

# 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

## Summer 2022

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- CFAA Update (p 7)
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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

Hello Central Family & Friends,

School is out for the year and that means summer break has officially begun. This past school year has been very challenging for students, teachers, administrators, all school employees, and parents & family members. Despite various difficult circumstances, I hope your children and grandchildren had a fruitful and productive school year and are looking forward to a summer filled with fun and relaxation. Before you know it, 4th of July will be upon us, and August will be right around the corner... then it's almost time for "Back-to-School" (haha). I know, I know, teachers don't want to hear this... especially Minah and Nick as both are music teachers.

During the summer months, I will be preaching a couple of sermon series and the first series is called, "Mission of Christ" (3-part series) and the second series is called, "Let's Talk About God." (8-part series) We also have a special music worship on Sunday, July 3rd, with a special guest... Dawn Smith Jordan. I am hopeful that we can see many familiar faces that we haven't seen in a while in the coming weeks and months. My hope is that you will come and worship with us on Sunday mornings and be convicted to possess biblical perspectives, which leads to abundance of right-thinking and your wrong-thinking will be diminished. How you think encompasses everything you believe and influences your character, values, lifestyle, and behavior. God's Word reminds us that a person is what they are controlled by, and we are either controlled by the Holy Spirit or by the power of evil because our hearts are so far away from God. Isaiah reminded the people of his time that their hearts were far away from God and warned against "lip-services" to God. Isaiah 29:13-14... *And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the*

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*wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."* We need to be under the power of the Holy Spirit and not under the influence of sin and flesh. We need to adhere to Paul's message in Romans 8:6-8, *"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*

During this summer, as you make plans to travel and spend time with your family & friends, make plans to draw closer to God in times of worship, praise, and prayer so that your heart is controlled by the Holy Spirit and your mind is set on the Spirit of God. When we possess the indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit, God will fill out hearts, minds, and lives with unshakeable hope during our struggles and challenges. Paul tells us in Romans 5:5, *"Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."* And Paul's encouragement to be filled with the movement of the Holy Spirit so that you may possess hope continues later in his letter to the believers in Rome... *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."* (Romans 15:13). I pray that this summer will be your opportunity to encounter and experience the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in your journey of life and faith.

In Grace & Peace,  
Mark



## Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 704-588-1211

Fax: 704-588-1461

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mark Lee         | Pastor                                |
| Nick Pierle      | Director of Music Ministries          |
| Anna Edwards     | 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

*September/October 2022 issue deadline is  
August 24th.*

*Articles received late will be included the next month.*

*Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am*

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 JUNE

*Baby food & formula*

### THE MONTH OF JULY

*Canned fruits & juices*

### THE MONTH OF AUGUST

*Peanut butter & jelly*

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

## UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

Income to budget (5/31/22): \$161,881

Expenses from budget (5/31/22): \$157,920

Capital Reserve Fund balance (5/31/22): \$310,065

## From our Director of Music Ministries:

Greetings from the Music Ministry!



Summer is rapidly approaching and the growth of our music ministry continues to soar into new heights! Over the last month, our choir has learned multiple new contemporary songs and other anthems that we hope to use on a regular basis, the handbell ensemble has exceeded their goal of performing quarterly and now performing 1-2 times per month, and we have invited members of CFAA to provide musical offerings.

This summer, we have many exciting initiatives to offer the Central community and the surrounding community in the hopes of growing the music ministry and the church as a whole. First, Dawn Smith Jordan will lead us in worship on Sunday, July 3. She will share her faith journey through Scripture and song. Please join me in inviting the community for our worship that morning. Throughout the summer, we will also have the opportunity for anyone interested in singing in choir to join a one-time Sunday morning rehearsal. There's no commitment, and you will be able to lead the congregation through musical worship. Be on the lookout for more information regarding this in the weekly newsletters.

Towards the end of the summer and into the fall, we are planning for another August Hymn Sing. If you have a song, either hymn or contemporary song, that you would like to hear for that service click the link below.

