

# CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9401 S. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273

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www.cscpc.org churchoffice@cscpc.org

## November-December, 2023



### From the Pastor's Pen

Hello Central!

I love this time of the year... right after Halloween... as the weather becomes cooler, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. John Wesley said, "Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake, not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will." This Thanksgiving, pray with a grateful heart. Pray to offer praise to God for your life, family, and friends. Pray for God to lead you in the path that brings glory to his name. Pray for our church community as we seek to strengthen and grow in Christ. Pray for the staff and leaders who work to make ministry meaningful at Central. Pray for all the people who serve and provide the financial resources for ministry to take place. Pray for our church as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this community and the world. Pray for the sanctuary renovation project, which will commence in the new year, to be successful and on-time.

Give thanks to the Lord always with a grateful heart. I am thankful for you and for God's church at Central. I am thankful for all that God is doing among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future. Psalm 136:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Thanksgiving Day is only a few weeks away and I hope you will be filled with gratitude in your hearts and minds, despite your challenging circumstances. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I know you have a lot on your minds and hearts... cast all your concerns, worries and anxieties at the feet of cross and ask God to bless you with strength, guidance and hope. I pray you and your family will have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving.

Soon after Thanksgiving, we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. Just the mere mention of the word "Christmas" brings up all sorts of thoughts and emotions. For many, Christmas is a time spent with family and friends and is a joyous time of year. For others, it is a time spent alone due to family difficulties or losses and is a time of isolation. Christmas season is always an in-

Volume 23, Issue 5

teresting time because people have different emotions about this season based on their perspectives and surrounding life circumstances. For some people it's the most exciting time of the year, but for others it can be a time filled with melancholy attitudes and feelings of despair. Many think of presents under the tree and the excitement of children and grand-children. We think of hot chocolate, delicious food, decorations, and the proverbial "white Christmas," which is highly doubtful in Charlotte. But Christmas is so much more than these things as Christmas is about Jesus Christ. It is about the gift God offered to humanity through the giving of his son, the one who shed his blood at Calvary and paid the full price for our sins so that we might experience eternal life with him by placing our faith and trust in his work on the cross.

The whole Bible is a redemptive historical account of the Savior, who is the essence of Christmas, and the central truth of the Christmas story is that the Child of Christmas is God. Christmas is more than a birth and infancy of the Savior... it is about His death and the reality of God being born into the world. I believe Paul's letter to the Christians in Colosse sums up the true meaning of Christmas... "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) During this Advent Season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy of God. I pray that all four of God's blessings will fill your life in every way, this Christmas and beyond. Please come and join us in learning about and seeking to live out the true meaning of Christmas during this Advent Season.

I also want to thank all the volunteers at Central for your faithful service during this past year. I am so grateful for how you have served so sacrificially, despite challenging circumstances in your personal and family lives. Thank you so much for all you do.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas!!  
In Grace & Peace,  
Mark

#### Special points of interest:

- From the Pastor's Pen (p 1)
- From the DOMM (p 2)
- CFAA Update (p 3)
- Sanctuary Reno Update (p 5)
- Advent Schedule (p 7)

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

#### In this issue:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| From the Pastor's Pen                         | 1 |
| Loaves & Fishes                               | 2 |
| Message from our Director of Music Ministries |   |
| Finance Team Update                           |   |
| Sept/Oct. Elders/Ushers                       |   |
| CFAA Update                                   | 3 |
| Birthdays November & December                 |   |
| Angel Apple Tree 2023                         |   |
| Food Insecurity                               | 4 |
| Joy Offering                                  |   |
| Sanctuary Renovation Update                   | 5 |
| Women's Retreat 2023                          | 6 |
| Eagle Scout                                   |   |
| From Session                                  |   |
| Thanksgiving-Advent Schedule                  | 7 |

