

CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28273

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**June
2017**

From the Pastor's Pen

Volume 17, Issue 6

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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I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the House of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1).

For 257 wonderful years, our brothers and sisters at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church were glad when they went to the House of the Lord. It was and is a beautiful place for them. Yet this past Sunday, "Big Steele Creek," as we affectionately call them, voted to officially begin discussions about merging with other Presbyterian congregations, specifically Pleasant Hill. That necessarily means that Big Steele Creek is moving. They started going to that particular "House of Lord" when North Carolina was still a British colony. They gathered for worship every Sunday since then, married their couples, buried their dead, and baptized and raised their children... for 257 years. And now, after all that, they're moving away.

I don't blame them at all. The airport is squeezing them out. Activities outside there are almost prohibitive now because of the noise of landing planes. With a new runway under construction, that will only get worse. The rail yard is coming too, which means even more noise, more traffic, and more construction. And even if they could mute all of that while church activities are happening, nobody lives around there anymore. The airport has bought them all out. So the church had no *good* decision to make. They could either wear ear plugs, preserve their history, and die in place, or they could move and possibly merge. They chose the latter. I respect and agree with their decision.

But my heart aches for them. I have gotten to know many of them through the years and deeply cherish my relationship with them. I count their pastor, Jeff Pinkston, as a close

friend. Whenever we have something over there, I sometimes try to get there early, in time to just walk around the place. In a city like Charlotte that has so carelessly de-valued its history in the name of embracing its future, Big Steele Creek has been a valuable respite.

Our congregation voted last month to disengage from merger talks with them. We felt called to worship and serve Christ right where we are, in the heart of Steele Creek. I respect that decision and believe that it was valid, just like theirs was. But I want the saints at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church to know that we are rooting for them. Whatever they decide to do, whether they stay or go, whether they merge with Pleasant Hill or not, I want them to know that we care about them, that we are praying for them, and that we are blessed to have them as partners in ministry.

The church is changing rapidly. The world is changing. None of us knows where all of this will lead. What we do know, though, is that God has built a home for us not made with hands, but one that is eternal. We're not at that place eternal home yet, so in the meantime, amidst everything else, God has built for us a home that *is* made with hands. God will do the same for our brothers and sisters at Big Steele Creek. It will be a beautiful place, just like their old place. They will worship the Triune God there every Sunday. They will marry their couples, bury their dead, and baptize and raise their children in the faith. May God grant them comfort as they leave the place they love so much, and the courage to embrace this new, unknown, but ultimately grace-filled and exciting future just around the corner.

-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
Joanna Harrigan	Director of Preschool
John Granger	Custodian
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Lauren Perkin	Treasurer
Jeanne Sikes	Financial Secretary
Charlotte Burgess	Clerk of Session

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:15am
Children's Choir	9:50am
Worship	10:30am

DEADLINES

July 2017 issue deadline is June 26th

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Articles received late will be included the next week.



THE MONTH OF JUNE

Baby Food & Formula

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

CSCPC WOMEN'S GROUPS

Circle #1

**Lunch @ John's Restaurant, 11:00am,
Tuesday, June 6th**

Circle of Friends

10:00am, Room 300, Saturday, June 3

**Deborah Circle
On summer break!**

THE BEGINNING OF THE CONVERSATION



"Christians have gotten so bogged down with infighting and policing Christianity that we've forgotten that the living Lord has called us to new joy in a community wider and deeper than we ever could have imagined. A community of merry making that looks a lot more like a party than a wake. A community of welcome that builds bridges, not walls.

Where, O church, is your joy? Where are your barrels of finest wine? We are a people called to the cross, yes, but what use is our freedom, what use is our great hope, if we do not also have the joy of Cana's wine? And how do we expect to pass on to the generations our hope if we are always caught up in nostalgia and mourning for something that never truly existed?

