

# Avondale Avenues

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

Avondale  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 24, 2012



Dear Friends in Christ,

During these gray, overcast winter days of January we welcome epiphany. The shining Light provides direction, offers hope, and prepares us for what is yet to come. Our church Ministry Team Leaders and Elders will gather this Saturday for their annual retreat. Their agenda is clear. Define ministry for the coming year so that the light of Christ may be seen. Pray for their work and welcome the opportunity to work with them in ministry.

As we move forward into the new year, illumination will continue in many areas of ministry. Here are three very specific ones requiring the discerning work of servants within the church:

The first is staffing and what follows after Brad Clayton's departure. We pray that God will provide the wisdom and right person to bring new leadership to our youth ministry. Our summer ministry, with visiting work camps, recreational camps such as basketball and cheerleading, and our own Vacation Bible School, requires planning and direction. Our Family Life Center and the MacLean Fellowship Hall are gifts given to us to be used for furthering the Kingdom and the desire is to see the facilities advance the Kingdom of God. This requires time and dedication to the task.

A second issue requiring epiphany and the reflection of light is the use of our facilities. A task force will gather to evaluate rates for facility use and review facility requests insofar as they align with the Session's vision for ministry and use of our buildings and property here on Park Road.

Lastly, working with the Spiritual Growth Ministry Team, we will continue to look at the implications of the ARISE service upon the larger ministry here at Avondale. The energy and response of the congregation to the ARISE service is strong and increasing. As this light is shared beyond those who regularly find their way to Avondale, we will continue to consider the opportunities and implications of this service upon the Sunday school and traditional 11:00am service. I am thankful to so many who are working hard to make this service meaningful and to those who remain open and flexible to what may happen by the leading of God's Spirit.

What is happening during these winter days at Avondale is nothing less than the Feast of Epiphany. *'The season of Christmas'*, writes one author, *'is God's gift to us. The days of Epiphany celebrate our gifts to God'*. On my office door is a picture of two children in our church family whose faces are illuminated by the light of the photographer. To me they are a daily reminder of how all of God's children can be transformed by the Light when we remember our way toward the Light. These young women are "wisemen" worshipping the Light, living out their faith and offering their treasures. Pray that God will use all of our gifts.....



## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting, a called meeting of the congregation, will be held immediately following the 11:00am worship service on Sunday, January 29 for the presentation of the Annual Report. If you picked up a report last Sunday, please remember to bring it to the meeting.



## Youth BBQ Saturday

February 4 11am—4pm

In preparation for this summer's mission trip to Peru, the youth are sponsoring a Drive-Through BBQ on Saturday, February 4 from 11am-4pm. If you enjoyed the delicious, slow-smoked barbeque and fixings over Celebration Weekend, don't miss this chance to stock up!

We will offer a pound and sauce for \$10 and a family meal deal for \$25 which includes 1.5 lbs BBQ, a quart of slaw, a quart of beans, and a package of buns. Baked goods will be available to add to your meal. Great for the Super Bowl Game day, your freezer, or sharing with co-workers.

For large orders (price break) email your request to [toadhall@carolina.rr.com](mailto:toadhall@carolina.rr.com).

## Young Adult Sunday School Class

A new Sunday School class for young adults will be starting in Lent. Mark your calendars for March 4. More information will be coming soon.

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School takes a new turn! This year our focus will be on MISSION. Mark your calendars for June 25—29, with one full day at Fellowship Point on Lake Norman.



**WONDERFUL  
WEDNESDAYS  
ARE BACK!!!**

**FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 14**  
dinner at 6:00 classes 6:30 to 7:30

*"Why Do the Catholics Do That?"*  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER JIM HAMRLIK  
ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

*"Faith and Film"*  
- also runs a 4th class March 21st -  
**THIS FAVORITE RETURNS**  
LED BY TOM STOUT

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

## Share Your Love of Cooking

Do you have a gift of cooking? We need a few new cooks to help with the Member Care Meal Ministry. When the occasion presents itself (a new baby, someone coming home from the hospital, etc.) we put out a call to our cooks for help in providing and delivering a meal to one of our congregation. Sometimes you may provide an entire meal and sometimes just part of one. Please consider joining this ministry. If you are interested, call Betty Chambers at 704-588-6698.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Of Avondale

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

Circle #1 will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the church library. Call Lue Singer with questions 704-752-8134.

Circle #4 will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 12:30pm at Sharon Towers. Call Sharon McGinn with questions 704-552-1182.

