

Church Creek Presbyterian

CHARLESTON, SC

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

VISION BANQUET | JANUARY 2025

Three Gospel Graces



When I was a boy, my parents frequently quoted various Scriptures to my sister and me when they overheard us arguing with one another. Ephesians 4:32 had to be their most frequently cited passage. While writing to the church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul urged the members, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." It should strike us as strange that professing believers need to be told to be "kind," "tenderhearted" and "forgiving." However, just as they were often missing in the interactions between my sister and me growing up, these *three family graces*, as we might term them, are so often

missing in the church and in our interactions with one another.

In a day of indifference, coldness, selfishness, opportunism, malice, harshness, brutishness, mean-spiritedness and revengefulness, *kindness* is a rare commodity. Of course, true kindness has its source in God Himself. Kindness is a subset of goodness as an attribute of God. The kindness of God ultimately finds expression in the person and work of Christ (Rom. 2:4, 11:22; Eph. 2:7; Titus 3:4). Kindness then becomes part of the fruit of the Spirit. It is one of the marks of a true believer (2 Cor. 6:6; Col. 3:12). A Christian man or woman is a man or woman who has been justified in Christ. He or she is also being conformed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, the righteous One. Jesus was kind and merciful to men. The prophet Isaiah equated "righteous" persons with "merciful" and kind persons (Isaiah 57:1). John Owen wrote,

"[Isaiah] speaks of 'merciful men,'—men of benignity, men of kindness, men of goodness, good men, useful men, men that exercise kindness in the earth, who are peculiarly the lovely and desirable men in the world. The apostle makes a distinction between a just man and a good man, Rom. 5:7, "Scarcely for a righteous man will one die" (for a justified man); "yet peradventure for a good man" (one who is benign, kind, useful, merciful),—'some would even dare to die' for such a man. Such are the persons who are here mentioned,—a justified man, and a man of benignity and kindness." (Owen, *The Works of John Owen*, vol. 17)

A man may have a head full of knowledge about the Bible, but if he does not have kindness and mercy in his heart, he is not a justified man. True kindness will inevitably lead to *tenderheartedness*. Sadly, many in theologically strong churches view tenderheartedness as a weakness. Some wrongly conclude that tenderheartedness is tantamount to unbiblical compromise; whereas, others mistakenly chalk it up to being uncourageous softness. Nothing could be further from the truth. Tenderness expresses itself in empathy and sympathy to those who are suffering, weak, faltering or grieving. Scripture comforts us with the truth that as our merciful High Priest, Jesus sympathizes with us in our weakness. Owen again noted,

"Consider his mercifulness, tenderness, and kindness, as he is our great High Priest at the right hand of God. Assuredly he pities you in your distress; says he, 'As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you,' Isa. 66:13. He has the tenderness of a mother to a nursing child. Heb. 2:17, 18, 'Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to assist them that are tempted.'" (John Owen, *The Works of John Owen*, vol. 6).

Jesus Christ did not come to break a bruised reed. He did not come into this world to quench a smoldering wick (Is. 42:3; Matt. 12:20). Jesus came into this world to redeem a people who are weak, sinful, wayward, unrighteous, and lost. He came to bear us up in his own arms. He is full of compassion and tender-kindness to those he came to redeem. I was recently talking to a friend who has suffered a great wrong at the hand of another professing believer. He said to me, "I don't know his Jesus. His Jesus kicks you in the teeth when you are down." The Jesus of Scripture, the true and living Christ, meets us in our weakness with tenderheartedness. We too ought to be tenderhearted to one another. The hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King" captures the essence of this truth when it says,

"And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part; O sing ye! Alleluia!"

The tenderheartedness of Jesus leads on to the forgiveness of God. At the very heart of the Christian faith is the fact that God forgives us of our sins through the death of Jesus and makes us willing and able to forgive those who sin against us. We are to be a people quick to forgive others their faults and offenses against us because God in Christ has forgiven us. If we do not forgive those who have sinned against us, "from the heart" (Matt. 18:35), then we reveal that we have not been forgiven by God. In his sermon, "Living Peaceably with One Another," Jonathan Edwards wrote,

"If we should do what in us lies to live peaceably with all men, we must forgive one another. If anything is done wherein we think another to blame, **we ought to forgive and bury [it] in oblivion**, and not to suffer all love to be broken on the account and hatred to prevail, if something is done whereby we are wronged and injured; and not only to forgive upon their manifestation of repentance and upon their acknowledgment, but although they should continue obstinate, and should finally persist in what they had done, we ought so far to forgive, or nevertheless to retain a hearty good will and readiness to do any kindness from the heart, so as to be neighborly towards him and peaceable with him. . .