It is my sincere hope for each of us, beloved church, that the wine we drink from today be as real to us as it was for the steward, as real as it was for the bridegroom and the disciples. It is my sincere hope, beloved friends, that we too might taste the intoxicating joy that has come with Christ's incarnation. Among the disciples this new wine, this small glory, inspired belief. They saw only the edge of what would come, but by its beauty, its simplicity, its uncomplicated welcome, they were called further up and further in, following the thrilling scent of new wine mingled with holy blood, the paradoxical scent of life. So it is for us today at this table and every day in this world.

Jesus shows up, and the intoxicating flavor of glory breaks out. The world changes. He is transforming our sadness into joy, our anger into mercy, our fear into the Kingdom of God. And everywhere and always he is transforming water into wine. Always inviting, always calling.

So let's have another, shall we?

taken from *Journal for Preachers, Volume XL Number 4, Pentacost 2017*
"Let's Have Another" by Amelia A. Stuckey, pgs. 56-57.

Pastor's Reading Corner

Recommended Book List



The Starfish and the Spider; Ori Brafman & Rod A. Beckstrom; Penguin Group, New York, New York. ©2006

LAST CHANCE!

The old blue hymnals are destined to be recycled. If anyone would like to have one (or any amount) they are stored in boxes in the choir room under the west side windows. Help yourself! If you know of any church that could use them let Tom or Sheila know.



AKILAH'S YAV ADVENTURE

During the month of April, I had a wonderful opportunity to volunteer at an established Vacation Church School (VCS) at one of the local churches. The first week of VCS catered to the members of the church and the Sunday school children. Since the church heads multiple outreach programs, we traveled to a few of the outreach locations for the second week. I really enjoyed helping and teaching the children over the two weeks, but this blog post is not about the wonderful time I had at VCS. Something happened during my first week in VCS that has been weighing heavily on my heart. It's something I take very seriously and personally, and I need to address it openly with hopes of it benefiting someone else.

Most children know certain "nursery" rhymes. Whether they learn them from classmates or siblings, children eventually learn popular rhymes like Humpty Dumpty or Itsy Bitsy Spider. It's not uncommon to hear children singing them with their friends. Towards the end of the first week, one child was trying to choose between a few things (I'm unsure what those "things" were at this point) and she began to recite a counting rhyme:

"Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Mo
Catch a n****r by the toe
If he hollers, let him go
Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Mo"

Yeah, cue my shock during that second line. Honestly, it took me a few moments to recover, in which time, I'm sure the little girl realized that something was wrong, maybe it was the look on my face, but she unapologetically stated "My dad taught it to me."

After talking with the other teachers who had worked with the girl a little longer, I gathered that her father is an American who came to the Philippines to get remarried and start a family. He has also been known to express what would commonly be seen as prejudice and/or racist views. Not many of the other teachers were surprised that she learned such things from her father, but I felt like I was the only person with a lingering concern. In my mind, however, I'm screaming, "We are in a Church and SHE IS FIVE (5) YEARS OLD!!!" Although, the girl had no idea what the word meant, I had a major problem with the fact she is being taught to carelessly throw around racial slurs.

A quote from The African American Registry:

"The word, nigger, carries with it much of the hatred and disgust directed toward Black Africans and African Americans. Historically, nigger defined, limited, made fun of, and ridiculed all Blacks. It was a term of exclusion, a verbal reason for discrimination. Whether used as a noun, verb, or adjective, it strengthened the stereotype of the lazy, stupid, dirty, worthless nobody."

So, I took the opportunity to explain a few things to her. I simply told her "that word" is a very, very, *very* mean word. People say that word to make other people feel bad about the way they look and their darker skin. And I know that your father uses that word, but it's not a nice word. The rhymes are meant to be fun for everyone. I asked her "How about you try to use a different word, like 'tiger' or an animal you like?" In the end, she decided to use "kitten" because she loves kittens. Although I can't imagine how someone else would've reacted to the incident, I prayed that I handled the situation well and it was a blessing that God chose me to deal with the situation.