Over the summer, the choir and handbells will continue their regular rehearsal schedule beginning June 8. Anyone who is interested is able to join. Handbells ring at 5:30-6:15 and the choir sings 6:15-7:30.

As I continue to plan music for our weekly worship, I would greatly appreciate your input. Please consider suggesting music for our worship by [clicking here](https://forms.gle/VumM8GbaQu66seEM6) or copying and pasting the URL below. Your hymn and contemporary music suggestions will be considered and used when possible.

<https://forms.gle/VumM8GbaQu66seEM6>

Yours In Christ,

Nick Pierle  
Director of Music Ministries  
nick@cscpc.org  
<http://cscpc.org/small-groups/music/>

### JUNE HEAD ELDER & USHERS

**Head Usher:** Pam Brooks

**Ushers:** Donna Young & Sandra Burke

### JULY HEAD ELDER & USHERS

**Head Usher:** Rhonda Weaver

**Ushers:** Mike Brown & Ellie Bostick

### AUGUST HEAD ELDER & USHERS

**Head Usher:** Martha Osborne

**Ushers:** Charlotte Burgess, John Burgess

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

In memory of Shirley Austin, Susan Osmar

In memory of Ruth Lawrence, Susan Osmar

In memory of Terry Herrington, Bill & Donna Young

In honor of Russell & Becky Helms, Guy Cline

## CELEBRATING GRADUATES

Congrats Grads!

Congratulations to **Jennifer Burgess Doyle**, who recently graduated from Lees McRae College with a Bachelors in Human Services and to **Emily McNeill**, who recently graduated from Queens University with a Masters in Health Administration. Central is very proud of these young women on their scholastic achievements.



## CENTRAL TO WELCOME DAWN SMITH JORDAN ON JULY 3



Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church is pleased to welcome Dawn Smith Jordan to lead and minister worship on Sunday, July 3 from 10:30-11:30.

Dawn Smith Jordan is a Christ-follower who began her relationship with Jesus at 9 years old. She is a Christian speaker, singer/songwriter, recording artist and published author. A former Miss South Carolina and 2nd Runner-Up to Miss America, you may have seen her on various TV programs

including the Billy Graham Crusade Classics, Forensic Files, or her family's movie on Netflix.

She is the mother of 2 grown children, and as an empty-nester, makes her home in Columbia, SC. She loves Jesus, family, friends, sushi, Hallmark movies, and the beach. She is a simple southern woman who is passionate about sharing the message of hope God has written into her life.

See you on July 3rd!

## Ladies Retreat

Our venue, Christmount Assembly in Black Mountain has been reserved for the weekend of **September 30 - October 2**. Registration will begin in June. Join us for another great women's retreat! We will be collecting fees starting June 12th following worship in the church library. Checks should be made payable to "Presbyterian Women".

## Birthdays-June

1-Beth Patterson & Pauline Shaney  
6-Rhonda Weaver  
13-Matthew Lee  
17-Joy Cheek & Donna Cook  
19-Ralph Hamilton  
20-Erin Osborne  
23-Bob Caudle  
24-Suzi Elliott  
25-Hunter Wilson  
29-Renee Daniel

## Birthdays-July

2-Daniel Kirk  
3-Mary Jane Palmer  
4-Teresa Canipe  
10-Jack Wilcoxon  
14-Sheila Rogers  
15-Mac Patterson  
16-Bryan Bridges, Ruby Potts, & Burns Taylor  
17-Caroline Patterson  
18-Andy Cheek  
19-Lynn Snuggs & Phil Wilson  
20-Jean Taylor  
25-Faith Stevens  
26-Fredia Butler  
27-Mike Arnold, Bill Eargle & Chet Knapp  
28-Toni Lambert  
31-Anna Edwards