. . . Christ, even upon the cross, says, Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." [The apostle Paul admonished the members of the church in Colossae with these words: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye"; and in the next verse but one, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Col. 3:13–14). We cannot make one prayer that is acceptable to God without this (Matt. 6:12). God has told us he will not otherwise forgive us (Luke 11:14–15). We can never expect to maintain peace with men, except we do thus, etc." (Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, vol. 14).

What a glorious high calling to which we have been redeemed! What opportunities to show the grace that we profess in the way in which we are kind, tenderhearted and forgiving toward one another. Anything less than this not only fails to show the grace of God in the Gospel that we profess, it denies the very One who is "full of grace and truth." May God give us grace to put this into practice today in our interactions with those with whom we come into contact, those we live in fellowship with, and those who have sinned against us.

– Pastor Nick Batzig

Making the Most of the Lord's Day

There are many things a church can decide to do. Some churches start soup kitchens to provide food for the homeless. Other churches build foster care and adoption ministries. Still others crush cars with monster trucks to promote masculinity. There are as many ideas about what a church should do as there are people, and, clearly, some ideas are wiser and more biblical than others.

It can be valuable to implement various programs that address needs in the congregation and in the community or provide fellowship and discipleship opportunities. But churches can become so focused on implementing programs, even valuable ones, that they begin to mistake the valuable for the essential, equating the things that a church *could* do with the things that a church *should* do—with what is most important in the life of the church.



At the core of the life of the church is corporate worship on the Lord's Day. In corporate worship, we participate in the *ordinary means of grace*—the word, sacraments, and prayer. These are the means which "[communicate] to us the benefits of redemption" (WSC 88). In other words, it is sitting under the preaching of God's word, partaking of the sacraments which accompany that word, and joining with other saints in prayer that the Lord promises to use to strengthen and equip us for the Christian life. It is also through these means of grace that we worship the Lord as he has commanded, rendering to him the praise and devotion which he deserves.

Corporate worship on the Sabbath is the climax of the Christian life. It is the central point around which the rest of our lives ought to orbit. For when a minister appointed by Christ over us preaches the word, insofar as he faithfully represents the meaning of Scripture, it is as if Christ is speaking authoritatively to us, and his word does not go out empty or void. When we rightly partake of the Lord's Supper together, we commune intimately with Christ, being spiritually nourished in a unique way. When we lift our hearts and voices with other believers in prayer and song, the Lord lifts us into his presence. There is nothing more potent or essential to our walk with the Lord than the ordinary means of grace.

It can be easy to underestimate the simple, weekly gathering for worship. These means of grace are, by definition, ordinary—they aren't flashy. They don't generate headlines or go viral. They aren't exciting to put on a flier or a website link. They even seem foolish to the world (1 Cor. 1:18-19). But the Lord works powerfully through them to transform us to be more like Christ.

As members of Church Creek Presbyterian, we want to prioritize gathering together on the Lord's Day to worship, to be taught from the Scriptures, to pray together, and to encourage and build one another up in love. This is the center of our ministry as a church. There are other valuable things in the life of our church—Bible studies, small groups, fellowship events, youth and young adult gatherings—but Sunday worship is the most important thing we do, and we want to do it well.

And so we encourage you to make it your priority as well. The leadership of Church Creek is working diligently to improve and develop our morning and evening services and our Sunday School classes, but we need your help. We need your voices in singing. We need your attentiveness to the preached word. We need your fellowship. We need your gifts in service. Put simply, we need your presence, and you need it too.



Our hope this year especially is for our evening service to thrive. It is such a wonderful way to end the Lord's Day in joyful worship and fellowship, just as we begin the day in morning worship, and it is a sweet and intimate time with one another. It also gives us twice as much of the Word to meditate on and for the Spirit to apply to our hearts. And it demonstrates a love for the Lord—he deserves all the worship we can give. **We are excited about beginning a sermon series on the book of Joshua, and we strongly encourage all of you to attend evening worship as much as you are able.**

We are also seeking to improve our Sunday School classes. For middle and high schoolers, we are aiming to have the same teachers throughout the semester, so that the youth develop strong relationships with godly mentors. For adult Sunday School, we are increasing the consistency of teachers as well, so that lessons flow better from one to the next. **We will be starting a new series this year: “The Whole Family: Singleness, Marriage, and Parenting.”**

Additionally, we are seeking to improve our Sunday School curriculum for all ages, so that our men, women, boys, and girls grow in knowledge and wisdom in Christ.



We may not have monster trucks, but we don't need them. We get to commune with the Lord who made heaven and earth and with the people he has purchased by his blood. Every Lord's Day, we have the great privilege of gathering together in order to hear from God's perfect and authoritative word. We get to worship the triune God who deserves all glory and honor and praise. There is no better program than that.