I am happy that we found a different word for her to use, I really am. However, the reality is that she is at home, where nothing has changed. She will continue to hear derogatory words that are hurtful and demeaning, yet everyone around her will disregard it or even encourage it because "that's just the way things are."

So, now, I am at a point where I am asking myself "What have I learned? What does God want me to take away from this experience?" Obviously, I can't really answer those questions on behalf of God, but I have had a chance to think about what happened and I can draw my own conclusions.

For years, I lived in a bubble. I created this bubble around myself so I wouldn't be bothered by what was happening around me. I remember moving from the suburbs of Chicago to Waxhaw, for the first time in my life, I was told that I "talk white". By the way, I still haven't figured out exactly what that means. I talk like many other African-Americans that I am around. I knew that I should be offended, but instead I remained falsely oblivious, pretending I didn't care what was said. That bubble stayed with me through college. My bubble protected me from the hurtful words people threw at me, so I took nothing personally. My bubble helped me remain blissfully unaware of the violence and corruption that is constantly showcased on the news and online. My bubble aided in my false belief that I could be uninvolved with the unpleasant things in society.

When I arrived in the Philippines, I should have realized my bubble didn't come with me. My parents have extensively traveled internationally and have shared with our family that racism and bigotry does not stop at

AKILAH'S YAV ADVENTURE (continued)

America's borders, but I remained optimistic. Sure enough, I've had some tough experiences here involving my hair, my weight, and my skin color. I still wrote them off as me being in a new environment and being unfamiliar with my surroundings, but it's more than that, especially now. Being 8000 miles away from my home country lit a fire to be more invested in the well-being of my country and all the people in it. America sets the standards for diversity and civil rights for other countries to follow; what messages are we sending the rest of the world today?

I recently turned 23 (happy birthday to me) and I am long overdue to be involved in what's going on in my country and creating solutions to unify all of God's children. I am an adult who is about to enter a society that I perceive to desperately cling to old beliefs; a society that is extremely divided and is constantly fighting or fiercely disagreeing as some call it. The situation with the little girl has taught me that I cannot run away and hide from the problems of my own country, because those problems have obviously found me on the other side of the world. Ignoring the problem doesn't make it go away. I pray that the same little girl will remember that words can hurt people and choose her own path toward respecting others.

I'll be home in a matter of days, maybe even by the time you read this blog post. As I begin my medical school journey, carve out the rest of my life, and impact the lives of others, this young woman commits to "stay woke" and will strive to bring healing to my country in more ways than one.

Akilah

What's Happening In Sunday School?

The Emma B. Young (EBY) Sunday School class honored one of their own in class on Sunday, May 21st. Rozanna Lawing was quite surprised when the opening devotion had HER name in it, Rozanna thought she needed to brush up on her biblical studies! "Today, we want to celebrate Rozanna, who we have all come to know and love. As a woman of God, she demonstrates the love of God that is poured out to all believers. Her steadfast faith and perseverance in ministry is a testament to the grace and anointing of God. We honor God who is our Father, and we honor Rozanna, who is our sister in the faith that we all hold dear."

This devotion was followed by the presentation of a plant for her garden, Johnnie Hayes' name being inscribed on the EBY remembrance plaque, a loving tribute written by her longtime friend Martha Jean, and delicious refreshments. The entire class had a great time of fellowship!



PRESCHOOL NEWS



The last day has come for preschool and it is not an easy day. This preschool has been a part of my life for such a long time now and I love it! You have all been so good to me and encouraged me without fail.

I want to take this time to say thank you for the wonderful reception that you gave me and my family. I have always known the love of this congregation was great but you made that celebration so special for my whole family. We will take all that love with us to our new home!

Please pray for JoAnna as she moves in to the position of Director. She is an amazing person and has a great group of teachers to support her. Encourage her when you get the chance. You can't imagine how much it means.

So much love goes out to all of you!

