

# Avondale Avenues

"Called to love God, love one another and serve community"

*Avondale*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[www.avondalepresbychurch.org](http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org)

December 20, 2011

## **Christmas Eve Services**

**5:00pm Family Service**

**11:00pm Christmas Candlelight Communion Service**

Please welcome the opportunity to worship together on Christmas Day. There is no greater witness to God than his people praising God for the birth of His Son. Our worship conveys one central truth of what is vital to remember on Christmas Day!

## **Christmas Day**

**11:00am Morning Service Singing Carols and Reading of Holy Scripture**



## **New Year's Day Worship**

**9:00am ARISE Worship Service**

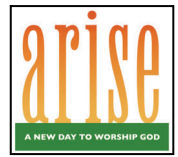
**11:00am Traditional Worship Service**

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

There will be NO Sunday School on Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Church Staff wishes you a most blessed Christmas Day and expresses gratitude for your faithfulness in the past year.

**Begins January 1, 2012**



Dear Friends in Christ,

Change is coming with the new year—a change which will seek the support and prayers of all who love Avondale. Our ARISE service of worship launches on Sunday, January 1 at 9:00am.

**What can you expect when you come to ARISE?**

When arriving for worship you will be greeted by an Avondale family. While the service is not planned for only families, the service will be “family friendly”. This is an affirmed core value of Avondale. Families will greet you, lead in the liturgy and assist in serving monthly communion.

When arriving you will pass by a coffee bar before entering into the sanctuary. Nothing fancy, but coffee, tea and orange juice will be available to take into worship with you. You are welcome to bring your own cup and a space will be provided to keep it at the “bar” if you wish. One request—please use a container that has a lid.

When you enter the sanctuary, music will be central to the service. Our ARISE Music Leader, Ms. Lori McGinnis, has gathered the energy and talents of many within the church and the praise band will begin playing prior to the service. Their leadership prior to worship will introduce you to music which will be used in weeks to come and you will be encouraged to join in the singing. During this time, announcements of ministry will be projected on screen. The service will begin at 9:00am with our call to worship and the joy of joining together in song and praise to God. The visuals on the screen will encourage you to worship as a people of God and to embrace the gift of singing as a community.

The service will unfold with prayers, an abbreviated message focused upon God’s Word, monthly communion, and the offering of our gifts. During this time there will be a focus upon the mission of serving at Avondale and always a specific request for service. There will be occasional changes in the service which will involve Avondalers leading liturgy in untraditional, but worshipful ways.

Worship will conclude promptly at 9:50am with the affirmation that we have worshipped God, sought God’s leading, and will continue to grow in faithfulness to God.

**What will it take from the larger membership for ARISE to be successful?**

This change will call for *all of us* to work together. Most critical is that we be aware and responsive to the new change in worship and Sunday school hours.

- 9:00—9:50am ARISE Worship Service
- 10:00—10:50am Sunday School
- 11:00—12:00am Traditional Worship Service

I want to encourage all of us to be conscious of the need to conclude Sunday school and our worship services at the designated time in order for the morning to run smoothly. If either the ARISE service, or Sunday school classes *run over in time*, we will all be feeling the impact of what follows. Specifically:

- Teachers worshipping or participating in ARISE will need to depart immediately following the service in order to be present and prepared for those they teach.
- Classes with parents of young children are asked to conclude promptly, in order to provide adequate time to pick up children and enable families and teachers to arrive at 11:00am worship on time.

With a basic awareness of time and an ounce of kindness to teachers this will work. It is a challenge before our larger church family, but those involved in recommending the change of schedule are conscious of other churches that function with similar schedules.

Please remember that Traditional Worship continues at 11:00am. The ARISE service will not be the choice for all, but seeks to reach those who embrace a new form of worship. Our Worship and Sunday School Leadership are committed to enriching our lives of faith and will evaluate ministry as we move through 2012. One last, or first request as we move into the New Year...if you are planning to worship at ARISE, make an intentional effort to invite someone who is currently not worshipping at Avondale. A new service opens the door for guests and new opportunities for knowing and serving Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Earl". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

## December Session Meeting

At the December meeting the Session approved the following:

- A 2012 budget of \$636,334 granting requested increases to Property, Mission and Communications Ministry Teams.
- Minutes and financial statement for November.
- Request from Worship Ministry Team that members, some who are Elders, be given the authority to distribute communion elements at the ARISE worship service.
- **Two called meetings of the congregation** to be held Sunday, January 15 and 29. Both meetings will be held immediately following the 11:00am worship service.
  - ◆ January 15 – to communicate and educate the congregation with regard to approved budget for 2012. To communicate to the larger congregation the use of the present Facilities Fund and to express gratitude to the membership for their faithfulness in financial giving.
  - ◆ January 29 – presentation of the Annual Report.

