

AVONDALE AVENUES

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

Avondale
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 20, 2010

www.avondalepresbychurch.org



Dear Friends in Christ,

As an outsider of Avondale, and hearing about the energy of last week, she asked, “*Do you think the majority of members are aware of what is going on this week on the church grounds?*”

What was happening last week at Avondale? The larger membership was celebrating and participating in an entire week of children. Some fifty children/youth with Freedom School, another 50 children with Avondale Bible Camp, and another 60 with the Children’s Center. There was no space left untouched with this ministry to children. It was clearly the week of the child.

In order for this ministry to have occurred it took the support and commitment of adults infusing the programs. In more than one instance what was seen was an adult working with a youth who in turn was working with a child. Of particular note and praise was my joy in seeing a core of older adults working with the children of Avondale Bible Camp. So in an abbreviated nutshell that is what happened at 2821 Park Road last week. Thank you to all who, through your giving and prayers, enabled the ministry to take place.

The Session has requested a Called Meeting of the Congregation to be held Sunday, August 15th immediately following the service of worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on the recommended change of the Session. (*See article inside.*)

Retirement Reception

The congregation is invited to attend a reception honoring **Ann Gregory** immediately following the 10:30AM Worship Service in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, July 25.**

At the July meeting of the Session, the following motions were approved:

- Recommendation from Long Range Planning in regards to organizational plan of Session;
- Minutes of June meeting and June financial report;
- Recommendations on receiving memorials for the Wind Chime Tower which include wind chimes, temple bells and walkway pavers. The policy is currently available in the Church Office to any who desire to know more about the designation of gifts as an appropriate memorial within the Garden.

Received as Information:

- Attic Sale date of September 18 and core leadership is now in place.
- Reservations are now being received for the Congregational Retreat (October 22-24) with members being encouraged to make reservations before Sunday, July 22.
- Church-wide BBQ is being planned for Saturday, August 28.

Appreciation was expressed to the following for their faithfulness in ministry:

All workers in the Common Ground garden; for all workers with Avondale Bible Camp; for all who worked with Worship Readiness; for members of the Personnel Committee who were involved with interviewing and hiring of the new Administrative Assistant; to Dollie Sitton and Betty Chambers for their help with congregation retreat planning; and to Zach Chambers for his time devoted to the youth on the recent youth work camp.

Attic Sale

The date has been set. The leaders are in place. Get ready to volunteer your help with the Attic Sale....

September 18, 2010

Session Calls Congregational Meeting on Sunday August 15th

Session Recommends that Congregation Adopt Discernment Model and Reduce the Session Size

At the July meeting, the Session voted on a motion, introduced by Long Range Planning, which proposes that the congregation reduce the number of elders from 18 in 2010 to 9 in 2013. The proposal suggests that Ministry Teams will be chaired and managed by members of the congregation, allowing Elders to seek to discern God's will. The Session recommends that the Congregation pass the following motion:

“To reduce the number of elders, from 18 in 2010 to 9 in 2013 (a reduction of 3 elders each year). Session will consist of 15 elders in 2011, 12 elders in 2012 and 9 elders in 2013. This structure will allow elders to pray, discern and focus on where God is leading Avondale. Members of the congregation will lead Ministry Teams, serving two-year terms.”

A congregational meeting will be held on immediately following worship on August 15th allowing the congregation to discuss the proposal and vote on the motion.

Joyous Opportunity for Church Leadership to Love and Know Jesus Better

The Session recommends the smaller session size and Discernment Model for several reasons:

1. They believe a smaller Session is more conducive to discernment, brainstorming and decision-making (*Research on optimal group sizes found five members to be optimum for discussing a human relations problem and ten members as optimum for brainstorming: Journal of Marketing Research*)
2. They believe Elders are called to seek to discern God's will and seek to discern where God is leading Avondale. The new model would remove Elders from focusing primarily on doing administrative work, freeing them to seek to discern God's will for Avondale – big picture thinking, teaching, listening and praying.
3. The new model would enable Avondale to move past being a “task-oriented Session” and seek spiritual direction.
4. The new model would leverage the gifts and talents of Avondale's church members, enabling members with the gift of discernment to serve on the Session, while those with organizational and management gifts would be asked to lead ministry teams

The proposed reorganization would involve a greater number of members in a leadership role, matching gifts with passions.

