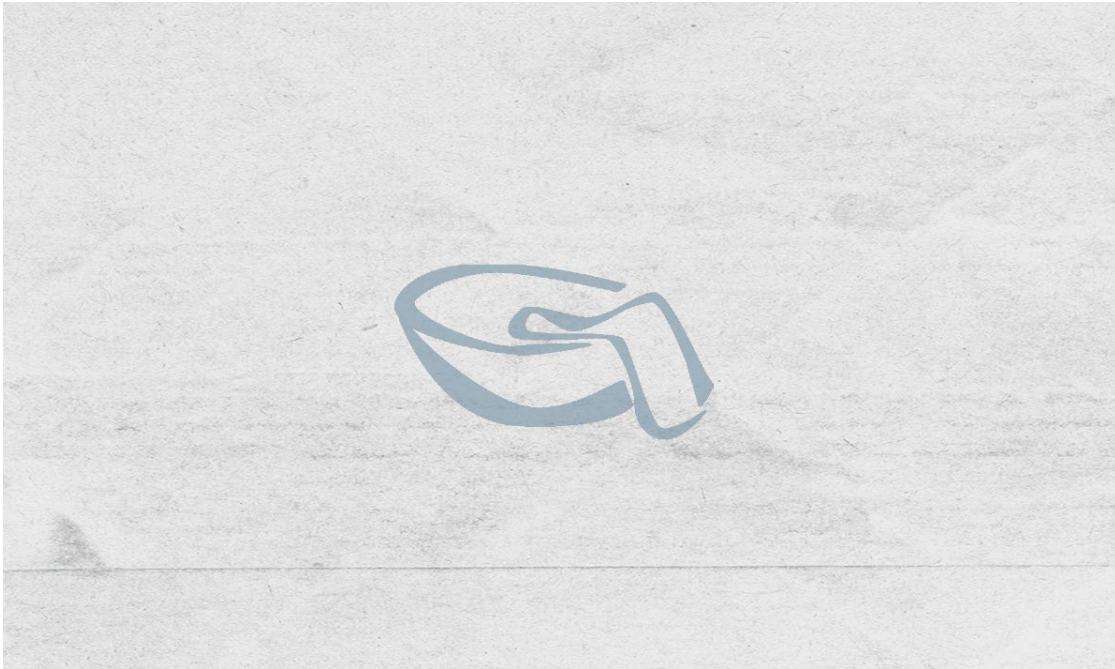


Church Creek Presbyterian

CHARLESTON, SC

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

VISION BANQUET | JANUARY 2023



Joyful Service in Small Things

One of the perennial problems of the fallen human condition is that men and women love to serve when there is respect, reputation and remuneration involved, and not serve when it involves what they perceive to be a menial task done out of the sight of the prying and praising eyes of others. This is no less true of members and leaders in the church as it is among the people of the world. It was for this reason that Jesus told the parable of the dinner guests:

“When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” ([Luke 14:8-11](#)).

Our Lord Jesus modeled what it meant to be a servant-leader when he stooped to wash the disciples’ feet. This was, of course, a foreshadowing of what he would do at the cross. The washing of the filthy feet of His disciples was a symbol of the washing of the filthy souls of His people. Jonathan Edwards explained this so well when he wrote:

“Christ’s washing his disciples’ feet. . .was symbolical and represented something else far more important and more wonderful, even that greatest and most wonderful of all things that ever came to pass, which was accomplished the next day in his last sufferings. There were...symbolical representations given of that great event this evening; one in the Passover, which Christ now partook of with his disciples; another in this

remarkable action of his washing his disciples' feet. Washing the feet of guests was the office of servants, and one of their meanest offices. And therefore, was fitly chosen by our Savior to represent that great abasement which he was to be the subject of in the form of a servant, in becoming obedient unto death, even that ignominious and accursed death of the cross, that he might cleanse the souls of his disciples from their guilt and spiritual pollution."¹

However, the foot-washing in the Upper Room was also the example that Jesus left for His people to follow for millennia. The Apostle Paul certainly followed the example of his Master when he modeled this sort of Christian service throughout his ministry. In what is one of the most fascinating (and frequently overlooked) details in the book of Acts, Luke tells us that, while a prisoner on Malta, Paul picked up sticks to start a fire to keep his captors warm (Acts 28:3).