### Shared as Information:

Ordination and Installation of Elders and commissioning of Ministry Team Leaders will be held at the 11:00am service, January 15.

Conversation continued in shaping and sharing the vision for the Family Life Center/Fellowship Hall and its future use.

**Gratitude was expressed** to the following individuals for their faithfulness in ministry:

Lynn Wilkerson, Eleanor Ramey and all who helped with the children's Christmas program; to Barbara Hill and Sarah Erexson for their gifts in serving the homeless; to those who helped in preparing the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season; to Lyn Sweet and Linda Haigh for cleaning and sorting out the closet in the Family Life Center; and to Bonnie Howard for serving as the Sunday School Superintendent for the past five years.

**Above all**, gratitude was expressed to Rena White, Todd Oswald, Janet Harrison, Susan Brandau, Lyn Sweet and Barbara Darling for their service, leadership and faithfulness in serving their term as Elders.

## Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

In the event of a pastoral emergency, call the Church Office and follow the instructions for a pastoral emergency. The pastor "on call" will contact you as soon as possible.

## Lock Your Car Secure Your Valuables

Just a quick reminder that now, and always, it's a good idea to lock your car and secure your valuables. Take handbags/purses with you, even if you plan to be gone only a few minutes.

## Thank You

Gratitude is expressed to the women in the Genesis and Bridge Builders Circles for their contributions to the "Clean Bodies, Clean Mouths" Ministry. With their financial support, 1,000 individual bars of soap, 388 toothbrushes and 388 tubes of toothpaste were purchased. 204 personal hygiene bags were made for our Room in the Inn friends and the remainder of items were divided between Urban Ministries and The Men's Shelter.

## Finance Notes

**Important—In insure your financial gifts are reflected on your 2011 year end statements, all monies must be received at the church office by noon on December 30 if delivered in person, or by mail on December 29.**

**Envelopes**—2012 General Fund envelopes will be available for pickup again this Sunday, December 25. Look for them outside the Sanctuary.

**Automatic Draft**—It is never too late to contribute by automatic bank draft. Contact Renita Fowler if you are interested and she will mail you the form to sign-up and then return to her in the church office.

**Stock Contributions For 2011**—Please contact Renita Fowler 704-337-2141 if you are planning to contribute stock before the end of the year. **Most brokers require that these transfers be initiated by mid-December for year end gifts.**



## Listening As A Form of Healing

January 8 at 10:00am  
SABBATHOUSE Classroom

Have you noticed that sometimes you hear only half of what someone is telling you? Or, perhaps you may feel no one is listening when you are trying to share something very important to you? Both of these situations can lead to hurt feelings and misunderstandings...at work, at home, in school. Children, youth, older adults, even distracted, busy people... all of us yearn more than anything to be heard.

Listening is a skill we can learn. On Sunday, January 8, at 10:00am in the SABBATHOUSE Classroom, the Reverend Jeannette Hickman will lead a class on "Listening as an Act of Love." Retired PCUSA pastor, diversity educator, and counselor, Reverend Hickman has experienced listening as a healing activity. She believes that *listening is a very Christ-centered, loving gift we can offer one another.*

Beginning January 9, Reverend Hickman will offer an 8-week course on "Listening" here at Avondale. The class will provide opportunities to listen to others more thoughtfully and to be heard ourselves by at least one other person. She will introduce this course on Sunday, January 8 during the education hour.

The on-going class will meet from 7-8:30pm on Monday evenings in the lounge through January and February. It will be a wonderful way to become more acquainted, it will be confidential, and it will require your commitment to attend every session.

Mark your calendar for January 8 and come and learn more.

## Nourishing Our Spiritual Lives Through the Healing Labyrinth

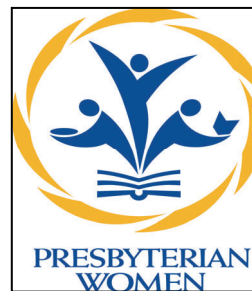
Save the Date...

Labyrinth Workshop

April 13—15, 2012 (Weekend after Easter)

Featuring Lauren Artress

International Leader on Labyrinth Ministry



Of Avondale

<http://gmc.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/>

Circle #1 will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 11:00am in the church library. Call Lue Singer with questions 704-752-8134.

