

Avondale Avenues

“Called to love God, love one another and serve community”

Avondale
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.avondalepresbychurch.org

December 6, 2011



Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the season of generous giving. What a glorious season of people extending beyond themselves for the love of others. Financially this is seen within our faith community by means of the five special offerings received each Sunday in the Advent season providing all of us with a specific way to make a difference in building the Kingdom.

During this season of generosity I would be foolish not to communicate additional financial needs which directly relate to our ministry here at home. Ideas which, if became reality, would advance the Kingdom here where we live, pray and serve.

I am aware of those within our congregation who are unemployed. Their needs are basic and real. Sometimes a small financial gift directed their way becomes a note of encouragement and hope.

Secondly, when thinking about financial giving, please know that your church leadership has not yet approved the budget for 2012. On paper the figures are larger than our pledges. Ministry costs money and the desire to move forward in ministry and mission happens because of members who are willing to financially sacrifice. Our church leadership are presented with enormous opportunities for 2012, but will consider the financial base from which to do ministry. Consider these statistics on pledging for the 2012 year...of those family units who pledged, 81 increased their pledge or were new pledges, 64 held their pledge the same as 2011, 26 decreased their pledge, and 52 did not offer a pledge. These 52 are families or individuals who are active within the life of Avondale and include those who are elderly and unemployed. The cost of Kingdom-building is expensive, so during this season of extended giving I commend to the larger membership the opportunity to increase your pledge for 2012.

Thirdly, please remember that each year the Session approves a “Wish List”. These are items which leadership believe will further the Kingdom here at Avondale, but the finances to make the items a reality do not exist. The current “Wish List” consists of the following items:

- Purchase of a van/bus for the church
- Purchase new floor covering for the children’s Sunday School rooms
- Equip the MacLean Fellowship Hall kitchen for regular use
- Purchase new signs for the church grounds
- Continued support of the Good Pasture Fund providing financial assistance and scholarship to youth for summer ministries

The needs are many and it would be foolish not to share them with you. With regard to any of the above opportunities for giving, please do not hesitate to talk with a member of the staff for either clarification or with a desire to help. I remember well a brief conversation held between a member and me when I first arrived at Avondale, while attending ‘small group introductions’ held in several homes. The member reached over, tapped me on the knee and shared these unexpected words: *‘Just remember, if there is ever anything you need, let us know.’* Strange how some words spoken remain only to be tested in time. The foolishness of asking is only second to the foolishness and joy of giving.

Welcome Advent!



As a Reminder...

Sundays in Advent begin with a Prayer Service at 9:00am in the Sanctuary.



What Better Way to Celebrate the Birthday of Jesus?

Simplify your Christmas shopping...Give unique, beautiful, handmade gifts to the people you love...Support artisans in developing countries...Benefit Avondale's 2012 Freedom School...Enjoy homemade goodies and fellowship with your Avondale family.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES Open House
Friday, December 9 from 5-8:00pm
10,000 Villages Fair Trade Store in Cotswold Mall
(10% of all purchases come back to Avondale)
A wonderful way to celebrate
the coming of Jesus Christ!

Unexpected Joy

By Ann Gregory

When the call came out for volunteers for the Sedgefield tutoring program, I signed up. But the more I thought about it, the more unsure I felt about doing the job, since many of the other volunteers were retired teachers and seemed more qualified. So I decided to be a "lunch buddy" instead.

I went in on Wednesday for my first day and learned that two sixth graders, a girl named Brittany and a boy named Jesus (pronounced Hesus), would be my buddies. That day went very well, thanks to the "Student Interest Survey" that was provided. It gave me a chance to ask questions of the students and record their responses. It wasn't until I got back home and read the answers that I realized they are two shy students. This responsibility might be harder than imagined.

The next Wednesday was a rainy, drab day, and it occurred to me that Brittany and Jesus might not miss me if I stayed home. But quickly casting that thought aside, I got in the car and went on to the school. You can't imagine how surprised and delighted I was when I saw Brittany's face. She came into the cafeteria, saw me and ran all the way across the room to hug me. She said "You really did come back!"

Now Jesus needs a little work. He talks to me, but with his head down and with no enthusiasm. Even though it's very early in the program, I already feel that I am making a difference in a child's life.

Serving Our Homeless Neighbors Room In The Inn

Thanks to the many members who have already signed up to help with Room In The Inn—which starts today! There are many opportunities to help in the coming months. Go to www.coe.uncc.edu/~jdbowen/RITI to view the volunteer calendar. Contact Jim Bowen at jdbowen@uncc.edu with the date and need you will fill and he will confirm back to you.