William Still, the profoundly influential Scottish pastor of the 20th Century, has a chapter on this passage of Scripture in his book *The World of Grace* titled, "Evangelism Through Service - Paul Gathering Sticks." In this book, Still drew out the significance of the service of the Apostle when he wrote:

"This is the test. If you profess, prove that you possess Christ by being like Him who wasn't averse to washing dirty feet, other people's dirty feet; and, like Paul who gathered sticks—and I'm sure did even more menial tasks than that."²

When we consider this, we are faced with the following question: "Are we willing to pick up sticks to the benefit of others (even our enemies) in the service of Jesus?" This question must be answered both by the members and by the leadership of the church. It must be answered among the membership of the church regarding the service that is necessary if the church is to function as the church. This takes the form of doing the seemingly less admirable acts of service that tend to get overlooked—working in the nursery, making coffee, setting up chairs, preparing the Lord's Supper, stocking the book table, doing service projects on the church property, serving on the greeter team, etc. Both officers and congregants should ask themselves whether they are willingly serving in the variety of menial areas of need.

Of course, it is altogether possible for believers to serve with the wrong motives. Some will begrudgingly serve out of a sense of guilt or mere obligation. Others will serve from a desire to be recognized or applauded. Still others will serve out of a self-righteous spirit. The motive of our service in seemingly insignificant areas of the ministry in the church will have an impact on the entire congregation. One of the striking details about the saving work of the Lord Jesus is that He endured the cross "for the joy that was set before Him" (Heb. 12:1-2). Jesus faced the most burdensome task anyone ever faced through the joy of knowing that it would be for the eternal good of those He came to redeem. In union with Christ, we can face the seemingly burdensome acts of service in the church with the joy of knowing that it will be a blessing to others and will help advance the kingdom of God.

More often than not, joyful service will look like the symbolic stooping to wash dirty feet and picking up sticks to start a fire for the good of others. It will mean doing things that many perceive to be beneath them. The Christian life and ministry is one in which we take the lowest place in order to maximally benefit others. This is what Jesus did when He hung on the cross. This is what Paul did in all his missionary endeavors—as well as in the menial labor of picking up sticks to start a fire for his captors. In following the example of Christ and the Apostle, we will find that God uses our joyful, servant-like labors in the service of the church as a platform for the Gospel.

1. Jonathan Edwards, an excerpt from the sermon, "Christ, the Example of Ministers."

2. William Still, *The World of Grace* (Aberdeen: Gilcomston South Church) p. 48

2022 Ministry Progress

Since Pastor Batzig's arrival in June of 2021, the session of Church Creek has thought it wise to give the congregation an annual report of ministry progress for the past year, together with desires and goals for the upcoming year. In God's kindness, Pastor Batzig completed his first full year of ministry at Church Creek in 2022. Pastor Batzig and the officers of Church Creek 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. We hope that the following summaries of past progress and future plans will be an encouragement to you all.

Worship

- ❖ Pastor Batzig completed a sermon series on the Gospel of John and began a series on Ephesians for the Morning service. Continued in a series on Exodus for the Evening service
- ❖ Hired audio and video coordinator
- ❖ Added additional string musicians for the Morning services
- ❖ Easter Service (April 17)
- ❖ CCP 50th Commemoration Anniversary Weekend w/ Rev. Harry Reeder (April 22-24) – Presbytery Lunch, Service at the French Huguenot Church, Church Creek Morning Worship, Churchwide Meal
- ❖ Service Sunday (October 9) at Church Creek, with a Fellowship Meal after service
- ❖ Hosted the 27th Stated Meeting of Lowcountry Presbytery at CCP with Lunch (Nov. 3)
- ❖ Lessons and Carols Service (Dec. 11) and Joint Christmas Eve Service with Redeemer PCA (Dec. 24)

Discipleship

- ❖ Service Training Saturday (October 22)
- ❖ New Children's and Youth Sunday School curriculum. Implemented Adult Sunday School 'Foundations of the Faith' course with rotating teachers
- ❖ Added a Sunday Morning prayer group during the Sunday School hour
- ❖ Updated Shepherding Care groups and membership rolls. Added new members
- ❖ 6 Joint Youth Fellowship Meetings with Redeemer PCA
- ❖ Started a Men's Theology and Leadership bi-weekly meeting
- ❖ Continued bi-weekly morning and evening Women's Bible Studies
- ❖ Joint Officers' Retreat (Sept 22-24)
- ❖ Women's Fall Retreat (Oct 28-30)
- ❖ Held an abbreviated New Members Class (Dec 3)
- ❖ Continued process of searching for new Pastoral Assistant
- ❖ Added more theological books to our Sanctuary bookshelf
- ❖ Established a more intentional connection to Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary by having Jonathan Masters preach in June of 2022

