



VOL. 1 · WINTER 2019

# CHRIST CENTRAL NEWS

For the glory of God and the good of Durham.

## WELCOME

### A LETTER FROM PASTOR DANIEL

In John 15:5, Jesus says "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

As each year goes by in the life of our church and as God, by His grace, continues to shape me, I pray more and more that abiding in Jesus and allowing His life to bear fruit through our lives is characteristic of Christ Central Church.

God has been at work in and through us, and there are many things that we want to report. There are many ways God works that are not always seen or noticed, and in all things we give Him praise.

This quarterly newsletter is a new way for us to keep you informed of how God is at work. As we reflect more on His work in and through us, may it lead us to abide in Him and trust Him even more.

Grace and Peace,  
Daniel Mason

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# BECOME

We are excited to report that we have already pledged \$4,185,714 towards our Become two-year goal! We have seen an increase in committed giving by an average of 55%. In addition, 73% have pledged to be praying for our initiative, and 69% have pledged to volunteer and give of their time and talents. We are so humbled by the response of you, the body, and are expectant to see God help us become the church he is calling us to be in this city!

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WE WANT TO BECOME A CHURCH THAT:

*Raises up new leaders.* We want to create a leadership program, focusing on minority leadership, to equip and develop both lay and ministry leaders to B E C O M E future leaders within our church, in the city, and around the world. The program will consist of comprehensive ministry internships and an expedited seminary program through a local seminary.

*Plants churches.* We plan to plant churches both locally and globally in the next two to five years. Planting churches will allow us to partner with them as they become communities that seek to proclaim Christ in word and deed, and it will let us work with them to see spiritual, social and cultural renewal in the place God plants them.

*Seeks mercy & justice.* As a church, we are passionate in seeking peace and prosperity for Durham. To do that, we believe God has called us to invest in and provide resources in four main areas: affordable housing, education, adoption & foster care, and the Hispanic community.

*Permanently lives in the city.* Stability in the heart of Durham is crucial if we want to build a home for years to come. We want Christ Central Church to be a beacon of the Gospel in the city long after we are gone, and the BECOME Initiative will allow us to have a permanent presence.



Learn more at [christcentraldurham.com/become](http://christcentraldurham.com/become).

# Staff Headlines

We've added several new staff members to our team! We are so thankful for the gift that they are to us.



## JORDAN REICH, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Jordan Reich came to Christ Central after serving 11 years as a Children's Minister in Lincolnton, NC. After graduating from Gardner Webb University with a degree in Sociology, he received a Masters of Christian Leadership from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He has a background with the Guardian ad Litem Program and a passion for helping children and families create history worth repeating. He, his wife Tara, and his daughter Matilda live in Chapel Hill.



## CHARLIE DENSMORE, CONNECTIONS DIRECTOR

As Connections Director, Charlie Charlie is heading up our 20s and 30s ministry, and is focusing on connecting with new people, especially in helping them on the path to membership at Christ Central. In addition to working at Christ Central, he is the Director of Athletes in Action at Duke University. He and his wife Marnie have four children: Caden, Asher, Sofia, and Holt. They have lived in Durham for 12 years, and hope to be here much longer than that.



## KRISTIN SULLIVAN, NURSERY DIRECTOR

Kristin Sullivan has served our children faithfully for almost five years, and she officially became our Nursery Director this summer! She has lived in Durham her entire life, has been married to her wonderful husband PJ for 17 years, and they have two beautiful children together, Lauren and Logan. In addition to working at Christ Central, she also works for Duke Memorial Parents Morning Out during the week and has provided childcare there for almost 8 years.



## EVAN MARBURY, PASTORAL RESIDENT

Evan has worked in community outreach and development with ministries focusing on serving those that are under-resourced since graduating from Covenant Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Counseling. Evan also serves as the Executive Director of Pregnancy Support Services in Chapel Hill, and as a counselor at Hope Counseling Services. He, his wife Katrina, and his daughter Joelle live in Chapel Hill.



## OUTREACH UPDATES

### REPAIR: HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

We recently completed our second full year of repairs projects in partnership with Durham Habitat. We worked 12 Saturdays and conducted repairs on six homes. In November, there were a total of 29 volunteers, 10 of whom were first time volunteers!

Repair activities included removing and replacing several decks, stairways, and access ramps, replacing sinks and kitchen cabinets, replacing exterior doors and bathroom repairs. We are hoping to increase to nine repair projects next year!



### EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Our School Supply Drive provided students and teachers with many much needed school supplies! Additionally, over 100 “Welcome Back” recipe booklets were created and delivered to the faculty and staff members at CC Spaulding and Glenn Elementary Schools, and we provided bulk bags of candy to C.C. Spaulding in support of their October Fall Festival/Math Night where approximately 100 families attended.

For Thanksgiving, we were able to provide complete meals for 25 families!

And finally, we collected 76 pairs of shoes and four full bags of socks during our Shoe & Sock Drive. They were split between C.C. Spaulding and Glenn Elementary Schools.

Thank you for your generosity in helping to provide so much for our neighborhood schools! We are excited to see how this ministry continues to grow, and the impact it will have in our city.





## Volunteer Highlight

KATE SIMPSON

*1. How long have you been at Christ Central?*

I have been attending Christ Central for a little over five years.

