

# CRU at UNC

JOSH AND ERIN SMITH

SUMMER 2024

## Summer Life



Happy end of summer! My kids have 19 days left before school starts (they do NOT want to be reminded of that). We've had a full, fun time together the past few months. Here are a few highlights:

We have a **teenager**! On July 30, Harrison turned 13. We were at the beach and celebrated with lunch out, chocolate cake and some gifts (including the shoes he's wearing in the picture!) We are so proud of the kind, smart, funny guy he is.

We spent lots of time at the **pool** as both kids did swim team in our neighborhood. They both did great and Harrison thinks he's found his sport. Both of their rooms are decorated in lots of ribbons from meets and they had fun meeting new friends through it. A highlight was swimming their final meet on campus at UNC.



### Prayer requests

-Pray for our **leadership retreat** (Aug 9-14). Pray for students to catch a vision for reaching our campus for Christ. Pray students would leave feeling equipped and for us all to have hearts dependent on God.

-Pray for **incoming freshmen**. Pray we would connect early and meaningfully with many of them. Pray for changed lives.

-Pray for **Harrison and Allie** as they start back to school at the end of the month. Pray for smooth transitions and good friendships. They'll be in 7th and 3rd grades.

Ministry in the summer was a slower change of pace. My primary roles were planning for the fall and leading a **summer Bible study**. We had all girls this year and I loved having them over each Tuesday for dinner and the study. Some weeks we had 8 people, some weeks it was smaller (picture on right was our last study..Alev, Clara, AnneLiya and myself!) This summer we studied Galatians (using a commentary by Tim Keller.) We talked about how we cannot add anything to what God has done for us in Christ- to do so actually cheapens his sacrifice. We also talked about how our growth as believers comes by applying the Gospel over and over. We never move past it, only deeper into it. As Keller says, "The Gospel isn't the ABCs of the Christian life. It's the A-Z."

And now we get ready for the **fall semester**! In just a few days I will head to Wilmington for our leaders' retreat. 30 students (who are leading Bible studies, prayer and community teams and planning our weekly meetings) will join our staff team of 8 for some planning to kick off the year. Pray for us!