

# CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28273

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www.cscpc.org churchoffice@cscpc.org

## January-February, 2024

### Special points of interest:

- From the Pastor's Pen (p 1)
- From the DOMM (p 2)
- CFAA Update (p 3)
- Sanctuary Reno Update (p 4)
- Advent Season Pictures (p 5)

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	
January Elders/Ushers Memorials & Honorariums	
CFAA Update	3
January/February Birthdays	
Support in Steele Creek	
Sanctuary Renovation Update	4
Angel Apple Tree Update	
Weekend Food Bags	
Women's Retreat 2024	5
Women's Bible Study	
Advent Season in Pictures	
CFAA Winter/Spring Flyer	6



## From the Pastor's Pen

Hello Central Family & Friends,

Happy New Year!!! I pray that in this new year, all of us can draw closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ, in our daily journey of faith. The new year will bring new challenges, struggles, hardships, and unforeseen life circumstances. But our God will continue to reveal his same grace & love to us so that we are not in despair. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:8-10... *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."* You are not alone in your struggles of faith and life, but our God is with you and all the believers of Jesus Christ at Central are together through the fellowship of Christ.

Easter comes early in 2024... Sunday, March 31... and Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, which is also the Valentine's Day. I hope you will make plans to show your love to God on Ash Wednesday as the Lenten season begins with solemn remembrance of God's love for us. The Lenten season developed as part of the historical Christian calendar and is typically celebrated by Catholics and some mainline Protestant churches that follow a liturgical calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same... to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and offering as we anticipate the Holy Week. Similar to the Advent season, Lent is a time to draw closer to our God, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it's not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive God's overflowing grace. Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to God seeking His forgiveness and mercy, which He surely bestows upon us as we seek Him with genuine, submissive, repentant, and humble hearts. Lent is also an oppor-

Volume 24, Issue 1

tunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross. How much He suffered for us so that we can be redeemed in our relationship with God as His children. Here is a wonderful passage from the Bible that is very helpful for us as we prepare for Lent. Philippians 3:8-11... *"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."* The Lenten season is preparation for celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Speaking of Easter Sunday, that is our hopeful target date to return into our renovated sanctuary. Construction in the sanctuary is scheduled to begin in early January and we will shift our worship services into the Family Life Center for the next several months. Please look for a detailed announcement regarding the renovation plans from the Sanctuary Renovation Task Force and the Worship Team. On behalf of Central, I would like to thank all of you for generously contributing to the renovation fund to make this updated sanctuary possible for the church. Let us join in prayer for the timely completion of the renovation so that we can worship our God on Easter Sunday in our new and improved sanctuary.

In Grace & Peace,  
Mark



**Central Steele Creek  
Presbyterian Church**

Phone: 704-588-1211  
Fax: 704-588-1461

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 March-April 2024 issue deadline is  
February 17th, 2024.  
Articles received late will be included the next month.  
Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am*



**THE MONTH OF JANUARY**  
*Canned Vegetables*  
**THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**  
*Canned Soups*

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

**UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:**

Income to the budget as of 12/27/23: \$402,896  
Expenses from the budget as of 12/27/23: \$402,892  
Capital Reserve Fund Balance: \$340,015  
Sanctuary Renovation Fund Balance: \$90,461

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!

**JANUARY HEAD ELDER & USHERS**

**Head Usher:** Rhonda Weaver  
**Ushers:** Lester Weaver, Pat Hart

**From our**

**Director of Music Ministries:**

Happy New Year! May this new year renew your energy and faith in God ! This is a year of transition at CSCPC, as we temporarily move into the Family Life Center. This will be a challenge for us all. The staff is working hard on keeping the meaningfulness and intimacy as we worship in this large gymnasium space. There will be frustrations and successes as we struggle with music and sound. However, I believe we are up to all of these hurdles and with God's help, will continue to inspire through our worship services. In addition to the sanctuary renovations, we will also be doing some repairs to our magnificent pipe organ. When we return to our beautiful sanctuary, we will be able to operate at full tilt! I look forward to our return, but in the meantime, our church family can still be together and march boldly into the future with the help of God . I hope this new year brings you peace, happiness, good health and a deeper understanding of your relationship with God .



Thank you for letting me be the steward of the music at CSCPC .