- Pastor Caleb Willingham

2024 CPP Ministry Progress

At the beginning of each new year, we like to share with the congregation an annual report of ministry progress for the past year; together with desires and goals for the upcoming year. The pastors and elders of Church Creek PCA are exceedingly grateful for each and every member that the Lord has knit together in this fellowship. As we enter this new year together, it is our earnest prayer that the Lord will make us increase and abound in faith toward the Lord Jesus and in our love for one another.

Worship

- ❖ Began the practice of weekly communion in November 2024
- ❖ Pastor Batzig completed a year-long exposition of Romans at the beginning of 2024 and entered in on a morning sermon series through the book of Hebrews. We will resume this series in the new year
- ❖ Pastor Batzig and Pastor Willingham preached an evening sermon series on Hosea through 2024. Subsequently, they began a series on the Psalms: “The Songs of the Son”
- ❖ Pastor Batzig preached a Thanksgiving Sermon on Psalm 107 and an advent series on “The Promised Son.” Pastor Willingham preached numerous sermons on passages from 1 Thessalonians
- ❖ In the evening, our pastors finished an exposition of the Lord’s Prayer for our monthly Prayer and Praise Services. Additionally, they worked through several passages focused on the apostolic prayers
- ❖ Joined with area PCA churches for a joint evening worship service at Redeemer Presbyterian (October 27, 2024)
- ❖ Added additional string musicians for the morning worship services
- ❖ For our Easter Service on March 31, 2024, Pastor Batzig preached a sermon on Acts 2:22–41
- ❖ Held a Christmas Eve Candlelight Evening Service (Dec. 24)
- ❖ Continued integrating the choir in regular and special worship services. Amy Cummings and Heidi Roope worked on bringing some of our children forward to sing as a children’s choir on numerous special occasions

Discipleship

- ❖ Trained, examined, elected, ordained, and installed 2 new ruling elders to care for the spiritual needs of the body
- ❖ Updated and developed “Officer Care Lists.” This has enabled us to develop better spiritual and material care for the members of the church with the diversity of our leadership
- ❖ Completed 3 New Members/Inquirers classes
- ❖ Received 45 new members (communicant and non-communicant)
- ❖ Created a visitor workflow in Planning Center to improve our visitor information card system and follow-up
- ❖ Added a visitor QR code to the bulletin for more efficient gathering of visitors’ contact info
- ❖ Planned and launched small groups
- ❖ Hired a children’s ministry coordinator (Heidi Roope) to help develop Christian education for our elementary aged students
- ❖ Continued to develop women’s Bible studies, men’s events, youth events, young adult meetings, and fellowship meals
- ❖ Continued to meet quarterly for youth events
- ❖ Divided middle school and high school into two distinct Sunday School classes
- ❖ Continued bi-weekly morning and evening Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ Launched Semi-Monthly Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study (11 Saturday Morning Meetings in 2024)
- ❖ Continued to develop the church book table. Installed a new bookshelf in the Fellowship Hall for theological resources

- ❖ Welcomed guest pastors and theologians to preach and teach at CCP (e.g., Dr. G.K. Beale, Fred Greco, Dr. Guy Richard, and Dr. Derek Thomas)
- ❖ Hosted a Churchwide Spring Conference with Dr. G.K. Beale on the Theology of the Book of Revelation
- ❖ Held Sunday School series on the Parables, Miracles, and Beatitudes
- ❖ Added a number of new teachers to the rotation of Middle and High School student Sunday School classes
- ❖ Made monthly copies of *Tabletalk Magazine* available for members and visitors
- ❖ Distributed prayer lists and newsletters
- ❖ Produced a welcome video for the website and other social media purposes

Special Events/Fellowship/Outreach

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ January 7 - Annual Vision Banquet ❖ January 12 - Youth Event ❖ January 27 - Hosted Presbytery ❖ February 24 - CCS Oyster Roast ❖ March 9-10 - Hosted Spring Theology Conference with Dr. G. K. Beale ❖ March 17 - Congregational Meeting ❖ March 24 - CCP Members Meeting ❖ March 31 - Easter Sunday ❖ April 18-20 - Hosted Fred Greco for officer training, preaching, and a joint service with Redeemer Pres ❖ April 12 - Youth Event ❖ April 18-21 - Fred Greco Conference and Joint Worship Service with Redeemer Pres ❖ April 23 - Presbytery ❖ April 28 - Fellowship Lunch ❖ May 11 - Young Adult Fellowship Event ❖ June 10-14 - General Assembly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ June 18 – Men’s Fellowship event: Riverdogs Game ❖ July 27 - Presbytery ❖ September 21 - New Members/Inquirers Class ❖ September 26-28 - Officers Retreat ❖ September 29 - CCS Lunch at CCP ❖ October 4 - Youth Event ❖ October 11 - Young Adult Fellowship Event ❖ October 13 - Dr. Guy Richard preached for CCP’s Morning Service ❖ October 27 - Joint Reformation Day Evening Service at Redeemer Pres ❖ November 7 - Presbytery ❖ November 10 - Dr. Derek Thomas preached for CCP’s Morning and Evening Services ❖ December 7 - Officers and Staff Christmas Dinner ❖ December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
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Service/Organization