## Birthdays-August

1-Karis Lee  
2-Susan Osmar  
3-Russell Helms & Ann Mozingo  
5-Debra Clapham  
7-Renee Perez & Fred Youngblood  
8-Celia Shepard  
11-Diane Price  
12-Paige McNeill & Debbie Eargle  
13-John Benton, Jim Stikeleather & Jim Cook  
15-Barbara Choate & Banks Wilson  
18-Jennifer Burgess Doyle  
19-Brad Clapham & Sallie English  
20-Pam Brooks  
21-Bud Shaney  
23-Caroline Taylor  
25-Donna Winter  
26-Gary Russell  
27-Debbie Stikeleather  
28-Sandra Burke & Carter Patterson  
29-Jim Noblett





## Victory Vision Care: Collecting Gently Used Eyewear

The Presbyterian Woman's organization at Memorial Presbyterian Church (2600 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216) is collecting gently used eyewear for Victory Vision Care - a ministry in Ghana. Information on the ministry is shown below. The final day for accepting donations is Sunday June 26, 2022 and it is requested that donations include the donor's name and Church.

Above. Kwame Amanfoh and Gifty Andoh, Techiman, Ghana

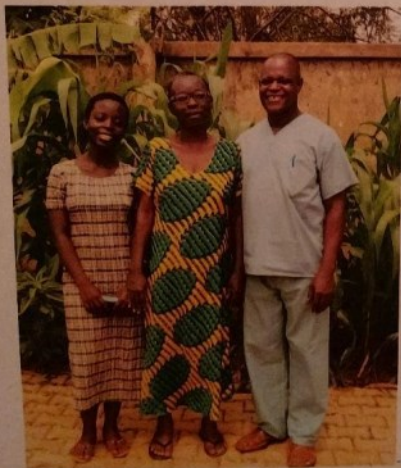
Kwame Amanfoh is from Ghana and now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. He works for Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat as an ophthalmologist technologist. Twice a year he travels back to Ghana for three months and runs Victory Vision Care.

He does not charge for eye examinations and only a tiny fee for glasses. On some occasions I have seen him give glasses free to people. Kwame is incredibly generous and kind, and many people who would not be able to afford glasses now have improved vision because of his charity clinic.

Seven years ago Gifty Andoh was using drops in her eyes for the condition glaucoma. She would buy her drops every two weeks from a local hospital. She had reasonably good sight and could see everything. One Friday she went and bought her drops. The senior eye nurse said they were from a different supplier but the same as her old ones. After using the prescribed drops three times over a twenty four hours period she was blind. She had twin daughters who were twelve when this happened. She went to several doctors in different towns and the prognosis was the same each time. Her eyes were ruined. In Ghana there is no compensation in anyway for such an occurrence, or government help. For seven years she has had to depend on her husband or children.

Yesterday I told Kwame about Gifty and he said bring her in to see me. He discovered she had a very small tunnel of sight in her right eye. The left eye was sightless. He tried several prescription lenses on her and then the miracle occurred. After seven sightless years Gifty could read letters on the wall chart. When we first arrived and he asked her about herself she told Kwame I would just like to see my girls. Her wish was granted today. In bright sunlight she described what Zenita her daughter was wearing in detail and then she hugged her. It was a very heartwarming moment for Elder Wood and I, Kwame and Zenita.

Kwame has arranged for Gifty to have prescription glasses made and Zenita and I chose pretty red ones for her. A small miracle today in Techiman and some very happy people.



—Thanks and have a great Day.....Diane & Rick

## MA Class Thanks You For Your Support!

Dear CSCPC Family,  
On behalf of the Mighty Acts Class, Russell and I would like to thank you for your contribution and support of the 2022 Mighty Acts Charity Golf Tournament. It was a wonderfully successful day of fellowship, fun and one of our best Tournaments!

In all, we raised \$7,300 that will be used throughout the year to assist children and families in crisis. In serving this mission, we believe you are our greatest partner. If you are aware of a situation where we could intercede, please let us know.