Lisa

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**IT'S
4 - 6 - 4
TIME AGAIN!**

4 concerts in June at 4

**6-4 The Bluegrass Travelers
Bluegrass Quartette**

**6-11 The David Payne Band
Beach & Rock**

**6-18 The Pathfinders
Gospel Trio w/Gary Russell**

**6-25 Tom & Sheila
From Hymn Time to Ragtime**



Join us for VBS!

Come along on amazing adventures with our favorite Bible heroes! Experience the Word of God through music, science and crafts and *discover your strength in God!*

When: Saturday, June 17th

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Who: Rising K – Rising 5th

Where: Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church
9401 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28273
704-588-1211

Register online today!

<http://cokeburyvbs.com/centralsteele>

Attention Ladies:

The Women's Retreat this year will be September 8-10. We will be going to the beach and staying at the Double Tree (formerly Spring-maid Beach Resort).

The cost will be: 2 in a room-\$192 each
3 in a room-\$142 each
4 in a room-\$118 each

(All the above pricing includes 2 nights & 2 breakfasts)

We are so excited to have our study led by Ashley Cheek! Ashley was our previous Director of Youth and Christian Education at Central. The study will be on "Choosing Presence and Experiencing God", the story of Ruth. If you want to go, please RSVP to Charlotte Burgess as soon as possible or call the church office. Payment is due by July 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte or the church office.

JULY HEAD ELDER, USHERS & COMMUNION SERVERS

Elder: Russell Helms

Ushers: Pam Brooks, Joyce Martin, Tim Hood

Communion Servers: Becky Helms, Joe McGrath, Miles Shepard, Sallie English, Jeanne Smith, Kathy Bricker, Charlie Bricker, Rock English



Cub Scout News

Below are photos of our Cub Scout Pack 45 Raingutter Regatta held CSCPC on May 20th, 2017. The track is 10 feet long and inflatable. Parents and the boys complete the regatta kits with decals. The boys compete by blowing the boats along the track. As you can see, there is a lot of excitement among the boys!



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Muriel Erickson, mother of Jeanne Smith; Rock & Sallie English, Emma B. Young class, Burns & Jean Taylor, Barbara & Barry Choate, Pat & Sandy Hart, Toni & Greta Lambert

In memory of Becky Neely; Carol Gallant

In memory of Edith Grier; Carol Gallant

In support of "Read to Achieve Program"; Circle #1, Jeanne Smith

2017 CHURCH DIRECTORIES



Please let Allyson in the church office know of any address changes, corrections, or additions that are needed for the new publication of our church directory. Publication date will be June, 2017.

Central's Life Application Speaker Series
Sunday's - July 9, 16, 23, 30
Family Life Center
9:00 a.m. Coffee and pastries
Session 9:15 a.m. (promptly) – 10:15a.m.



July 9th – Cultivating a Spirit of Generosity
No matter how much money you have!

Olanda Carr is the Ministry Relations Officer serving the East Region. He works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and

fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship and endowment committees. Olanda shares his call to the Foundation, "God calls us each day to do new and exciting things. I believe my service with the Foundation is such a call, and it provides me with an opportunity to further God's kingdom and the mission of the PC (USA)".

Olanda holds a BBA and MBA from Montreat College (North Carolina) and is an elder and assistant treasurer of First United Presbyterian Church. He resides in Charlotte with his wife, Monica.



July 23rd – Surviving and Thriving in the Midst of Loss and Grief

The marvelous thing about God is that the deeper the tragedy, the greater the grace. Dawn Smith Jordan is no stranger to both. On May 31, 1985, Dawn's younger sister, Shari, was kidnapped and murdered just two days before her high school graduation. It became the largest manhunt in South

Carolina's history, drawing national attention.

With the hope only found in Jesus Christ, Dawn went on to become Miss South Carolina 1986 and 2nd runner-up to Miss America. The Billy Graham Crusade came to South Carolina that same year, and millions were touched by Dawn's testimony, and her singing of "Amazing Grace."