- ❖ Continued developing the use of Planning Center and improved communication channels. We wish to highlight the important role that this will play in ease of communication in the life of our church
- ❖ Continued restructuring ministry teams (committees) for more efficient member ministry
- ❖ Updated ministry team and committee Policies and Procedures
- ❖ Produced 3 Semi-Annual Newsletters
- ❖ Formed an Executive Committee to help oversee staffing related matters
- ❖ Formed a Finance Committee to oversee processes and preliminary budget considerations
- ❖ The session voted to form a new building committee to explore the possibility of building a new building on our current property

Facilities

- ❖ Purchased a new pulpit and constructed a pulpit riser for the Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Reallocated meeting space to accommodate our growing congregation. We turned the “Worship Training Room” into a cry/nursing space. We turned the center section of the Fellowship Hall into an overflow and a worship training area. To accommodate for this need, we installed a new audio/video system that allows for a multitude of additional uses in this space. We moved evening worship from the Fellowship Hall into the main worship building
- ❖ Replaced broken window in the FH
- ❖ Installed a new A/V system in the Fellowship Hall, including TVs and speakers in the wings, and improved A/V quality in the Sanctuary
- ❖ Strategically rearranged facility room use to open up more Sunday School space and allow for more building usage for fellowship, meetings, Bible studies, youth events, etc.
- ❖ Held a church workday to remove the old playground and improve the grounds
- ❖ Installed a new playground
- ❖ Had new gutters installed on sanctuary building
- ❖ Installed a new security system with cameras and a magnetic door lock system in the Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Demolished old Charleston Christian School buildings
- ❖ Leveled ground in the back of the property and planted grass where the old school buildings stood
- ❖ Replaced the water fountain and water bottle filler in the Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Installed new door knobs on bathrooms and utility closet
- ❖ Replaced the Sanctuary doors
- ❖ Replaced the thermostats and repaired Air Conditioning units
- ❖ Purchased racks to store folding chairs and tables
- ❖ Added a bookshelf in the narthex of the Fellowship Hall for book resources
- ❖ Installed new paper towel dispensers and toilet paper dispensers in both restrooms in the Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Pressure-washed buildings and concrete
- ❖ Secured a new cleaning company for both buildings

Officers/Staffing

- ❖ Increased the Administrator’s role to full time (Claire Gottshalk)
- ❖ Hired a Children’s Ministry Coordinator (Heidi Roope)
- ❖ Secured more stringed musicians to assist in worship service
- ❖ Began quarterly staff meetings with all full-time and part-time ministry staff

2025 CCP Planning and Ministry Goals

January, 2025 – April, 2025 Events & Meeting Schedule

January

- ❖ January 12 (Sun) - Vision Banquet
- ❖ January 19 (Sun) – Relaunch Sunday School & Evening Worship
- ❖ January 21 (Tue) - CCP Session meeting
- ❖ January 22 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ January 25 (Sat) - Presbytery at New City Fellowship, Orangeburg, SC
- ❖ January 26 (Sun) - Prayer & Praise Service

February

- ❖ February 5 (Wed) - Relaunch small groups
- ❖ February 8 (Sat) - Men’s breakfast
- ❖ February 12 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ February 15 (Sat) - Youth event
- ❖ February 22 (Sat) - Young adults event
- ❖ February 26 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies

March

- ❖ March 8 (Sat) - Men’s breakfast
- ❖ March 12 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ March 16 (Sun) – Tony Doppke, guest minister who will preach on Sunday evening
- ❖ March 26 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ March 28-30 (Fri-Sun) - Women’s retreat (Camp St. Christopher, Seabrook Island)

April

- ❖ April 5 (Sat) - Youth event
- ❖ April 6 (Sun) - Nate Shurden, guest minister who will be preaching at CCP on Sunday morning, and potentially for a joint service at Redeemer on Sunday evening
- ❖ April 9 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies
- ❖ April 12 (Sat) - Men’s breakfast
- ❖ April 20 (Sun) - Easter
- ❖ April 22 (Tue) - Presbytery at Trinity
- ❖ April 23 (Wed) - Women’s Bible Studies