Travel or hotel size shampoos and disposable razors are needed for our Room In The Inn guests. If you are able to contribute either, please put them in the white bins outside the Church Office. Your donations are appreciated.



"The Great Christmas Giveaway" Presented by Avondale Adventures Children Sunday, December 11 4:00pm

Join the children of Avondale for the annual Christmas musical entitled "The Great Christmas Giveaway". Lynn Wilkerson and Eleanor Ramey have been working with the 40+ young choristers for many weeks and the excitement of the children is barely containable! All their hard work will be shared on Sunday, December 11.

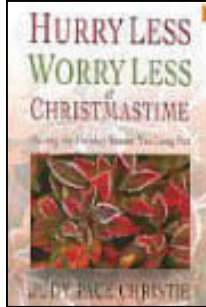
"Mom did you know there is a rap song in the musical?" one child was overheard explaining as she was picked up from Avondale Adventures. "It's a great show about a group of kids who want to pick out the perfect gift for their teacher, but that's all I can tell you. I don't want to give it away," she continued.

Come to the Fellowship Hall and see for yourself what wonderful lessons the children learn on their quest to buy the perfect gift. There will be a holiday cookie social in the Family Life Center immediately following the show. Don't miss this Avondale tradition that is sure to put you in the Holiday spirit.

Advent Morsels for Your Mind and Soul

A new array of books is on the bookshelf in the Church Office to nurture you during your journey through the Advent season.

Come check out an inspiring devotional for the days of Advent. Browse a Bible study on the Christmas Scriptures, or ponder a book of reflections by authors such as Thomas Merton, Tom Long, Max Lucado. Titles include Hurry Less, Worry Less at Christmastime, Waiting for the Wonder, Christmas from the Backside, and One Incredible Moment.



Service begins January 1, 2012

9:00am in the Sanctuary



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN
Of Avondale**

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

Freedom School Helpers Needed

Is God calling you to serve in the office at Freedom School Partners' headquarters, near Covenant Presbyterian Church? Office support is needed answering phones and doing light clerical work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am—1pm and Fridays from 1—5pm. If you can help, please contact Kim Dickerson, Volunteer Coordinator at kim@freedomschoolpartners.org.

Thanks to All the Women of Avondale who contributed to the Thank Offering for a total of \$580 at the Fall Gathering. The donations will go to funding national and international life-changing projects for the coming year.

Finance Notes

Important—To 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 December 18. Look for them outside the Sanctuary.

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.**

Automatic Draft—It is never too late to contribute by automatic bank draft. Contact Renita Fowler if you are interested. She will mail you the form to sign-up; then return it to her in the Church Office.

The Traditional Circles as defined by the Presbyterian Church (USA):

- Nurture our faith through devotionals, Bible stories and prayers, as a group or in an individual private setting.
- Support the mission of the church worldwide by participating in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Thank Offerings (national and international) and Birthday Offerings.
- Support the missions of PWA and Congregational Life activities.
- Participate in annual pledging in the individual circles, when possible.
- Define Congregational Life Groups of the Presbyterian Women of Avondale.

PWA offers opportunities for Fellowship, Enrichment, Social, Parenting, Gardening and other diverse groups to gather as a part of Avondale's Congregational Life. These groups are invited and encouraged to voluntarily participate in PW missions and activities, as well as those of PWA.

Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Deadline for next newsletter is December 13, 2011 - print date December 20, 2011

Phone: 704-333-6194 Fax: 704-333-5901 E-mail: ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org

Joys and Concerns

Ministry of Caring to Members of Our Church:

Barbara Town, Betty and Jack Marvin, Cate Vick, Claire Graham, Flo Bowen, Frances Robertson, Genny Burns, Juanita Stallings, Leona Hough, Margaret Ratchford, Martha Rogers, Miriam McLeod, 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)
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 Donna Lutz
Family and friends of Laura Taylor
Family and friends of Robert Whitton
Grier Christenbury (friend of the Zuyus family)
Helen Horrocks (sister of Eleanor Ramey)
Herman Coxe (Uptown Meal Ministry friend)
Jay Hipkins (friend of Debi Medlin)
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)

Memorials and Honorariums

Betty Dunlap:	David and Janice McPherson D.J. and Leslie Saleeby
Ronnie Lewis:	Harris Morse Pat Lewis Mickey Melton Betty Marshall D.J. and Leslie Saleeby Valerie Burnie Ellen Watson
In Honor of Marcia Halsey:	Olivia and Rogers Magee