**Central Steele Creek  
Presbyterian Church**

Phone: 704-588-1211  
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Mark Lee	Pastor
Scott McKenzie	Director of Music Ministries
Joni Turner	Director of Central Fine Arts Academy
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Lauren Perkin	Financial Administrator
Donna Young	Financial Secretary
Erin Osborne	Children's Activity Director
Anthony Tucker	Custodian
Chet Knapp	Clerk of Session

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday School	9:15am
Worship	10:30am

**DEADLINES**

*The January-March 2024 issue deadline is  
December 18th, 2023.*

*Articles received late will be included the next month.  
Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am*



**THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

*Boxed Pasta or Potatoes*

**THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

*Canned Soups, Vegetables, and Meats*

*Please place items in the donation box  
located in the Church Narthex. 90 pounds of  
food items were delivered to the pantry  
in October*

**UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:**

Income to the budget as of 9/30/23: \$274,263  
Expenses from the budget as of 9/30/23: \$298,400  
Capital Reserve Fund Balance: \$319,367  
Sanctuary Renovation Fund Balance: \$44,645

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!

**NOVEMBER HEAD ELDER & USHERS**

**Head Usher:** Lynn Snuggs  
**Ushers:** Wade Shepard, Judy Brown

**DECEMBER HEAD ELDER & USHERS**

**Head Usher:** Jeanne Smith  
**Ushers:** George Hege, Lynn Snuggs

**From our  
Director of Music Ministries:**



Can you believe the holidays are right around the corner and retailers are already decorating for Christmas? I am so looking forward to my first Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas with CSCPC! We have some lovely and meaningful music planned for this special time of the year.

I am enjoying adding the band, Vanessa and Christian, to our worship services and am working hard to choose music that showcases these musicians and glorifies God, as all music that is offered to God is sacred music.

We are also making plans to worship in the family life center during the renovations. This will include a new keyboard and learning how to make the sound system work in an echoing gymnasium space. I am thankful for all the tech volunteers that help us on a weekly basis.

It's still not too late to join the choir and be part of the wonderful Christmas music.

This Sunday, as we remember and honor those who have passed, let us remember the significance of family, friends, and this coming season of celebration, music and prayer. Music and God's Light,  
Scott



*Daylight-Saving  
Time Ends*

*Set your clocks back  
one hour on Sunday,  
November 5th*



## **Birthdays-November**

- 1-Diane Hayes, Whitney Smith, & Cathy Lee
- 2-Mark Lee, Rachel (Cheek) Bauer
- 3-Donna Stuart
- 4-Greta Lambert & Joyce Quinn
- 5-Bernard Simmons
- 6-Kevin Kronk
- 8-Wade Shepard
- 9-Dorothy Williams
- 10-Charlie Wilson
- 11-John McGloughlin & David Hillard
- 12-Herman Canipe
- 14-Karen Noblett
- 17-Bob Hunter
- 23-Hazel Wilson & Angela Smith
- 29-Rozanna Lawing

## **Birthdays-December**

- 6-Mark Clapham
- 10-Deborah Russell
- 12-Wilma Price, Eric Smith
- 13-Miles Shepard & Andrew Burns
- 19-Lynn McNeill & Jeanne McGrath
- 21-Kathy Bricker
- 28-George Bostick
- 31-Charlotte Burgess

### **Angel Apple Tree 2023 Supporting the Classroom Teachers at Steele Creek Elementary School**



Please donate to the Angel-Apple Tree fund to help Steele Creek Elementary teachers in their classroom instruction during Advent. Donations will be combined and then divided among the teachers, providing gift cards so that the teachers can purchase what is most needed in their classroom

For the past two years, we were able to provide **\$25** gift cards for all SCES classroom teachers, specifying that the money was to be used to help in the instruction and learning of the students. The cards were provided in early January – when school supplies are often running low. We received many notes from teachers expressing their appreciation. We want to continue this successful program. Please donate, remembering to mark "Angel-Apple" on your check memo line to designate your gift for this collection.

- 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.