Circle #4 will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 12:30pm at Sharon Towers. Call Sharon McGinn with questions 704-552-1182.

Circle #5 will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 1:00pm in the MacLean Fellowship Hall. Call Betty Patterson with questions 704-372-2624.

Genesis Circle will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00pm at the home of Nancy Favor, 2020 Hassell Pl. Call Ruby Cathey with questions 704-525-5769.

Bridge Builders will meet Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00pm at Trio Restaurant. Call Nancy Favor with questions 704-763-4166.

LIFT will meet Monday, January 9 at 7:00pm. Call Heather Wilson 704-891-1426 or email [h.e.wilson@me.com](mailto:h.e.wilson@me.com) with questions.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In Memory of...

William E. Stowe Jr.	Tim and Betty Chambers
Joan Middleton:	Tim and Betty Chambers
Joe Graham:	Ellen Watson
Betty Dunlap:	Fred and Etta Rea Bailey
Ronnie Lewis:	Connie and Eldon Stout Emily P. Bearden Marjorie H. Sims Thelma Renegar Barbara Witzel

### In Honor of...

Harris Morse:	George and Sherrie Young
Pat Lewis:	Eldon and Connie Stout



## Welcome to Our New Members

December 11, 2011

Juddie Finison  
1401 Fairfield Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28054  
704-572-3794 (home)  
704-616-6536 (cell)  
juddie@standarddistributors.com



Caroline and "Chip" Wallace Reed  
3008 Blickling Drive  
Waxhaw, NC 28173  
704-846-6719 (home)  
carolinereed@me.com  
843-813-1994 (cell)  
wallace.chip.reed2@gmail.com  
980-422-1238 (cell)



Carolyn Fiala  
214 Magnolia Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
336-662-5700  
carolyn.fiala@gmail.com

**Avondale Presbyterian Church**  
**2821 Park Road**  
**Charlotte, NC 28209**

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Charlotte, NC**  
**Permit No. 1360**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Avondale Avenues is published every other Tuesday.**

**Deadline for next newsletter is December 27, 2011 - print date January 3, 2011**

Phone: 704-333-6194 Fax: 704-333-5901 E-mail: [ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org)

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Ministry of Caring to Members of Our Church:**

Barbara Town, Betty and Jack Marvin, Cate Vick, Flo Bowen, Frances Robertson, Genny Burns, Leona Hough, Margaret Ratchford, Martha Rogers, Miriam McLeod, Paul Simpson, Sue Haag, Ted Goldthorpe, and Timothy Vestal

### **Ministry of Caring to Friends of Our Church Family:**

Anne Faucette (friend of Susan and Mahlon Thomas)  
Beth Austin (cousin of Rena White)  
Beth Thompson (daughter of Dick Lindsey, visiting pastor)  
Bo Sibilsky (brother of Lyn Sweet)  
Cindy Woods (niece of D. J. Saleeby)  
Charles Hensley (son of Ann Hensley)  
Chris Conner (step-son of Kay Cameron-Conner)  
Donald James (friend of Jane Summey Mullennix)  
Eddie Crowe (friend of Linda Haigh)  
Edward Caldwell (cousin of Joan Munn)  
Family and friends of Susan Caskey  
Grier Christenbury (friend of the Zuyus family)  
Helen Horrocks (sister of Eleanor Ramey)  
Herman Coxe (Uptown Meal Ministry friend)  
Janet McGrew (mother of B. J. Byrd)  
Jay Hipkins (friend of Debi Medlin)  
Jessie Goodpasture (cousin of Mary Anne Hogue)  
Lee Ballard (mother of Lynn Wilkerson)  
Luke Sahlie (grandson of Joanne Sahlie)  
Millie Merricks (mother of Pam Blake)

Peggy and Ray Buckner (friends of Hannah Stockwell)  
Rachel Caudle (mother of Olivia Magee)  
Sam McAlexander (friend of McCloskey and McDonald families)  
SFC Stephen Rogers (son of Robert Rogers)  
Susan Caskey (friend of Barbara Witzel)  
Taylor Anderson (infant friend of Susan Thomas)  
Timothy Moyer (grandson of friend of Charles Favor)  
Verna Lee Catoe (aunt of Barbara Hill)  
Warrena Hankinson (friend of Linda Haigh)

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Charles Kirkpatrick who died Tuesday, December 6.

## **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

January 15	Ordination/Installation of Officers Congregational Meeting— Presentation of 2012 Budget
January 29	Congregational Meeting— Presentation of Annual Report
January 18	Avondale Adventures Parent Meeting
January 25	Avondale Adventures Begins