Officers/Staffing/Ministry Training

- ❖ Formally add diaconal assistants to help the current deacons with their many tasks
- ❖ Continue developing an operational database for all ministry related matters
- ❖ Improve existing ministries, committees, teams, and resources. This will involve ensuring that every committee/ministry team is adding volunteers, training, and following checklists. It also will include adding approved volunteers who wish to serve on committees/ministry teams that are in need of new members
- ❖ Relaunch and develop small groups
- ❖ Develop a more intentional greeter, outreach, and assimilation plan. This will include figuring out the best way to clear the narthex of our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings so that the greeter team can add a welcome table to more intentionally focus on visitors. It will likely also involve appointing ushers who can help guide new visitors to available seating, classrooms, nursery, and other needs
- ❖ Develop a philosophy and protocols for youth ministry and teen discipleship. This will help the session guide the process of caring best for our covenant children and their families
- ❖ Further develop the young adult ministry
- ❖ Present a building expansion project plan. This may include a congregational capital campaign
- ❖ Teach a pre-communicants foundations class for children ages 8-12 and their families
- ❖ Highlight the missionaries that we support in newsletters and other forms of communication
- ❖ Develop our theological resources and add what is available on our book table

- ❖ Assess the need for additional officers. As the need becomes apparent, begin the nomination, training, examination, and election process according to the PCA Book of Church Order
- ❖ Begin the search process for hiring needed staff (e.g., event coordinator, ministry coordinator, intern, etc).
- ❖ Continue defining elder/deacon roles, responsibilities, and standing rules
- ❖ Continue developing musical accompaniment and choral participation for worship services
- ❖ Draft policies and procedures for special building use

Communication

- ❖ Continue moving all committee/ministry team/small group communication to Planning Center and encourage all members to fill out their profile information
- ❖ Update monthly prayer list for congregation, prayer meetings, and other small group settings
- ❖ Produce a quarterly update and prayer requests from all missionaries CCP currently supports
- ❖ Continue producing and distributing quarterly church newsletters

Ministry/Service/Outreach

- ❖ Encourage members to serve on ministry teams/committees (e.g., Nursery, Children's Sunday School, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Greeters Ministry, Food/Fellowship, Lord's Supper Setup, etc.). Work to ensure that needs and updates are presented to the congregation by the committee/ministry team chairperson
- ❖ Continue overseeing and multiplying small groups to help accommodate the growing needs of our congregation. This will involve the session's identification and training of potential small group facilitators, as well as adding new members to groups
- ❖ Review and improve policies and procedures for all committees/ministry teams
- ❖ Plan, offer, and carry out new member/inquirer classes
- ❖ Consider ways to reach the neighboring communities around the church property
- ❖ Develop a social media strategy for propagating Audio/Video resources as well as theological writing
- ❖ Expand our biblical and theological ministry with new media ventures (e.g., podcast, ministry website, etc.)

Discipleship/Fellowship

- ❖ Relaunch Adult Sunday School with a series on Singleness, Marriage, and Parenting
- ❖ Relaunch children and youth Sunday School classes
- ❖ Restart Evening Worship with a new series on the book of Joshua
- ❖ Encourage members to regularly attend the Lord's Day ministries (i.e., morning worship, evening worship, and Sunday School)
- ❖ Pursue ways to encourage members to exercise the grace of hospitality—specifically in welcoming new members and regular attenders into our fellowship
- ❖ Continue church-wide fellowship meals
- ❖ Schedule youth service projects and other youth related events
- ❖ Continue developing and promoting our theological book ministry through the addition of new resources
- ❖ Relaunch our monthly Men's breakfast and study
- ❖ Start a theological reading group for those men interested in pursuing further ministerial training
- ❖ Continue our women's mid-week Bible studies
- ❖ Host a women's weekend retreat

Facilities

- ❖ Erect a new building expansion committee to explore how we can best meet the number of collective needs we have at present and for the near future
- ❖ Secure new CCP signage on front lot and remove old CCS signage

Ministry Needs/Opportunities

❖ **Nursery workers** – There is always a need for more nursery workers to help free our young mothers up to be a part of the worship service of the church. If you are not already doing so and would like to be a part of a rotating schedule on Sundays, please email our Nursery Coordinator, Brook Rhodes, at nursery@church-creek.org. Background checks are required.

❖ **Skilled musicians** – As we continue to develop our music ministry, we will be looking for men and women who wish to use their musical gifts. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving in the music ministry, please email our Administrator/Music Coordinator, Claire Gottshalk, at office@church-creek.org.

❖ **Children's Ministry Teachers** – K-5th Grade - One of the biggest service needs at CCP presently is for more individuals to help serve on a Sunday School teaching and assisting rotation. If you are interested, please reach out to Heidi Roope at ccpkids@church-creek.org.