Please see our attached flyer for our Hole Sponsors, Players, Contributors, and Volunteers. Please take the time to review this list, reach out to individuals and businesses and thank them for their support.

Thank you again for your kind and generous support and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Thank You!  
Russell Helms  
Donna Cook

## Addressing Food Insecurity: Food Share Serves 130 families

Central served 130 Steele Creek families with a box of groceries by hosting a Loaves and Fishes Food Share event on our campus, June 10<sup>th</sup>. During this time of high grocery prices and children at home for the summer, many families needed extra help.

A Food Share event requires a team of volunteers, working hard for two hours to set-up the site, assemble the boxes, load the food boxes in the cars, and clean-up. Over a dozen Central people were joined by the Boy Scout troop, volunteers from American Airlines and the Y, in addition to the Loaves and Fishes staff.

For a Food Share event, we announce it through the schools and neighborhood organizations. Families must register ahead of time. Loaves and Fishes provides the food items which includes meat, dairy, fresh vegetables and fruit. In this event, the boxes were filled with frozen chicken, turkey & cheese luncheon meat, milk, cabbage, zucchini, cheery tomatoes, potatoes, mushrooms, grapes, and cereal. All of this is assembled into boxes and then loaded into cars as they drive through. The 130 families were served in an hour.



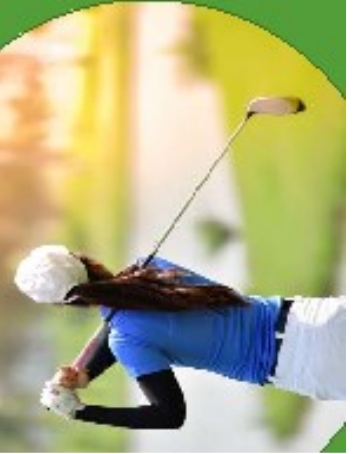


## DONATIONS

Photographer-Kenny Burns; NC Mountain Vacations-Jim & Debbie Stikeleather; Victory Custom Golf-Ken Husvar; Golf Galaxy; Hook and Reel Seafood Restaurant-Rivergate; Blooming Nails-Nancy Nguyen; Greater Golf Express; Wine Shop-Rivergate; Graper-Harper Cosmetics; Steele Creek Physical Therapy; Belk South Park-Nick Huck, Dennis Caperton; Vision Office Systems-Jason Habbal

Ed & Becky Arrington; Linda & Bob Blackwelder; Johnny & Charlotte Burgess; Sandra Burke; Frieda Butler; Beverly & Andy Cheek; Barbara & Barry Choate; Jim & Donna Cook; Michele Devine; Suzi Elliott; George & Marilyn Hege; John & Ann Horn; Chet & Chris Knapp; Mark & Minah Lee; Ann & Reuben Mozingo; Erin Osborne; Martha Osborne; Wade Shepard; Jeanne Smith; Dorothy Williams; Donna Young

Volunteers - Mike Brown, Charlotte Burgess, Kenny Burns, Beverly Cheek, Donna Cook, Michele Devine, Becky & Russell Helms, Mark Lee, Ann & Reuben Mozingo, Pam & Rick Murphy, Erin Osborne, Martha Osborne, Hugh Shannon, Jeanne Smith, Rhonda Weaver, Cary Young, Donna Young



## PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE TEAM - Matt Vojvoda, Wes Pope, John Verdonek, Travis Wetzel

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE TEAM - Barry Small, John Thurston Sr., Chris Sauer, Daryl Emmerson

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE TEAM - Johnny Burgess, Jimmy Burgess, Greg Rowland, Marshall Petit

MEN'S LONGEST DRIVE - Wes Pope  
LADIES LONGEST DRIVE - Leigh Anne Cumbee  
SENIOR LONGEST DRIVE - Leon Daniels

MEN'S CLOSEST TO THE PIN - Travis Wetzel  
LADIES CLOSEST TO THE PIN - Gaye Mitchum