Fellowship/Outreach

- ❖ 2022 Vision Banquet (January 16)
- ❖ 4 Fellowship Meals (January, April, July, October)
- ❖ Organized several men's fellowship events
- ❖ Continued with monthly Ladies Night Out
- ❖ Restructured Food/Fellowship and Hospitality/Meal Ministries
- ❖ Added 2 new missionaries to our regular missionary support ministry
- ❖ Because of the faithful giving of the congregation, we were able to raise support for all of the missionaries we support on an ongoing basis
- ❖ Hosted 3 of our support missionaries while they were on furlough

Service

- ❖ Implemented new planning software, Planning Center, and improved communication channels
- ❖ Made progress in restructuring committees for more efficient member ministry
- ❖ Began diaconal nomination and training process

Facilities

- ❖ Building/Property Acquisition Committee meetings throughout the year
- ❖ Completed Fellowship Hall renovation for additional classroom/educational space
- ❖ Arranged for new roofing on the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ Ongoing planning for future development with regard to worship space and additional building
- ❖ Began planning for new Church Creek signage

2023 Planning and Ministry Goals

Events

- ❖ Participate in 50th PCA Anniversary Evening service at Redeemer Presbyterian on January 29
- ❖ Women's Conference – March 17-18
- ❖ CCP will be hosting Presbytery in November 2023
- ❖ Plan out special seasonal services and events
- ❖ Schedule special guest ministers during Pastor Batzig's absences throughout the year

Officers/Staffing/Training

- ❖ Complete Assistant Pastor search. Have a man in place by Summer/Fall 2023
- ❖ More purposefully plan for elder shepherding and diaconal care of members in need
- ❖ Backup training for Church Administrator in preparation for maternity leave
- ❖ Work toward filling part-time staffing needs (Nursery/Children's Ministry Coordinator, Event Planning Coordinator, etc.)
- ❖ Complete diaconal training, examination, and election process
- ❖ With the addition of new deacons, continue defining elder/deacon rolls and responsibilities
- ❖ Train diaconal assistants to come alongside ordained deacons
- ❖ Get Personnel Committee up and running to manage all non-pastoral staff
- ❖ Continue developing musical accompaniment and choral participation for worship services
- ❖ Complete the process of drafting policies and procedures for building use requests

Communication

- ❖ Finish onboarding for Planning Center Software and encourage all members to fill out their profile information
- ❖ Relaunch Evening and Prayer & Praise worship services in February
- ❖ Create monthly prayer list for congregation, prayer meetings, and other small group settings
- ❖ Work toward the possibility of having a quarterly church newsletter

Ministry/Service/Outreach

- ❖ Encourage member service in the many areas of ministry needs (e.g., Nursery, Children's Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Greeter's Ministry, Food/Fellowship, Hospitality, Events, Christian Education, Lord's Supper Setup, etc.)
- ❖ Highlight one missionary each month and encourage the congregation to be praying for that missionary throughout the month
- ❖ Finish the process of committees drafting policies and procedures for their respective ministries
- ❖ Relaunch Men's Theology and Leadership nights
- ❖ Complete New Members process and plan for next New Members class
- ❖ Plan for purposeful outreach to the neighboring communities around the church property
- ❖ Look into the production of a pastoral/congregational welcome video for website and social media
- ❖ Develop a more purposeful social media strategy for propagating Audio/Video recourses as well as theological writing

Discipleship/Fellowship

- ❖ Encourage more intentional hospitality among members – specifically with the goal of welcoming new members and regular attenders into our fellowship
- ❖ Continue quarterly fellowship meals
- ❖ Continue monthly joint Friday Night Youth Fellowships with Redeemer
- ❖ Work toward structuring and implementing community groups
- ❖ Continue adding resources to our theological book ministry
- ❖ Work toward developing a middle school/high school discipleship program
- ❖ Work toward the implementation of men's morning book studies throughout different areas of Charleston

Facilities

- ❖ Secure new CCP signage on front lot and remove old CCS signage
- ❖ Work on improving Audio/Video needs in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- ❖ The Building Committee will continue its exploration of and planning for the demolition of the old school building, the approval of architectural designs for a potential additional ministry facility, and accommodations for greater capacity in the worship space
- ❖ Secure a new pulpit for the Fellowship Hall

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 Church Administrator, Claire Gottshalk, at office@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 reach out to please email our Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.