***Let us help the teachers at Steele Creek Elementary!***



The Central Fine Arts Academy continues to grow. The Fall Session is very busy with 65 lessons being held each week in piano, guitar, violin, sculpture, ukulele, and drums. All the classes are growing with piano remaining the most popular. Drums and voice are also in high demand. We are pleased to welcome Karis Lee as our instructor in ukulele. Our director, Joni Turner, has provided strong leadership to handle this growth - in lessons, students and teachers.

Thank you for the many volunteers who are there each Tuesday and Saturday to observe and support the students. There is a team of 12 church members who help throughout the session by welcoming and signing-in students and monitoring the classes. Many of these also helped promote the CFAA in the school open houses last August.

**Please plan on attending the next Showcase on Friday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary.** This informal recital is a positive experience for both the children and the audience.

Planning has begun for the next academy session which will start in mid-January.

The CFAA provides a positive and creative environment for children in the Steele Creek community. It also is an important way that we can connect with young families and provide the nurture and support that a faith community provides. These are opportunities for you to help:

- Help monitor the classes so that CFAA can meet the youth protection requirements.
- Share information about the CFAA programs with family, friends or on social media.
- Be a member of the church oversight board.

Please contact Jeanne Smith ([jesmith8412@gmail.com](mailto:jesmith8412@gmail.com)) to volunteer or for more information.



## Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a continuing issue with many Steele Creek families. Central is helping to address this issue:

1. Supplying food items for the Loaves and Fishes panties has been a community out-reach project of our church for many years. And each year, our donations accumulate to total several hundred pounds. Each month we are asked to provide different foodstuffs: boxed pasta and potatoes for November; canned soup, vegetables and meat for December. Please contribute by placing the items in the cart in the narthex.

The donated food is used in the Loaves & Fishes 'network of 30 emergency food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County. They are able to provide a week's worth of groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis. In 2022, close to 120,000 people were served. It is funded through donations of groceries through many sources (churches, businesses, Boy Scout Drive, and St. Andrews' gleaning program) and financial donations, which helps buy perishable foods such as eggs, cheese, meat, and bread.

2. Week-end Food Bags. Thank you for your help each month in assembling the week-end food bags. This is truly an all-church effort! Each week during the school year, these are provided to children whose families have no permanent home and attend Steele Creek Elementary and South Pine Academy. The food bag items are chosen to be kid-friendly, able to be used with a minimum of preparation and only a microwave to heat. This school year, Mike Brown and George Bostic deliver the food bags to the counselors at each school – so that the children go home with a bag at the end of every school week.



## Please donate to the Joy Offering during Advent

The Christmas Joy Offering is a Presbyterian Church-USA offering, with many churches contributing. This has been a tradition at Central. It supports:

### **Past and current church workers:**

It honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded. \$1.1 million of gifts from the 2022 Offering are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need, which include income supplements, housing supplements, and emergency assistance grants.

### **Future leaders:**

The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue — sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years. \$1.1 million of gifts from 2022 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

## SANCTUARY RENOVATION TASK FORCE UPDATE #2

At our last sanctuary renovation update October 1st (see link below), we announced that the architect's plans were approved by Mecklenburg County. Since then several general contractors have made site visits, and we expect to receive bids this week so a hire can be made as we head into November.