Circle #5 will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 1:00pm in the MacLean Fellowship Hall. Call Betty Patterson with questions 704-372-2624.

Genesis Circle will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00pm at the home of Susan Brandau, 2000 Starbrook Dr. Call Ruby Cathey with questions 704-525-5769.

Bridge Builders call Nancy Favor at 704-763-4166 for the time and location of the February meeting.

LIFT will meet Monday, February 13 at 7:00pm at the home of Paige Cohen, 1200 Princeton Ave. Call or email Heather Wilson with questions 704-891-1426 or [h.e.wilson@me.com](mailto:h.e.wilson@me.com).

## Directory Changes

An updated telephone and address directory is in the works and will be published in early February. If you have moved, or changed phone numbers or email addresses, or would like to make sure your cell number is printed in the directory, please let Ginny know either by emailing [ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org), calling 704-333-6194, or by completing one of the forms in the Black Books on Sunday.

Please note that we will publish all known cell phone numbers unless you request that your's be "unlisted". Thank you for helping us provide the most up to date information as possible.

## Living a Joyful Life Avondale Women's Retreat February 24—26

Martha Kearse, Minister of Children and Family Life at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be our retreat leader this February. Focusing on the theme of JOY, Martha will lead us as we look at what the Bible tells us about joy and how we can experience more joy in our lives.

If you haven't signed up, spaces are still available. Join us for a weekend of relaxation, reflection and renewal. Call 704-333-6194 or email Ginny and she will send you a form ([ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org)).



## Nourishing Our Spiritual Lives Through the Healing Labyrinth Presented by Lauren Artress April 13—16

"The Healing Labyrinth: Addressing the  
Spiritual Hunger of Our Time"  
Lecture & Book Signing  
Friday, April 13 7—9pm

"Nourishing our Spiritual Lives"  
Labyrinth Workshop  
Saturday, April 14 9:30am—4:30pm

Labyrinth Facilitator Training  
Sunday, April 15 1—8:30pm  
Monday, April 16 9am—5pm

Three opportunities are available for you to hear and work with Lauren Artress, author of [Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool](#). Avondale will host this four day event. To learn more about or register for the lecture and workshop go to [www.charlottelabyrinthgroup.com](http://www.charlottelabyrinthgroup.com). If you are interested in the Facilitator Training, go to [www.veriditas.org](http://www.veriditas.org).

Avondale Presbyterian Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Deadline for next newsletter is January 31, 2012 - print date February 7, 2012

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:

Audrey Dougherty, Barbara Town, Betty and Jack Marvin, Flo Bowen, Genny Burns, Hannah Comstock, Kitty Allen, Leona Hough, Margaret Ratchford, Miriam McLeod, Roberta Hayes, Sue Haag, and Ted Goldthorpe

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

Amy Pawta (acquaintance of Rena White)  
Anne Faucette (friend of Susan and Mahlon Thomas)  
Ava Tardy (infant child of Joy Wilkerson's friend Maggie)  
Beth Austin (cousin of Rena White)  
Bo Sibilsky (brother of Lyn Sweet)  
Brent Reck (brother-in-law of Heather Wilson)  
Charles Hensley (son of Ann Hensley)  
Cheryl Ellis (co-worker of Barbara Darling)  
Donald James (friend of Jane Summey Mullenix)  
Edward Caldwell (cousin of Joan Munn)  
Family and friends of Warrena Hankinson  
Grier Christenbury (friend of the Zuyus family)  
Helen Horrocks (sister of Eleanor Ramey)  
Janet McGrew (mother of B. J. Byrd)  
Jay Hipkins (friend of Debi Medlin)  
Jenni  
Jennifer Neal (niece of Susan Harrington)  
Jim Coates (husband of Billie Coates and father of Paige Hamilton)

### Ministry of Caring to Friends (continued) :

Luke Sahlie (grandson of Joanne Sahlie)  
Millie Merricks (mother of Pam Blake)  
Olivia Powell (great niece of Rena White)  
Sam McAlexander (friend of McCloskey McDonald families)  
Taylor Anderson (infant friend of Susan Thomas)  
Timothy Moyer (grandson of friend of Charles Favor)

## Sharing Good News....

Joyfully we share the news that SFC Stephen Rogers has returned stateside from Afghanistan and is at home with his family in Tennessee. Stephen and all his family wish to thank all of you for your prayers of support during his deployment.

## Memorials

Betty Dunlap	David and Emily Rainey
Ronnie Lewis	Jim and Martha Rogers