❖ Children's Ministry Teachers – K-6th 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 Anna Batzig at agbatzig@gmail.com.

❖ 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 – Josh Stone is currently building an A/V team to assist in the various needs during the Sunday morning and evening worship services. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please email Josh at stone282@gmail.com.

❖ Lord's Supper Volunteers: 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.



Committee/Ministry Teams

The congregation of Church Creek relies heavily on the involvement of its members for the many ways in which the worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and service is carried out in the life of our church. To that end, the session of Church Creek is working to accomplish the restructuring and relaunching of ministry team committees. Please take time to read the various reports from some of our committees below:

Committee Chairpersons

Building Committee | Matt Guffey – mattguffey15@gmail.com

Care Committee | Brook Rhodes – micheleseabrook@gmail.com

Christian Education | DB Cummings – dbcummings@prochristo.com

Children's Ministry | Anna Batzig – agbatzig@gmail.com

Food/Fellowship | Jessica Clark – jessicaclark78@yahoo.com

Greeter's Committee | Tripp Wiles – trippwiles@gmail.com

Missions Committee | Richard Cooper – richardgarycooper@yahoo.com

Music Committee | Joanne Janus & Amy Cummings – davejoanne2@comcast.net; amy@prochristo.com

Women's Ministry Committee | Katie Guffey – kgguffey23@gmail.com

Building Committee

The Building Committee was tremendously blessed to see significant progress in our work over the past year and is looking forward to pressing on in 2023! Entering 2022, there were three primary goals for the committee:

- 1) Quickly provide additional classrooms for Sunday School.
- 2) Complete demolition of the school building and trailers.
- 3) Explore potential options long-term for future facilities and use of the property.

For the first goal, we were immensely blessed to see the outcome of the Fellowship Hall renovations and the Lord's hand guiding the planning and execution of those renovations. The wing additions added the functional classrooms needed for Sunday School, but still also have allowed for evening worship in the Fellowship Hall building.

Following the Fellowship Hall renovation work during the Summer, the committee shifted attention to the second goal of demolishing the school buildings and trailers and planned to execute this quickly. However, we soon realized that if we wanted to maintain the most flexibility for city approval of future builds on the site, we first needed to develop and present City of Charleston with a concept for potential future construction on the site. This unexpectedly pushed us into the third goal of exploratory discussion and planning for the site prior to demolition of the school buildings. We have been working for several months with architecture and civil engineering firms to develop a concept for future use of the site and expect that we will soon be able to present that to the city and then move forward with demolition of the school buildings and trailers.

We have greatly appreciated your prayers and financial support for the committee's work and would ask for your continued support as we move into 2023! Thank you also to the committee members who have served so diligently and faithfully over the last 16 months - they have been a wonderful group to work with!

Committee Members: Matthew Guffey (Chair), David Walters, Sr., Jeff Beall, Jessica Clark, Ron Vanderwey, John Primm

Christian Education Committee

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:5-7 ESV)

The mission of the Christian Education Committee is to support, encourage, plan, and oversee the teaching ministry activities of Church Creek Presbyterian Church under the authority of the session for the benefit of the congregation to the glory of God.

The committee will seek to take special care in verifying that all teaching materials, authors, and sources are in accord with the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament and sound doctrine.

Committee Members: DB Cummings (Ruling Elder, Chair), Nick Batzig (Senior Pastor, Co-Chair), Amy Cummings (Women's Ministry Representative), Anna Batzig (Children's Ministry Representative), Jordan Frizzell (Middle/High School Sunday School), Robin Cooper (Women's Morning Bible Study Leader)

Children's Ministry

We continue to use The Gospel Project as our curriculum spine for preschool, elementary, and our middle school youth. We currently have 2 age groups for our children's Sunday schools in addition to the nursery. A special thank you to those who helped teach our infants, preschoolers (ages 4-5) and 1st-5th graders in 2022! We also appreciate all of those who serve in the nursery on a regular basis during the worship hour!