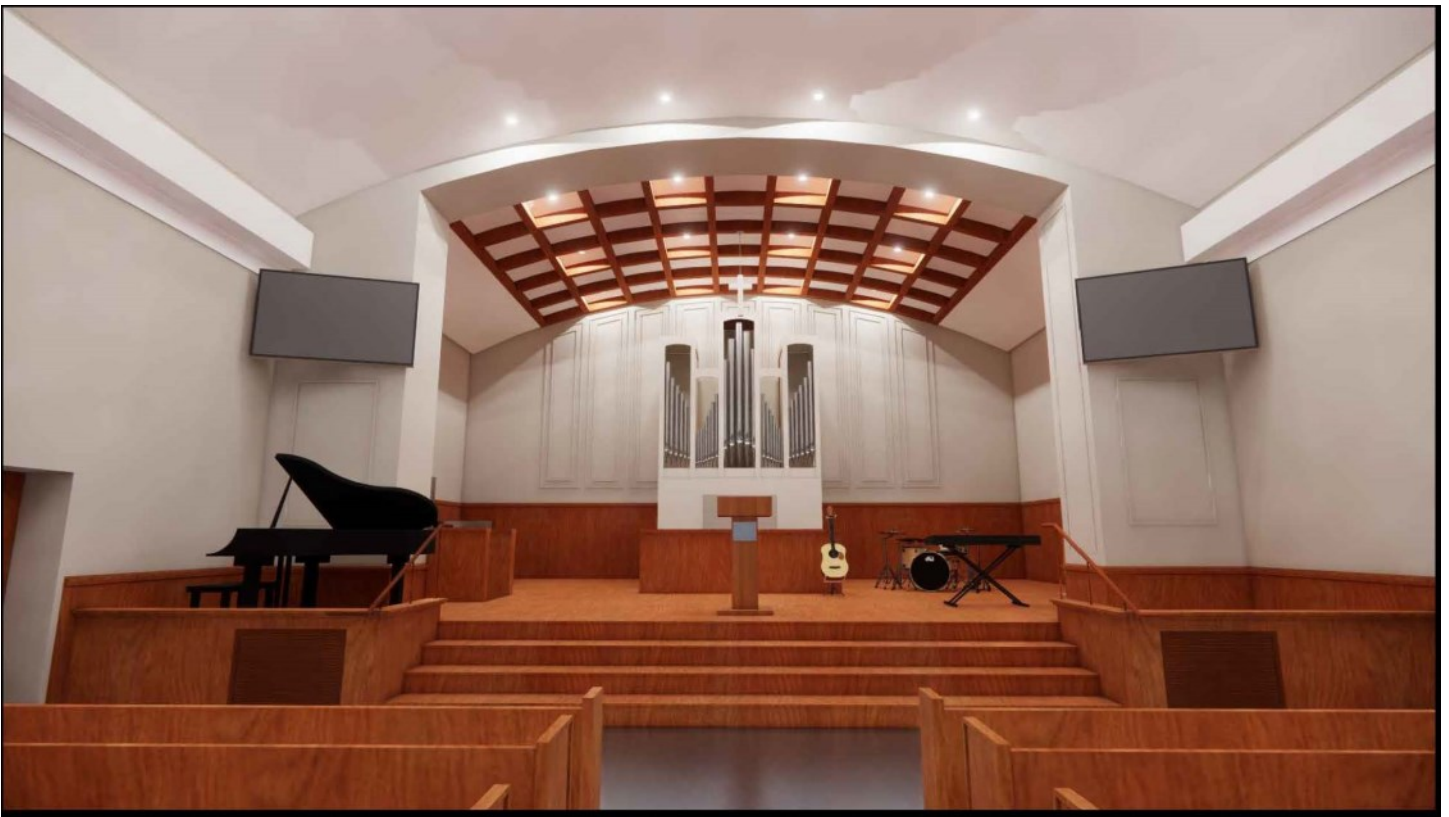
On October 20, we met with our lead architect, Lisa Anderson to select carpeting for the sanctuary and hallways, and plan to select paint colors in the coming week.

Please see below the final rendering of the sanctuary. In this rendering the wood around the organ will be painted a lighter shade to coordinate with the contemporary, open design of the sanctuary. By removing the screen concealing the organ as depicted in earlier renderings, the organ and pipes now will be the focal point when entering the sanctuary. In addition, by removing the screen this will ensure the sound quality of the organ is not compromised.

The hanging light fixtures currently in the sanctuary will be removed during construction at the beginning of 2024. If you would like one or more of the fixtures please contact a member of the task force and your name will be added to our list.