Music and light ,  
Scott

**MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS**

**In memory of Kay Patterson;** Bob & Linda Blackwelder, Karen & Robert Bryant, Sandra Burke, Herman & Teresa Canipe, Andy & Beverly Cheek, Joy Cheek, Mark & Debra Clapham, Matt & Holly Clapham, Daniel Couchenour Family & Z. Emory, John & Mary Rob Coupland, Bill & Jan Darling, Mary & Bobby Dayvault, Marcia Hammond, Pat & Sandy Hart, Ruby Holland, John Land, Susan Mullinix, Susan Osmar, Mary & Jack Phillips, Mike & Jeanne Quinn, Mandy & Brooke Reeve, David Rowland, Shirley Smith, Lester & Elaine Stocks, Jackie & Carl Stone, Harry & Portia Weatherly, Bill & Donna Young, Dorothy Williams, Jim Patterson, Russell & Becky Helms, Huggins & Binz families, Jeff & Linda Karigan, Mike & Judy Brown, Martin Butler, Betsy & Sam Stewart

**In memory of Hugh Shannon;** Sandra Burke, Herman & Teresa Canipe, Susan Osmar, Bill & Donna Young, Russell & Becky Helms, George & Marilyn Hege

**In memory of Robert Caudle;** Wesley Caudle

**In memory of Charles Crow;** Dorothy Williams

**In memory of Charles Grier Potts;** Richard Potts, Ruby Potts

**In memory of Edith Grier & in honor of Ralph & Robert Grier;** Roy & Debbie Grier



## Birthdays-January

- 1-Sylvia Hendrix
- 7-Brandon Russell
- 8-Glenn Litaker
- 9-Cameron Dahm, Donna Young & Jeanne Smith
- 10-Jeff Gordon & Chris Knapp
- 13-Joyce Smith
- 24-Beckett Shaw & Kenny Burns
- 27-Bob Blackwelder & George Hege
- 28-Reuben Mazingo
- 30-Anthony Tucker
- 31-Bill Young, Jr.

## Birthdays-February

- 3-Peyton Burgess & Liz Litaker
- 6-Clifford Austin
- 14-Jim Patterson
- 15-Beth Boykin
- 19-Mable Osborne
- 26-Tim Osmar
- 28-Dave Barbee

## **Supporting Children and Teachers in the Steele Creek Community**

Helping Children who deal with Housing Insecurity: Too many children have no stable housing and so are frequently moving, sometimes staying in shared spaces with friends or relatives, sometimes in shelters or poor quality hotels. Steele Creek area schools see the impact on the children everyday, academically but also with the lack of warm clothing and sufficient food.

School social workers and counselors are the connection to these families. This is how Central is helping these children:

- Week-end food bags for students at Steele Creek Elementary and South Pine Academy each week. Your donations to the Dare to Care Fund and help in assembling the bags are much appreciated.
- Gift cards (\$200) to allow the 4 families of the Steele Creek children to buy groceries, clothing and items most needed. The Mighty Acts class provided these cards from monies raised in the annual golf tournament.
- Clothing items and a Christmas gift for 13 students which were identified by the counselors at South Pine Academy. Mighty Acts members contributed the items and wrapped them for Christmas.
- Through our long time relationship with a Steele Creek child development center, the Mighty Acts Class provided Christmas gifts for a deserving family of eight where the mother is on disability.



We concluded the 2023 Fall Session for the Central Fine Arts Academy (CFAA) with student performances on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Showcase was a special time when we celebrated what the students have learned. The decorations in the sanctuary added to the festive atmosphere. Please see the pictures below.

The academy continues to grow. This Fall, there were 53 students and 60 lessons being held each week. Students ranged from kindergarten age through adults. Ukulele, taught by Karis Lee, was added. Most popular were piano lessons: with 3 piano teachers on Tuesday and 2 on Saturday. The variety of classes included voice, guitar, drums, violin and sculpture. 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. This includes Sandy and Pat Hart, Judy and Mike Brown, Ann Mazingo, Cathy Lee, Carolyn Rogers, Diane Price, Michele Devine, Ellie Bostick and Chris Knapp.

Registration for the next academy session which will start in mid-January. Registration has been strong with many of the current students returning. The session will be from January 13<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>. Consider taking lessons – they are for all ages.

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.





## Impact of the Weekend Food Bags on Children

Thank you, Central members and friends, for helping assemble the Food Bags each month. The bags are distributed by the school counselors at Steele Creek Elementary and South Pine Academy to 20 – 28 children each Friday. These children come from low income families who are both food and housing insecure. Please read about the impact of these food bags from the school counselors.

### From Ms. Frazier at Steele Creek Elementary:

Longitudinal data suggest that children's learning outcomes suffer when they regularly experience hunger and that nearly every aspect of physical and mental function is hurt as well. Food insecurity affects concentration, memory, mood, and motor skills, all of which a child needs to be able to be successful in school. We have several children participating in the Weekend Backpack Program and the number of students participating increases each week. The Weekend Backpacks alleviate hunger, and it also helps increase attendance and support academic achievement. My students never miss a Friday at school because they love getting the food bags! When students are not focused on being hungry, they can focus on building vocabulary, reading comprehension, and math fluency. I wish you could see how their faces light up to receive the bag and look for their favorite treats! Applesauce and Rice Krispie treats are in a tie for first place. We are so blessed to have this resource at our school provided by the caring and kindhearted members from your church. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your generosity.