Our greatest need in the children's ministry is committed and able bodies who are willing to serve in the areas of teaching or being in the nursery during the Sunday School hour. It would be ideal to have teachers commit to an entire semester of teaching or co-teach with another person. If you are interested in learning more about this curriculum and teaching either preschool or elementary age children or serving in the nursery please contact Anna Batzig at agbatzig@gmail.com.

Food/Fellowship Committee

"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

In 2022, the Food/Fellowship Committee planned and provided food for several Church Creek events, including the 2022 Vision Banquet, the 50th Anniversary Fellowship meal, a fellowship dinner in July, and the Service Sunday fellowship meal. The committee's plan is to host at least 3 fellowship dinners at Church Creek this year.

Committee Members: Jessica Clark (Chair), Missy Stone (Clerk), Tammy Vanderwey (Treasurer), Kendall McKoy, Robin Cooper, Grange Walters

Greeter's Ministry

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.

2023 goals: This ministry will have 2-3 greeters for each Sunday morning service to greet members and visitors. We will provide first time visitors with a gift. We will seek to make connections with visitors each week while helping to follow up with each person who visits Church Creek Presbyterian.

Committee Members: Tripp Wiles (Chair), Lindsay Wiles, James Casey, Robin Cooper, Jordan Frizzell

Missions Committee

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. The churches should strive to have pastor(s), elders to rule, deacons to serve, administer the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), preach and teach the Bible and the doctrines of the Faith, exercise discipline, and follow the regulative principle of worship as practiced in the Reformed churches. The missionary should use a Reformed catechism as a means to disciple.

Committee Members: Richard Cooper, Robin Cooper, Mack Cornette, Libbie Cornette, Ron Vanderwey, Tammy Vanderwey

Women's Ministry

Our mission is to encourage and equip the women of Church Creek to be active disciples of Christ by offering bible studies, prayer meetings, and fellowship opportunities.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ The women of Church Creek meet at the church every other Wednesday for an evening bible study and once a month for a Ladies Night Out at various locations for fellowship.
- ❖ March 17-18 - Charleston Women's Ministry Conference Presented by Church Creek with speaker Megan Hill. Registration will open soon. Topic: "God's Grace in Seasons of Change: Finding Certain Hope in Uncertain Times"

Committee Members: Amy Cummings, Katie Guffey, Shelley Fipps

In 2022, the deacons and elders of Church Creek worked on forming several new committees. In this year ahead, it is our goal to build these committees out, clearly define their policies and procedures, and encourage more involvement with them. The following are the two most recent committees formed:

Care Committee | Brook Rhodes

Music Committee | Joanne Janus & Amy Cummings



International Missionary Highlight

January 2023 | Michael Cuneo

What is your call approved by Calvary Presbytery?

My calling at the moment is as a missionary pastor working in coordination with Reformed Church of Perugia. I am now officially part of a new presbytery/ federation of churches called Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in Italy.

Where do you (and if applicable, your family) regularly attend worship?

I currently serve at Chiesa Riformata del Trasimeno, where I have served for 2 years now.

Please describe your ministry.

I partake in presbytery meeting quarterly and have assisted in the formation of a new BCO drawing heavily from our own BCO. I preach weekly at our 6 pm serving and administer the Lord's Supper regularly and assist in ministry at the Reformed Church of Perugia when called upon to do so.

What has been most encouraging to you in ministry this year?

Carmela started attending while I was in the hospital with a severe case of COVID. She had called my number, but I did not answer because I was in intensive care. She has prayed much and waited for a church to call her own in Passignano. God-willing, she may become our first member in the first half of 2023.

Is there a particular way you would like Calvary to pray for you?

- ❖ Pray for Carmella and for her 2 children who are not walking with the Lord.
- ❖ Pray for Carmela's sister, Lina. Allegedly, she was falsely accused by supposed mafia types. The false accusation landed Lina in jail, where she is eating little and has little to no contact with Carmela. We do not know all the facts. We only ask that you pray that Carmela be comforted and that Lina be in good health, and that justice is fair.
- ❖ Please pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit in our midst.

Local Ministry Highlight

The Charleston Christian School | Ashley Chandler, Head of School



THE CHARLESTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

www.charlestonchristian.org

The Charleston Christian School celebrates 41 years of God's faithfulness this year. Specifically, we praise God for the following:

- ❖ CCS serves 142 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 18 faculty and staff members, 7 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, and Co-Ed Soccer.
- ❖ 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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