Best Effort Award - Wray Moxley, Sue Birch, Reuben Mozingo, Ann Mozingo

50/50 Raffle - Martha Osborne

## TEAMS

- Larry Arbuckle, Don Arbuckle, Larry Smith, Mark Cameron
- Eldon Armstrong, Bill Thomas, David Thomas, Tom Henry
- Dan Brooks, Karen Brooks, John Regan, Chris Sullivan
- John Burgess, Sr., Jimmy Burgess, Marshall Pettit, Greg Rowland
- Andy Cheek, Kyle Russell, Gary Robinson, Gary Russell
- Mark Cybowski, Leigh-Anne Cumbee, Mike Hogan, Mike Cumbee
- Joe Doyle, Erick Wright, Ryan Gaspar, Arturo McKie
- Jason Habbal, Darriek Johnston, Mike Brown, Tim Adams
- Pat Hart, Ray Cathey, Keith Ratliff, Craig Logan
- John Horn, Merrill Gowdy, Reid Joyner, Gary Williams
- Russ Hughes, Dave LeMire, Brian Greenlee, Joachim Grabo
- Mike Morgan, Mike Morgan Jr., Don Baker, Leon Daniels
- Stan Morris, Van Caldwell, Gary Brumley, Bobby Brumley
- Wray Moxley, Sue Birch, Reuben Mozingo, Ann Mozingo
- Jeff Pugliese, Gaye Mitchum, Tom Grogan, Paula Grogan
- Barry Small, John Thurston Sr., Chris Sauer, Daryl Emmerson
- Lee Tindley, Nick Huelman, Blake Boulden, Bryson Bouldin
- Matt Vojvoda, Wes Pope, John Verdonek, Travis Wetzel
- Mike Young, Quay Youngblood, Greg Butler, Rick Janzen

## 2022 MIGHTY ACTS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**“TOUCHING HEARTS  
CHANGING LIVES”**

**MIGHTY ACTS GROUP  
CENTRAL STEELE  
CREEK PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

9401 South Tryon Street  
Charlotte NC 28273  
704-588-1211  
churchoffice@cscpc.org  
cscpc.org





# HOLE SPONSORS

Aqua Export - Stan Morris  
B&B Heavenly Transportation - Andrew & Tonya Burns

BD Builders - Joe Doyle  
Benton Outdoor Living - John Benton  
C-Charlotte Tours - Gary & Cella Brigman  
Central Fine Arts Academy - Jeanne Smith  
DJ Drew Entertainment - Kenny Burns  
Gary & Deborah Russell

George & Marilyn Hogg  
God Bless Maya, Mirabel, Noah, Jace & Zach,  
Makers of Love & Joy - Hugh Shannon  
Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday Johnny & Jimmy!  
Congratulations, Jennifer! - Charlotte Burgess

Honda Cars of Rock Hill - Joel Suggs, GM  
In Honor of Doctors & Nurses - Herman & Teresa Canipe

In Honor of Erin Osborne - George & Marilyn Hege

In Memory of Billy Graham - Anonymous  
In Memory of Jerry Cheek - Beverly & Andy Cheek

In Memory of Leigh Ann Burns - Kenny Burns  
In Memory of Lewis & Alliane Burns - Kenny Burns

In Memory of Our Wonderful Mothers,  
Virginia Moxing Barrfoot & Wilma Sossoman Borden - Reuben & Ann Mazingo  
In Memory Wally Osborne - Debby Moss & Donna Young

Jimmy & Debbie Burgess  
Joe Mommas - Augustine Gil

John's Family Restaurant - John Tsoulas  
Key Realty of Charlotte - Sandra Burke

Kevin Kronk  
Lollipop Child Development Center - Nancy Ridgeway, Glen & Liz Litaker

McAlister's Ayrley - Loretta Ladish, Matt Jamison

NAPA Know How - Johnny Burgess  
NC Mountain Vacations, Bostic, NC,  
VRBO.com #961111 - Debbie & Jim Stikeleather