Thank you for your continued financial support and prayers,  
Jim Cook, Jeanne Sikes McGrath, Herman Canipe, Becky Helms

<https://youtu.be/S67gMlxJmbY?t=535>

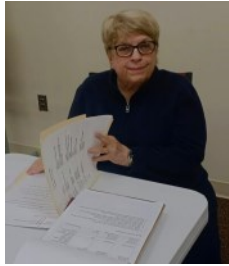


### PEWS ANYONE?

Are you interested in owning one of our pews in the sanctuary? Ten pews are designated for removal when construction of the sanctuary begins January 2024. Eight pews are in the choir loft. The front row of lower seating has two pews that can be claimed. Please contact one of the sanctuary renovation task force members by **November 1<sup>st</sup>** so your pew(s) can be reserved in your name. Otherwise, the architect will make other arrangements to have the pews removed. If you feel so led, consider a donation to the sanctuary renovation fund. Thank you, Jeanne Sikes McGrath, Herman Canipe, Jim Cook, Becky Helms

## Women's Retreat October 2023

Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, NC hosted 20 of Central's women and their guests October 13-15, 2023. This was our second retreat in Black Mountain, and, once again, it was inspiring. The weather was perfect, and the foliage was breathtaking.



Kathy Bricker led our Bible study "Living a Life of Chocolate" which helped show us how to love others despite our differences. There was much discussion on this topic!!

Music is always a special time, and this year Rhonda Weaver and Charlotte Burgess led us as we joyfully sang many songs.



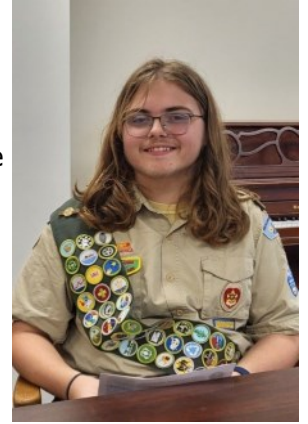
Our goal for the retreat was to have everyone leave recognizing the good gifts God has given us in our life and that our words and actions will reflect the love and light of Jesus so that others may know Him through us. We went home with new friendships, renewed friendships, a revitalized relationship with God, and more energy to serve him. Our retreats are very special to all the women who attend, and we look forward to next year!

### 2023 Retreat Team

Diane Price, Ellie Bostick, Kathy Bricker, Cathy Lee, Michele Devine



## Eagle Scout: Max Werner



Troop 45's newest Eagle Scout is Max Julian Werner. The Eagle Scout award is Scouting's highest honor awarded to a youth member, and only about 4 percent of the members who enter the Scouting program ever earn this award.

To earn the Eagle Scout award, Max was required to complete a community service project. For his project, Max chose to renovate the outdoor center courtyard at Steele Creek Elementary School. (pictures below)

Max first joined Scouting as a member of our own Pack 45, under the leadership of Charlie Bricker. During his time with Troop 45, Max has earned 50 merit badges, served as the troop's Senior Patrol Leader, served as an instructor on the summer camp staff, and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow.



## FROM SESSION:

Recently Session has reviewed and updated several of Central's church policies. If you are interested in reading any of these, they are kept on file in the church office or you can call the church office and request a pdf version sent to your email.

- USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES POLICY
- FUNERAL POLICY
- CAMPUS AND FACILITY SECURITY POLICY
- GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY AND GUIDELINES
- CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY \*(being updated)



## **Thanksgiving and Advent Season**

**Community Thanksgiving Service**-Tuesday, November 21, 6:30pm  
Central Steele Creek Presbyterian

**Hanging of the Greens**-Sunday, November 26  
following worship Service, 10:30 (String Quartet)

**First Sunday of Advent**-Sunday, December 3  
Worship Service, 10:30am

**Second Sunday of Advent**-Sunday, December 10  
Worship Service, 10:30am  
Christmas Lunch, 11:30am in Family Life Center

**Third Sunday of Advent**-Sunday, December 17  
Worship Service, 10:30am

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**-Sunday, December 24  
Lessons & Carols Worship Service, 10:30am

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**-Sunday, December 24, 5:30pm  
Come early (5:00pm) to hear prelude

Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church 9401 S. Tryon Street