❖ **Social Media Development** – If you are proficient in the use of social media platforms, graphic design, or photography and have the desire to volunteer in this ministry, please email Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.

❖ **Audio/Visual Team** – The A/V team assists in the various needs during the Sunday morning and evening worship services. They are in need of more volunteers who have an ear for sound levels and mixing and who are gifted in working with technology. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please email Josh Stone at stone282@gmail.com.

❖ **Lord's Supper Volunteers** – This team works together for weekly Lord's Supper set-up, scheduling, etc. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Cris Dickason at cdickason1126@comcast.net.

❖ **Missions Committee** – As we have begun supporting new missionaries, we are always looking for more volunteers who are excited about partnering with our foreign missionaries for the spread of the gospel. If you are interested in serving in any number of capacities with the missions committee, please contact Richard Cooper at richardgarycooper@yahoo.com or Ron Vanderwey at ron.vanderwey@gmail.com.

Committees/Ministry Teams

The congregation of Church Creek relies heavily on the involvement of its members for the many ways in which worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and service are carried out in the life of our church. Please take time to read the various reports from some of our committees below:

Audio/Video Team

The Audio/Video team ensures that Sunday School lessons, sermons, and other ministry lessons are communicated clearly through quality amplification, live-streaming, and recordings. This team plays a vital role in serving the ministry of the word. It also promotes congregational singing in worship through balanced amplification of musicians.

In 2024, the Audio/Video team oversaw a complete system upgrade in the Fellowship Hall, acquiring new speakers, microphones, a high-resolution camera, recording hardware and software, and televisions, which can be used for worship services, Sunday School classes, New Members classes, and other church events. In the new year, the team aims to continue improving our audio/video quality in the main worship building.

The Audio/Video team needs volunteers who can help run the audio and video needs for Sunday worship services. If you have an ear for music and sound quality and are comfortable with technology, you may be a great fit for the team, and it may be an excellent way for you to serve the church. If you are interested in serving on the Audio/Video team, please contact Josh Stone, our A/V lead, at stone282@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry

At Church Creek Presbyterian, our Children's Ministry exists to shepherd the hearts of young children by teaching them the truth of God's Word and encouraging them to live it out in their everyday lives. We are committed to helping children develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, grow in their understanding of Scripture, and experience the joy of serving others in His name.

Through age-appropriate classes for Pre-K to 5th grade, we aim to create a safe, loving, and nurturing environment where children can learn, ask questions, and build lasting friendships with one another. Using The Gospel Project curriculum, we focus on helping children see the big picture of God's redemptive story, all while fostering a love for the scriptures that will guide them throughout their lives.

Our ministry seeks to instill not only biblical knowledge but also a heart of compassion for others. We plan to provide opportunities for children to serve the community, such as supporting Lowcountry Orphan Relief and the Lowcountry Pregnancy Center, encouraging them to share the love of Christ through acts of kindness and generosity.

As our ministry grows, we envision expanding our classes to better meet the needs of our children, with age-specific groups for younger children (Pre-K/K5), elementary-aged kids (1st-2nd grade), and older elementary students (3rd-5th grade). We also seek to nurture the musical gifts of our children by providing opportunities for a children's choir and other seasonal performances, helping them worship and share the message of Christ with the church family.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, we are passionate about creating an environment where children are loved, valued, and disciplined. We look forward to seeing them grow in their faith and walk with God, today and in the years to come.

Congregational Care

The Congregational Care Team works alongside the deacons and elders to ensure that the physical needs of our members are met. This is primarily done by providing meals for those who have just given birth, who are recovering from surgery, or who are battling health issues that make it difficult for them to prepare their own meals. The congregation is a tremendous blessing in meeting needs by signing up to provide meals or in giving financial resources to assist those in need.

Food/Fellowship

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ~Matthew 25:35*

Fellowship is a vital part of a healthy church, and enjoying meals together is a great way to connect with others. The Food/Fellowship Committee oversees fellowship meals and other fellowship events at Church Creek. Over the past year, the Food/Fellowship Committee hosted the Vision Banquet, a spring fellowship meal, and the Chili Cook-Off, as well as a

presbytery meeting at the church. The committee has also been developing our resources for fellowship events, as our church is continuing to grow. This past year, we acquired multipurpose chairs, tables, and storage racks. These have been a significant help in using our limited space efficiently.

In the coming year, the committee is hoping to develop and improve our fellowship meals. We are also planning other fellowship events throughout the year. Please pray for our committee as we plan, as we serve, and as we seek to provide opportunities or connection for our growing church!

Greeters

The Greeter's Ministry mission is to provide a warm and enthusiastic welcome for all visitors and members who attend Church Creek and begin to establish relationships with visitors while helping to secure the necessary information to stay in contact with them.