NC Mountain Vacations, Bostic, NC,  
VRBO.com, #781727 - Debbie & Jim Stikeleather

Pat & Sandy Hart In Honor of Grandchildren:  
Jackson, Jeremy, William, Ansley  
Potts Heating & Air - Linda & Eddie Potts  
Price Brothers - Bob Price

Proud Great Grandparents Hugh & Olga Shannon, Loving Great Grandparents of  
Maya, Mirabel, Noah, Jace & Zach - Hugh Shannon

Re-Strap, Inc. - Al Tuggle  
Russell & Becky Helms

Sculptures by Pamela de la Roché Murphy,  
Sculptures for All Occasions-Available for Commissions

Smithfields Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q - Xavier Cox, Mgr.

Sport Court Carolina-Dave & Beverly Barbee  
Steele Creek Animal Hospital - Dr. Patricia Young

Steele Creek Printing - Charles Wilkerson  
The Caule Family - Mike & Judy Brown  
The Front Porch Antiques, Simpsonville, SC - Van Caldwell

Tinsley & Terry CPAs, P.A. - Steve & Lee Tinsley

Vision Office Systems - Jason Habbal, Fred & Alice Habbal

We Are Called To Serve One Another, Micah 6:8 - Chris & Chet Knapp



## THANK YOU from STEELE CREEK ELEMENTARY

Steele Creek Elementary School  
4100 Gallant Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
980-343-3810  
980-343-3814

March 14, 2022

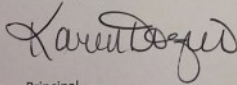
Dear Reverend Lee,

I am writing once again to express my sincere gratitude for all the support Steele Creek Elementary School has been gifted with by your church. On a regular basis, Jeanne Smith reaches out to inquire about how parishoners from *Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church* can help our school. Through the work of teams of individuals from the church, students and staff have benefitted from the following:

Quarterly snacks  
Christmas "wish Lists" being granted  
School supply donations  
Gift cards  
Use of the facility  
Clothing donations  
Food donations  
Support with reading with students (prior to Covid)  
Foodbanks

This is not an exhaustive list, as I am sure there are other ways the church has blessed stakeholders of our school. Today, I pause to say thank you for the continued support. We are incredibly grateful for your willingness to collaborate with and support our school on a consistent basis.

Kind regards,



Principal

**cms**

CharMeckSchools f i t w wearecms.com

## Seeking Secret Saints

We need volunteers for this upcoming school year to support our college students. This program provides support and love from our congregation to continually remind our students that our congregation cares for them.

To ensure consistency amongst the students, the guidelines are as follows:

- Cards mailed to student for each holiday and throughout the year just to say you are praying for them.
- \$25 gift cards or gift sent at Christmas and on their birthday.
- Goodie boxes sent to students at beginning of each exam period (early December, early May). These should not exceed \$25

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Donna Cook @ 704-649-3673 or [donnaeacook@att.net](mailto:donnaeacook@att.net).



## Expanding into summer after a successful school year!

The Central Fine Arts Academy had a great Spring session and End of Year Showcase on May 21st. We totaled 28 students during the Spring studying sculpture, piano, violin, guitar, and voice. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that devoted their time on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons to chaperone our lessons. Below are pictures from the showcase.



The Central Fine Arts is holding the first summer session from June 14<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup>. Twenty four classes are scheduled on Tuesday evenings from 4 pm to 8 pm. We will be expanding our program to include all of the following options for lessons: piano, violin, guitar, percussion, voice, sculpture, clarinet, flute, trombone, trumpet, and saxophone. We are excited to be expanding the program to reach a wider audience. Thank you all for your continued support!