Divided Responsibilities for Elders and Ministry Team Leaders

This proposed reorganization will allow elders to better fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the Book of Order and to seek to discern God's will. Each Elder will be partnered with a Ministry Team Leader and will serve as a catalyst in enabling the Ministry Team to embrace and help form vision. Elders would not normally be involved in the actual implementation of ministry team activities including recruiting volunteers, managing events/programs or managing budget.

The Ministry Team Leader is responsible for applying the church-wide vision to his/her ministry team, designing ministries and programs and determining how to carry out the vision. Ministry Team leaders will be asked to serve a 2-year term. The Ministry Team Leader creates specific goals for the ministry team and manages goals for the ministry team. This model relies on mutual accountability between the Elder and Ministry Team Leader.

Please attend the August 15th congregational meeting and contact Ann Patterson in Long Range Planning with any questions or concerns: rapatt@carolina.rr.com or 704-517-3953.



**Avondale
Bible Camp
Baobab Blast**

**“From east to west, the powerful LORD God
has been calling together everyone on earth.”
Psalm 50:1**



Last week, fifty children from Avondale and beyond learned about God’s word and activity in the world, thanks to the love, talents and time of 59 members of Avondale. More photos can be viewed on our website.



Interfaith Sunday School Class

July 25 and August 1—9:30AM in the Family Life Center



There Can Be No Peace in the World Until There is Peace Among Religions.”

Hans Kung.

Today there is much confusion and misunderstanding about people of other faiths. As Christians, our closest spiritual sisters and brothers are Muslims and Jews. We share with them Abraham and Sarah as our ancestors in faith, yet wars have been waged and hostility continues between people who believe in God.

Rose Hamid is a Muslim American of Palestinian and Latin descent. She grew up in the Catholic tradition but chose to follow Islam when she started her family. She has been married for 27 years, and has three children: Suzanne, 22, Omar, 20, Samir 18. She is the Co-Founder and retired President of the Muslim Women of the Carolinas, a past Member of the Board of Mecklenburg Ministries, and a Member of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools’ Interfaith Advisory Council. She is also a frequent speaker about topics such as Islam and the

Rabbi Faith Cantor serves on the professional staff of Temple Israel here in Charlotte. She grew up in Anaheim, California, and graduated from California State University with a B. A. degree in History. Rabbi Cantor received her Rabbinic ordination and a Masters degree in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She has travelled extensively in Israel and has a passion for the Rabbinate and Jewish education. Rabbi and her husband, David, have a son, Amidan and two daughters, Devorah and Gavriela.

Teacher Training!

Come discover how our brain works and how human beings learn. On **August 11**, from **7—8:30PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**, we will explore the research and study of Barbara Bruce, author of [Our Spiritual Brain: Integrating Brain Research and Faith Development](#). All are welcome, whether you are teaching now, feel

Let’s Rally!

Rally Day is **August 29** at 9:30AM. The men of the church will serve a hot breakfast at 8:30AM in the Family Life Center! Be there to kick off an exciting

Do you fear being left behind?

A fabulous seminar on the Book of Revelation will be held Saturday, August 14 from 9:00AM—12:00PM, at Davidson College Presbyterian Church (DCPC).

Dr. James “Mickey” Efird, Professor Emeritus at Duke Divinity School, will help us sort fiction from Revelation truth. An extremely popular Bible Teacher, Dr. Efird will also help us dispel myths about the end times and reclaim the hope for all Christians found in this exciting, but often misunderstood book of the Bible.

Cost is \$5 per person and \$5 for childcare. Register by





Of Avondale

Our PWA programs require financial support to fulfill our purpose. Please remember to make your annual pledge.

Coordinating Team meeting, **Sunday, August 15**, following morning worship service in the Vanguard classroom.