### From Ms. Patel at South Pine Academy:

South Pine Academy would like to express its deepest gratitude for supporting our families in need. Many of our students may not have a meal until they come to school. This most definitely impacts their ability to effectively focus and learn during the school day. We also have a number of families experiencing homelessness. This combination alone is very stressful for our kids and not to mention their families as well.

The food bags that you all have been providing helps a student ensure that they are well fed over the weekend. These bags help them feel less worried about their home situation. It provides a sense of comfort and stability and means so much. Just to give you an example. A parent just a few days back is experiencing homelessness currently. Food is not consistent. The student went to sleep hungry. When she received the food bag, mom was so happy but also relieved, so was the child. It is one less thing they have to worry about in a difficult situation.

When I provided the bags just last week, a student looked at their bag and their face lit up with joy! This is what makes my job so worth it. The experience is so rewarding. Please continue to provide these bags !!!

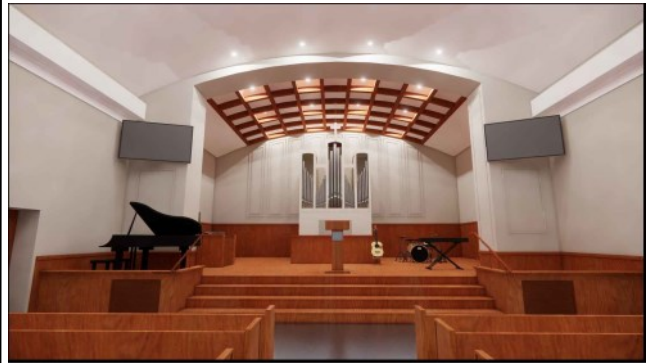
**Donations to the Dare to Care Fund to support this community ministry are welcome.**



## Teacher Appreciation

Through the Angel Apple Tree Fund, Central was able to provide \$25 gift cards for classroom supplies to all the teachers at Steele Creek Elementary. These gift cards definitely help because teachers are experts at finding the best value for items to help their students. In addition, the gift cards show that the community supports them and recognizes their dedication, professionalism and hard work in teaching our children and grand-children. Thank you for your support.

## SANCTUARY RENOVATION TASK FORCE UPDATE



On December 8, 2023, session approved the full scope of work for the sanctuary renovation project as recommended by the sanctuary renovation task force. Anonymous donors guaranteed to cover any shortfall in funding making it possible to move forward with the project.

Edison Foard will be our general contractor of choice. Currently a contract is in the process of being sent to us for signing. We are on track with a January construction start date to be set after this newsletter goes out.

The existing sanctuary hanging light fixtures will be removed after construction starts. Please contact any member of the task force if you would like one of the eight remaining hanging light fixtures. Also, there are four long pews still available in addition to the two modesty walls. We will contact you at the beginning of the year when these items will be ready for pick up.

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



# SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies, mark your calendars and save the date for our next RETREAT!!! We will be returning to Bonclarken September 25, 26, 27 in 2024. This is a Wednesday thru Friday event as they are already booked for all fall weekends. Details will be out soon. Hope to see you all there!!

Your Retreat Planning Team.....

## Women's Bible Study Group

We will begin a study of the book of Hebrews beginning January 15, 2024. It is a 12-week study. We meet on Monday nights at 7 p.m. on zoom. If you are interested please let Chris Knapp or the church office know so we can be sure to have a book for you and send you the zoom link!



## 'Twas the Season in Pictures



**Makeover for courtyard and Hanging of the Greens!**

Sunday, December 9, 2023, Central invited our members and friends to join us for a Christmas Luncheon along with some of our community partners from the YMCA, IBE and CFAA.



**Thank you Martha Osborne and team for organizing the event and preparing the delicious food, beverages and desserts, and to those attending who contributed with a covered dish.**



**Thanks also goes to our music director, Scott McKenzie, and Vanessa Merced for the lovely music on keyboard and guitar. The surprise guest of honor was none other than Santa and one of his elfs!"**



**Wilma Price turned 104 on December 12th!**



# CENTRAL FINE *arts* ACADEMY



## Winter/Spring 2024 Session

PIANO • GUITAR • VIOLIN • DRUMS  
VOICE • SCULPTURE • UKULELE

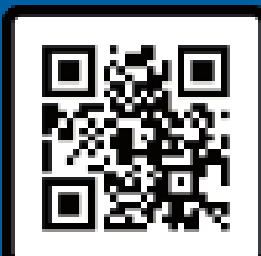
*Lessons for 5 year olds to Adults*  
*January 13th - May 11th*

Experienced, college trained instructors

Tuesdays at 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm/Saturdays at 1:30 - 4:00 pm.

Private and group lessons at affordable prices.

Scholarships and payment plans available.



SCAN ME

For more information and  
registration on-line at  
[CentralFineArts.org](http://CentralFineArts.org)

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