In the 2021-2022 school year, CFAA doubled its size to 28-30 classes for each of the three 10 week sessions. In addition to being in-person, classes were held on both Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, allowing more flexibility for family schedules. However, most important was the reputation for providing high quality instruction at an affordable cost in a safe and caring environment. Each session concluded with a Showcase, an informal recital for family, friends and church members. It is always exciting to see the learning and talent in the children. Please volunteer to join us on Tuesday evenings this summer. All help will be appreciated. You can volunteer to come one or several times. Please contact Jeanne Smith ([jesmith8412@gmail.com](mailto:jesmith8412@gmail.com))



## Nick's Travels

In June I had the immense privilege of completing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While there, my family and I visited several sites referenced in the Bible, including sites of the Nativity of Jesus, the Wedding at Cana, and the Jordan River where Christ was baptized. We also had the opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross and venerate the Tomb of Our Lord. Throughout my travels, the location that impacted me the most was the site of the Annunciation where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would bear a child, Jesus. The Holy Spirit was moving in that space and I could feel His presence there.



**Jordan River:** This is where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. I was able to renew my Baptismal Vows here.



**Dead Sea:** Things got a little messy during the mud bath!

A personal highlight of the trip for me was swimming in the Dead Sea. Growing up, I read in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* about being able to float in the Dead Sea, and I always thought it would be fun to give it a try myself. My cousins and I swam in the Dead Sea, took mud baths, and enjoyed a fun-filled day of floating. Not only was I able to work on my "base tan" for the summer at the Dead Sea, but I crossed off a once-in-a-lifetime Bucket List item!

Israel is a melting pot of many Creeds: Christian, Muslim, and Judaism to name a few. Not only have I brought back a renewed understanding of my personal faith, but I have grown a deeper appreciation for other religions around the world. In the coming weeks, months, and years, I

hope that my work as Director of Music Ministries at Central is directly impacted and inspired by this pilgrimage with the goal of bringing our congregation close to God through the power of music. Nick



**Mount of Olives:** The Mount of Olives is just outside of the Old City of Jerusalem (pictured in the background).

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## Dare to Care Goal: \$4000

Can we **Dare to Care** and provide 25 homeless children with week-end food bags each week during the next school year? The Weekend Food Bags provide kid-friendly food items to children whose families are housing unstable, often with no permanent home. For several years, Central has supported children who are identified by the counselors at Steele Creek Elementary and now also South Pine Academy. This is the impact on children:

### Ms. Frazier at Steele Creek:

Thank you so much for collaborating with Steele Creek Elementary School to provide this resource for our children. The students look forward to Fridays and they stop by my office like clockwork. I never have to look for the older students because they are standing by my office door on Friday mornings to receive their bags. The pudding cups are a big hit. They always want to know if it is chocolate or vanilla. They guess what flavor will be in the bag before they look. We all get a good laugh about the flavor of the cups before they go back to class.

Most of the students receiving the weekend food bags are our families in the McKinney-Vento Program. These families live in shelters and hotels. Some students live doubled up with other family members or friends. This means you have two or more families living together in a home. When I have counseling sessions with the students during the week, they will share with me how they cook the ramen noodles with an older sister. They have shared with me their grandmother would cook the ravioli for them and add garlic bread for lunch. One student shared that he sits on the front porch with his baby brother, and they eat the applesauce. It is nice to hear how the food bags bring families together as well as provide a need for food insecurities in the home.

### Ms. Hunsinger at South Pine Academy:

We have a large number of students that qualify under a program called McKinney Vento. This means they are considered homeless. They tend to move around a lot and lack the stability. They may live in a hotel, rent a room from another family or they may live in a shelter. Often these students only get breakfast and lunch when they attend school. By sending the bags home with the students every weekend, we ensure they have something to eat during those days when they are not in school. We are so appreciative of receiving these bags.

We would like to continue this important support for needy children in our community. It will require us to replenish the Dare to Care funds, estimated to be \$4000 for the 2022-2023 school year.



Each bag costs about \$4.25.

Thank you for your help assembling the bags each month!