In 1986 Dawn received a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Columbia College in Columbia, SC. Today, Dawn ministers in up to 75 concerts/events annually. The heart-beat of her music and message is the sufficiency of God's grace, even to the point of forgiving the man who killed her sister.



July 16th – Shaping the Next Generation: YOU have a critical role!

Karen Hodge Thomas and Vicki Hodge Lynch are the owners of Dynamic Impact Speakers Group, LLC. Karen and Vicki are

professional educators, spiritual and biological sisters who entertain, inspire, motivate, and challenge audiences. Whether delivering a keynote address, facilitating a seminar or presenting a workshop, audiences appreciate their ability to connect with participants in a down-to-earth manner that keeps it real.

Karen is a licensed professional counselor, retired school district administrator and former Director of Christian Education at her local church. Vicki is a National Board Certified Teacher who retired after 34 years of teaching with excellence. She is Director of Christian Education at her local church.



July 30th - Seasons of Doubt and Crisis of Faith: What does it mean? What should I do?

Rev. Luke H. Maybry was installed as Pastor at Central Steele Creek in March of 2008. Luke grew up in Campobello, South Carolina, and graduated from Wofford College in 1998.

He served four years in the Army at Fort Hood, Texas, attaining the rank of captain. After the army, he enrolled at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and graduated in 2006. He is currently enrolled in the Doctorate of Ministry Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Luke is married to his college sweetheart, Leah Robertson, and they have two daughters, Julia and Caroline, and a son, Jack. In addition to serving as pastor here, Luke is also a volunteer chaplain for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and a coach for the "Let Me Run" program. His hobbies are running, music, spending time with his family, and otherwise enjoying God's good creation.

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	2 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	3 Circle of Friends, 10:00am
4 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Graduate Reception 11:45am Guest Outreach Team, 11:45am 4-6-4 Concert	5 AA, 12:00pm Boy Scout Leaders, 6:00pm	6 Circle #1 @ John's, 11:00am B&G Team, 6:00pm Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	7 AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	8 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm Emmaus Board, 7:00pm	9 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	10 Mighty Acts Charity Golf Tournament 
11 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Fellowship Team, 11:45am Chrysalis Group, 2:30pm 4-6-4 Concert @ 4:00pm	12 AA, 12:00pm Staff Support, 5:15pm Publicity Team, 5:30pm	13 Alignment SW, 8:00am Finance Team, 6:00pm Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	14 AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	15 Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	16 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	17 VBS ! 
18 FATHER'S DAY Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am Deacons, 11:45pm 4-6-4 Concert @ 4:00pm	19 AA, 12:00pm Cub Scout Leaders, 5:30pm	20 Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	21 AA, 12:00pm Choir, 6:45pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	22 Session, 6:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm Food Addicts in Recovery, 7:00pm	23 AA, 12:00pm Bridgewater BB, 6:00pm	24
25 Sunday School, 9:15am Worship, 10:30am 4-6-4 Concert @ 4:00pm	26 AA, 12:00pm	27 Men's Basketball Ministry, 6:00pm	28 AA, 12:00pm Boy Scouts, 7:00pm	29	30	

Birthdays-June

1 Beth Patterson
Pauline Shaney
Dalton Spratt
2 Rachel Dorr
Anna Davis
3 Michael Tolley
5 Leigh Ann Burns
Wilson Caselli
Aman Hyrams
6 Rhonda Weaver
7 Jim Martin
Ansley Koch
8 Ava Carter
Dustin Shaw
13 David Hines
15 Ellis Kate Caudle
17 Joy Cheek
Cheryl Sampson

19 Ralph Hamilton
20 Erin Osborne
21 Eric Robinson
23 Helen Perkin
Bob Caudle
25 Hunter Wilson
29 Renee Daniel



Worship Child Care Volunteers June 2017

June 4	Lee Ann Burns	Barbara Choate
June 11	Donna Young	Lauren Shaw
June 18	Mary Deal	Teresa Canipe
June 25	Hope Moss	Megan Tolley