Visitors are welcome to visit the following meetings during the summer break:

- **New Moms' Group** will meet on **Wednesday, July 21 at 9:30AM**. Please call Sarah Vestal at 704-615-1373 for meeting location.
- **Circle #5** will meet on **Tuesday, August 3 at 2:30PM** in the Church Office Conference Room. Please call Virginia Short at 704-542-3577 with questions.
- **Circle #1** invites all women not currently attending a circle or group to visit on the **first Tuesday of the month** in the **Church Library at 11:00AM**. Bring a bag lunch; permitting those on a lunch break to join us. You may come late or leave early—a total commitment of one hour. Our Bible study will be an enlightening series of lessons on “The Book of Hope,” Revelation. The **next meeting is Tuesday, September 7**. Contact Betty Eudy, Acting Chair, with questions at 704-523-3278.

An Interest in Italy?

A group of Avondale members is examining the possibility of a trip to Italy in 2011 to see great Christian artworks. The trip would probably be in September or October.

If you think you might have an interest in participating, please see or drop a note to Harry Greyard or Page Woods. We are in the exploratory stage of looking into this possibility, so don't feel like you are making a commitment.

Memorials & Honorariums

Mac Cross

James and Martha Rogers
H. Thomas Dunck
Carolyn K. Milford
Louise B. Cobb
Marie D. Latimer

Rose Davis

James D. and Rebecca M. Liles
Patrick J. and Colleen V. Owens
Tim and Marilyn Hammond
Carrol H. Whitley
John D. and Diane C. Carrington
Helen C. Marple

Scott McRae

Barbara M. Hill
Lamar and Mary Peach
Beverly M. Whitehurst

90's Birthday Celebration

Covered Dish Lunch and Fun Activities for All!
Sunday, August 15th

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual celebration of Avondale's special members who are in their 90's. Help us say "Happy Birthday" to all in fun, fellowship and great food. This is an event your family will want to attend. Covered dish lunch immediately following 10:30AM service. Please bring enough food for your family plus four more.



Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Avondale Avenues is sent out every other Tuesday.
Deadline for next newsletter is July 27 - print date August 3
Fax to 704-333-5901 E-mailed to: ann@avondalepresbychurch.org

Joys and Concerns

Ministry of Caring to Members of Our Church:

Lorena Bean, Flo Bowen, Genny Burns, Joan Middleton, Lue Singer, Sara Bethune, Presbytery of Charlotte (for guidance on budget cuts)

Ministry of Caring to Friends of Our Church

Family:

Ty Gardner (nephew of Shea Chambers)
Fabian Walker (friend of Linda Haigh)
Jim Coates (father of Paige Hamilton)
John Earl, Sr. (father of John Earl, Jr.)
Mike Oliver (friend of Barbara Darling's daughter)
Janet Dougherty (daughter of Audrey Dougherty)
Dorothea Deese (mother of Susan Thomas)
Jerry Howard (father of Bob Howard)
Susan Caskey (friend of Barbara Witzel)
Marjorie McClean (mother of Marjorie Dix)
Jean Tischler (friend of Marjorie Dix)
Bob Hasty (father of Betsy Gustafson)
Audrey Dery (mother of Jack Gustafson)
Mary Lou Sanders (sister of Ellen Watson)
Dr. Frank Watson (brother-in-law of Ellen Watson)
Jean Perdue (mother of Suzi Thornberry)
Janet Dougherty (daughter-in-law of Audrey Dougherty)

Ministry of Caring to Friends (continued):

Marvin & Melva Burke (friends of Stewart Farris)
Dana Davis (friend of Kay Conner)
Ralaine Burd (friend of Becky Grice)
Serving in Afghanistan, Tony Allou (neighbor of Lyn Sweet)

Avondale's Budget Performance for June, 2010

Member Contributions	\$ 33, 617
Other Income	<u>2,889</u>
Total Income	\$ 36,506
Total Expenses	\$ 44,157
Net	(\$ 7,651)

YTD Income, \$311,885 represents 54% of total budgeted income for 2010. YTD Expenses, \$298,754 represents 50% of total budgeted income for 2010.