caudle, Burns & Jean Taylor, Joseph & Elizabeth McCutchen, Barry & Barbara Choate, Pat & Sandy Hart, Wilma Price, Charles G. Potts, James & Nan Grozier, Banks & Lucy Choate

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship, 10:30am Happy New Year!	2 Church Office Closed AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Publicity Team, 5:30pm Boy Scout Troop Leaders, 6:00pm	3 Circle #1, 10:00am B&G Team, 6:00pm Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	4 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm Christian Ed, 4:30pm Cub Scouts, 7:00pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	5 Preschool, 9:00am Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	6 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	7 Y Basketball Clinic 9:00am Circle of Friends, 10:00am
8 Sunday School, 9:15am Children's Choir, 9:50am Worship, 10:30am CYP Training, 11:45am Fellowship Team, 11:45am	9 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Staff Support, 5:15pm Worship Team, 6:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	10 Preschool, 9:00am Deborah Circle, 5:30pm Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	11 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Cub Scouts, 7:00pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	12 Preschool, 9:00am Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm Emmaus Board, 7:00pm	13 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	14 Y Basketball Clinic 9:00am
15 Sunday School, 9:15am Children's Choir, 9:50am Worship, 10:30am Deacons, 11:45am Chrysalis Group, 2:30pm	16 AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Cub Scout Leaders, 5:30pm Finance Team, 6:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	17 Preschool, 9:00am Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	18 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm Cub Scouts, 7:00pm	19 Preschool, 9:00am Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	20 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	21 Y Basketball Clinic 9:00am New Officer Exam, 10:00am
22 Sunday School, 9:15am Children's Choir, 9:50am Worship, 10:30am	23 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	24 Preschool, 9:00am Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	25 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm Cub Scouts, 7:00pm	26 Preschool, 9:00am Session, 6:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	27 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	28 Y Basketball Clinic 9:00am
29 Sunday School, 9:15am Children's Choir, 9:50am Worship, 10:30am	30 Preschool, 9:00am AA, 12:00pm RITI, 3:00pm Central Ringers, 6:15pm	31 Preschool, 9:00am Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm				

Birthdays-January

1 Sylvia Hendrix	21 Sue Koster
3 Darby Noblett	22 Barbara Lane
4 Mary Phillips	Joyce Elms
Landon Caudle	23 Guy Lawrence
5 Barry Choate	Steve Young
6 Betty H. Helton	24 Beckett Shaw
7 Brandon Russell	Kenny Burns
8 Glenn Litaker	25 Rob English
9 Jeanne Smith	Jenifer Russell
Donna Young	26 Jenaro Melendez
10 Della Medlin	27 Bob Blackwelder
Jeff Gordon	George Hege
Chris Knapp	28 Marge Caselli
11 Bryce Stevens	Reuben Mazingo
12 Ava Murray	29 Emmelyn Murray
Rock English	30 Jamal Hyrams
13 Joyce Smith	31 Joe McGrath
14 Brandon McGraw	Bill Young, Jr.
Hugh Shannon	

Worship Child Care — January 2017

	Volunteers		Volunteers	
January 1	Debby Moss	Leigh Ann Burns	Sallie English	Ardy Skidmore
January 8	Sallie English	Susan Osmar	Open	Open
January 15	Allison Burgess	Martha Osborne	Open	Open
January 22	Reuben Mazingo	Pam Brooks	Open	Open
January 29	Kerri Murray	Mary Deal	Open	Open

Worship Child Care Sign Up Genius link

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0548AFAD2BAFF2-2017