*2. What is your favorite part about volunteering?*

My favorite part about volunteering is greeting everyone that walks through the door. I remember going to other churches and just not feeling known or seen and I try to remember that as new faces come in. My hope is that everyone feels known and welcome at Christ Central.

*3. How has volunteering impacted you?*

I have always been reserved and not as willing to step out of my comfort zone and engage in small talk with people that are not my close friends. By volunteering, I have learned to take more risks by reaching out to people in small ways. Something that started years ago with a simple hello as I passed out bulletins has expanded into real relationships with people, I otherwise may have been too intimidated to converse with. Serving others has given me opportunities to shift my focus from self to others and in turn, better understand Jesus' character as a servant. For that, I am forever grateful for the opportunities to volunteer at Christ Central.

*4. What would you say to someone who hasn't considered volunteering?*

First and foremost I would say, we are all called to use our skills and talents for the Kingdom, out of obedience to God. Secondly, I would say I have always received more than what I have expended from serving at Christ Central. And lastly, from an extreme introvert, it's not as intimidating as it may seem. Christ Central has an amazing team of volunteers who are there to not only serve those attending the service but help those on their team as well. Ultimately, serving the needs of others address our core values as a church; delighting in God, resting in grace, embracing one another, serving the city and seeking the Kingdom.





# Volunteer Highlight

CLARE HOWELL

*1. How long have you been at Christ Central?*

A little over three years (since October 2016).

*2. What's your favorite part about volunteering?*

When working with the little kiddos in the Garden (18-36 months old), I loved seeing their personalities develop. They would run up to me just to exclaim that they had a crayon in their pocket or that they were wearing new shoes. It was impossible not to fall in love with them. For the older kids in the Canopy, I love seeing them have "click" moments about the Bible lesson and how it applies to their life. They are at such an impressionable age, so for them to connect the dots that their life matters to God and that He has a plan for them is both humbling and gripping to observe.

*3. How has volunteering impacted you?*

Volunteering sharpens my focus on what really matters in life. How do I want to spend my time? What are the things that I will look back on and be glad I invested in? Volunteering is one of those things for me. I am investing in the next generation in the hopes that they will come to know the God who loves them and gave everything for them. Volunteering reminds me that the vast majority of things I worry about in life do not matter. Loving and serving these kids also reminds me that Jesus loves ME and gave everything for ME, too.

*4. What would you say to someone who hasn't considered volunteering?*

I am so excited for you to consider volunteering. Volunteering is an invitation to experience God's love towards yourself as you extend His love to His children. The Lord will reveal Himself to you in ways that are unique to serving His children. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or are still unsure about volunteering.



**Interested in volunteering? Visit [christcentraldurham.com/church](http://christcentraldurham.com/church)**



## TRIANGLE FELLOWS

The Triangle Fellows Program is an immersive discipleship and leadership development program for young professionals who are employed full-time in a variety of fields including law, finance, education, government, non-profit, design, medicine, and the arts.

Christ Central currently has seven members participating! Travis & Whitney Linton, Brent & Ashley McKnight, Hilary Buchanan, Kristen Dicks, and John Worsham. Christ Central provided a scholarship help to offset the cost for several of our members.

We are excited to partner with Triangle Fellows and to continue to grow our participation!

**“The Triangle Fellows program has renewed both our hearts and view of work. The curriculum and fellowship are practical, meaningful, and lead us to see the Lord in new and profound ways.”**

TRAVIS & WHITNEY LINTON

## INSTITUTE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION (ICCM)



The Institute for Cross-Cultural Mission (ICCM) is a church-based training and research entity dedicated to equipping current and future Christian leaders for cross-cultural ministry. The Institute is led by Rev. Dr. Irwyn Ince who serves as Pastor of Cross-Cultural Mission and Director of the Institute in Washington D.C.

The Cohort is a professional development program to help you learn the theological imperative for cross-cultural ministry, develop intercultural competence, and grow in effective leadership skills so you can train peers and others.

We are so excited that we currently have four applicants for the Cohort program: Aaron Anderson, Lisa Ncaca, Richard Roberts, and Adrian L'Esperance. Right now, they are in the first screening process but if they move to the next phase, interviews with ICCM staff will take place in March.



## MISSIONS GIVING

We gave away \$145,000 this summer to the following ministries and organizations:

- Athletes in Action at Duke
- China Partnership
- RUF at Duke, UNC, and NCCU
- Mission to the World (Peru, Southeast Asia)
- CRU at Duke
- Christ Church (Dunn, NC)
- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- Crosstown Fellowship (Cleveland, MS)
- Justice Matters
- Nic & Jen Haddad (CRU in Lebanon)
- World Relief Durham
- Alan Head
- MNA African American Ministries
- Durham Cares
- Urban Hope
- Lindsey Shi (Love Thy Neighbor)
- Abundant Joy Center for Women's Ministries
- Matt Williams (RUF Wake Forest University)
- PCA Unity Fund
- Sarah Pleasant (Kenya)

## BUDGET UPDATE: AUG '19 TO OCT '19

Total Giving \$ 409,990  
 Total Expenses \$ 393,705  
 Surplus Income \$ 6,285  
 Average Monthly Giving \$ 136,663