The Greeters Team serves our visitors and members by welcoming them to worship, distributing bulletins, giving clear direction, and getting to know those who come through the doors. The greeters have been distributing welcome gifts to visitors, and we hope to continue developing and improving these gifts. We have also smoothed out the process for visitors learning more about Church Creek by putting a QR code in the bulletin for visitor cards, as well as using Planning Center to connect with visitors and regular attenders about New Members classes.

The Greeters Team is looking for more volunteers. If you are good with people and enjoy getting to know new faces, you may be a great fit for the team. If you are interested in serving, please contact Lindsay Wiles at lindsaywiles@yahoo.com.

Missions

The Missions Committee goal is to carry out the Great Commission by sending missionaries to foreign countries who will evangelize and gather believers into local churches for discipleship and worship.

Our missions team facilitates our support of missionaries in various countries. The team corresponds with missionaries on a regular basis, taking prayer requests and learning about needs, offering prayer and encouragement, and visiting missionaries when possible. They ensure that the missions we support are in line with the convictions of Church Creek and the PCA, and they give missionaries opportunities to come and speak to our church when they are in the United States. Please partner with them in praying for our missionaries. If you would like to learn more about the missionaries we support or would like to visit any of them, please contact Richard Cooper at richardgarycooper@yahoo.com.

Church Creek currently supports the following missionaries:

- Michael and Ivana Cuneo | Mission to Italy | Passignano sul Trasimeno, Italy
- Samy and Carol Foucachon | Mission Go | Paris, France
- Nathan and Lea Gibbs | PCA | Stuttgart, Germany
- Aaron and Rachel Halbert | Mission to the World | Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- Gethin and Katie Jones | International Presbyterian Church | Lille, France
- Bill and Cheryl Nikides | Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship | International (Albania, Bangladesh, Italy, etc.)
- Reformed Presbyterian Church | Port au Prince, Haiti
- Larry and Rita Sherbondy | Navigators | OCF (Officers' Christian Fellowship) Director of ROTC Ministry
- Gary and Lois Watanabe | Mission to the World | Japan
- Hugh and Martine Wessel | Mission to the World | Aix-en-Provence, France

Nursery

Our Nursery Team cares for children ages 3 and under during worship services and other select church events so that parents can worship and engage with fewer distractions. We are so grateful for those who serve on this team. This past year, we have significantly improved our nursery check-in system, implementing digital check-ins through Planning Center and beginning to use a paging system to notify parents of any needs during the service. Additionally, we have gotten new toys and supplies for the nursery, and we have developed our nursery policies and procedures to ensure greater safety and professionalism.

In the new year, we hope to continue to add volunteers to our team in order to spread out the workload so that volunteers can spend more Sundays in worship. We are also looking at ways to expand our nursery as church attendance increases. If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please contact Brook Rhodes at nursery@church-creek.org. Background checks are required for all who serve in the nursery.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry aims to disciple, nurture, and equip the women of Church Creek to grow in the truth of the gospel through Bible studies, retreats and fellowship events.

This past year, the women's ministry implemented quarterly fellowship events and led Bible studies working through the books of Esther and 2 Peter. The Bible study meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in the morning and evening and is currently studying Lydia Brownback's book *Habakkuk: Learning to Live by Faith*. The fellowship events this year have provided fantastic opportunities to foster deeper relationships between the women of the church and have included a Ladies Spring Tea, a Folly Beach outing, a Pickleball Potluck at the Cooper's home, and the Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange.

In 2025, we look forward to continuing to grow in our knowledge and love for the Lord as well as each other through Bible studies, fellowship events, and our upcoming retreat. The Women's Retreat will take place at Camp Saint Christopher on Seabrook Island on March 28-30. The theme of the retreat is **Seek His Face** and will use videos and teaching material from The Gospel Coalition to help us consider how to pray persistently in our noisy world. Sign up now if you have not already done so—registration closes 1/17/25. We are always looking for fellowship event and bible study recommendations; please reach out to Katie Guffey at kgguffey23@gmail.com if you have any recommendations!

Committee/Ministry Team Chairpersons

Audio/Video | Josh Stone | stone282@gmail.com
Congregational Care | Kendall McKoy | kmckoy7@gmail.com
Children's Ministry | Heidi Roope | ccpkids@church-creek.org
Food/Fellowship | Jessica Clark | jessicaclark78@yahoo.com
Greeters | Lindsay Wiles | lindsaywiles@yahoo.com
Missions | Richard Cooper | richardgarycooper@yahoo.com
Nursery | Brook Rhodes | micheleseabrook@gmail.com
Women's Committee | Katie Guffey | kgguffey23@gmail.com

International Missionary Highlight

Hugh and Martine Wessel



Hugh and Martine met in 1969 while Hugh was serving in the U.S. Army in Munich, Germany. They came to faith at L'Abri in Switzerland in 1972, and were married by their pastor, Francis Schaeffer, in 1973.

The Wessels have served with MTW since 1979. Their initial charge was church planting, evangelism, and church renewal. They later founded the Marseille Team. In 1989, Hugh was made country director for France, and supervised teams with CoMission in Ukraine. In 1995 Hugh was asked to be MTW's European regional director.

Currently Hugh serves in a role of consultant for research and development. In addition, he trains French pastors and lay people in evangelism and serves as seminary chaplain at the John Calvin Seminary in Aix-en-Provence, where he also teaches leadership, teamwork, cultural differences, missions, and street evangelism, all related to church planting. He is on the board of The John Calvin Seminary, Assisting Indigenous Ministries, (AIM) and several denomination committees.

Martine has ministered through teaching Sunday school, using their home extensively for hospitality, and leading women's Bible studies. Martine and Hugh have three adult children: Laurence, Damaris, and Nils and four grandchildren.

Letter from the Wessels

To the Saints,

In our last letter, I shared the encouraging news about Maxime and Camille, who moved onto campus this summer, along with Jimmy, Maxime's brother. Their presence has been transformative—as though a rebirth or revival has occurred. Hallelujah!

Morning prayers are now well attended. During lunch, students eagerly pair up with university students to share the gospel at the university dining hall. Upon returning to the seminary, they dedicate time to pray for those they have spoken with and share these prayer requests with everyone in the WhatsApp group so all can join in prayer. These practices are both deeply encouraging and glorifying to God.

Every new campus resident has expressed how wonderful it is to live in Christian community. What a testimony to God's faithfulness and the transformative power of His Spirit at work among His people! From the depths of my heart, I thank you for your prayers and support.

The one-on-one times with students and residents have taken on a profoundly spiritual dimension. They ask thoughtful questions, such as how to better handle challenging situations or what to say when they are unsure. Praying with them has become more meaningful and impactful. These are all reasons for rejoicing!

The professors, too, are encouraged to have students once again filling the classrooms. The past few years have been difficult for their morale, but this new season brings renewed hope. The new curriculum has been successfully implemented. I invite you to visit the seminary website at <https://facultejeancalvin.com> to see images and updates that may inspire someone you know to join us—to live, learn, laugh, linger, and love for the advancement of the Kingdom.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to intercede before the Lord:

New Faculty and Leadership: Pray for New Testament and Old Testament professors, ideally French-speaking. We also need a new president, administrator, and board members as several retirements are approaching.

The Churches in Marseille: Two of the three churches in Marseille are served by Brazilian pastors, while one has been without a pastor for four years. Across France, there is an ever-increasing need for vocational callings in ministry. Pray for more workers to be raised up and for these churches to flourish.

My Personal Ministry: Pray for wisdom as I visit, preach, mentor, and encourage the churches. Pray also for the written exchanges I have had with pastors, former students, and current students regarding covenant theology and God's covenant people. These discussions are challenging yet meaningful opportunities to share the richness of our faith.

Local Ministry Highlight

The Charleston Christian School | Ashley Chandler, Head of School



THE CHARLESTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

www.charlestonchristian.org

The Charleston Christian School celebrates 43 years of God's faithfulness this year. Specifically, we praise God for the following:

- ❖ CCS serves 158 students in West Ashley in grades K-8.
- ❖ CCS is committed to partnering with families and churches in West Ashley. CCS serves families in over 30 different churches in West Ashley.
- ❖ Our faculty and staff members are devoted Christians who are dedicated to helping students grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Of our 21 faculty and staff members, 6 are members of Church Creek Presbyterian or our sister church Redeemer Presbyterian.
- ❖ CCS is accredited through the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)
- ❖ CCS offers two high school credit classes, Algebra 1 and Spanish 1.
- ❖ Our weekly chapel services provide opportunities for our students to worship together and grow in discipleship. Our chapel speakers include current and former CCS teachers, as well as local pastors and youth pastors. Students recite memory verses and catechism questions during chapel. Our middle school students have monthly small group chapels with their teachers to foster spiritual growth.
- ❖ Sports offerings include: Jr. Girls Volleyball, Sr. Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Jr. Boys Basketball, Sr. Boys Basketball, Co-Ed Soccer, and Tennis.
- ❖ Due to the generous support of Church Creek, Grace on the Ashley, and individual donors, we are able to make Christian education affordable to families across different economic backgrounds. Approximately half of our students receive some form of financial assistance.
- ❖ Church Creek members receive a 20% discount on tuition.



I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

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