



# AVONDALE AVENUES

"A Spirit-led community dedicated to using our gifts and talents  
in building loving relationships and serving community"

*Avondale*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 4, 2008

Dear Friends at Avondale,

Welcome Election Day.....yippee!

Now here is a phrase you'll hear used today no less than ten-thousand times.

*"All indications are leading us to believe....."* There is merit in playing off the phrase.

Several events have recently occurred here at Avondale which bring me to believe in a meaningful extended-advent and a strong coming year.

Thank you for your response this past Sunday. It was most positive. By the conclusion of Sunday's service all sixty-five of the zip-lock bags had been taken and people had signed up to assist with the Christmas meal for the homeless. Remember to drop these filled bags off at the church by putting them in the large white storage box outside the office or by bringing them to worship this coming Sunday and placing them at the base of the sanctuary tree. I am very conscious that we are 'out on a limb' with such an extended season of Advent but all indications are that this is something we can do to make a difference! The ministry focus of this coming Sunday is Urban Ministry Center and the opportunity to bring hats, socks, and gloves is upon us.

Secondly, let me express my appreciation for your response to Consecration Sunday. You will find in this newsletter the financial giving response compiled by Bill Thornberry. It is not complete because there are some who continue to fill out their estimate of giving cards. This Sunday evening the church leadership will gather to align proposed mission and budget for 2009. Please pray for their wisdom in knowing where best to use the financial gifts directed to ministry and mission. All indications point to a positive 2009 for program and your involvement.

Thirdly, a slight twist of humor in sharing a comment made by a resident of a retirement home after leading a Sunday evening worship service. She remarked, *"Oh, I've read about you. I see your name frequently in the obituaries!"* I kindly thanked her. However strange and difficult it may be, I thank God and rejoice in the releasing of Statia, Inge, Jan, and Elmore to the keeping of our God. How they all will be missed, but not forgotten. But all indications are that others will bring new stories and works of faith to Avondale. With new members coming into our community, births and baptisms occurring, all indications are that God has something in store. We welcome new members this coming Sunday.

Lastly, a word of gratitude to those who planned the Congregational Retreat at Blue Ridge Assembly. Seeds were planted into spiritual ground which are beginning to take form and break into new life. As we move into 2009 you will hear more of the promise planted. Let me remind you of the **Called Meeting of the Congregation** to be held Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, (10:50 AM) for the sole purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee in the election of Elders.

There you have it. Knowing that God will continue to work through the choices made, both nationally and institutionally, all indications are leading me to a deeper belief! (*and that is no typo!*)

***A Called Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday, Nov. 16th, 10:50 am  
to receive the report of the congregational Nominating Committee.***

## CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
Plaza Presbyterian Church  
2304 The Plaza, Charlotte, N.C.

For the last several Saturdays, twenty members of the Sanctuary Choir have gathered outside of their regular rehearsals to prepare for an upcoming sacred choral concert. By invitation from the American Guild of Organists and the Plaza Musical Arts Series, Avondale is joining with five other Presbyterian churches in the area to present a program of music for the liturgical year. Scripture lessons, anthems, and congregational hymns will lead us from Advent to Pentecost and beyond. All are welcome to come and enjoy this mass choir experience and recognize the faces of Avondale.



### Caring for Creation Food and Faith

In our recent spiritual growth newsletter, Hannah Stockwell shared an article which spoke to the ethical choices we make when we select food for our families. These consumer choices involve not only the health of family members but also affect many environmental and social justice issues as well as farm policies.

Our church (PCUSA) has taken a stand on food issues stating that the test of any food system and the policies that shape it is a moral one. Our consumer choices, our actions, and public policies should put human needs ahead of profits and protect God's creation. Here are just a few of the goals the Presbyterian Hunger Program supports:

- > spreading urban gardening -church, school, and community gardens
- > teaching children to garden
- > facilitating the marketing of local foods
- > getting fresh and healthy foods to all income levels
- > water and soil saving practices with less use of chemicals
- > humane treatment of livestock
- > fair wages and safe conditions for farm workers

In November Avondale members will have the opportunity to see these practices of stewardship in action when we visit Charlotte's Urban Ministry Center. There we will find the center's community garden growing healthy foods and training those who come there in gardening skills. The Urban Ministry Center was selected in 2008 by Organic Gardening Magazine to be one of 15 community gardens in the country to receive a rainwater-harvesting system. We can be proud of their efforts to practice stewardship for God's creation.

Joan Munn

## AVONDALE'S 5th ANNUAL UPTOWN MEAL MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY!

*Sharing the Friendship, Love and Hope of Christ's Birth.*

On Tuesday, December 16, a group of Avondalers will arrive at the small restaurant on Graham Street, armed with loads of your homemade food, to set up a Christmas dinner for our Uptown Meal Ministry friends!

Because of your enthusiastic participation in the past, this has become a day that our friends ( and many of us!) have come to look forward to all year long! We served about 70 guests last year and our friends on the streets are already talking about this year's dinner! We plan to add Christmas carol singing this year and we hope that all of you know that you are invited to this party...the more the merrier!!

We would love for you to be a part of this year's celebration!

We need casserole bakers ( a recipe will be provided!), green bean makers, dessert bakers (this year we will need cookies, brownies or pound cake) and we need folks who would like to help serve and greet our friends at the party!

Please sign up in the Black Book or contact Lynn Wilkerson ( 704 541-9684, [spamhenge@carolina.rr.com](mailto:spamhenge@carolina.rr.com)) .

### Parents of Children in grades K-5

You are invited to a discussion of Faith & Sexuality on Wed., November 19th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Joanne Stratton Tate, an educator and The designer of the Faith & Secuality Workshop for 5th graders, will be our leader.

Come join us for dinner at 5:30 in the Family Life Center. Cost is \$5.00 per person. We need your reservation by Monday, November 17th.

### Correction to 2008 Birthday/Events Calendar

Thanksgiving will be on Thursday  
November 27th, 2008  
(I'll bet you already knew that!)

### Christmas Gift Bags

Plans are being made to have the annual Christmas gift bags for shut-ins and elderly members ready for distribution on Sun. Dec. 14. If you would like to contribute handmade crafts, baked goods or other goodies, please bring them to the church on Fri. Dec. 12 from 12-2 or Sat. Dec. 13 from 11-1. The 35 bags will be assembled on Sat. afternoon. We also need folks to deliver the bags. Please sign in the black book on Sunday or call Rena White at 803-547-1289.

## **Memorials**

### **Jan Parler**

Harry & Donna Johnson  
Bill & Barbara Town  
Nick & Marsha Seagle  
Marvin & Laura Lindsay  
Elaine McGowan  
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Watts  
Steve & Rosalind Donaldson  
Anthony & Pamela Wolfe  
Juanita Stallings  
Mike & Susan Martin  
Betty Patterson  
Olivia & Rogers Magee  
David & Tina Wilson  
Russell & Laurie Schwartz  
Joanne Swanda

Zeta\_Psi Chapter of  
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia  
of East Carolina University

### **Statia Michelson**

Carolyn Dewey  
William & Shirley Corwin  
George & Diana Timmerman  
Bill & Nell Stowe

### **Inge Hegenbart**

David A. Rinehart  
Bill & Barbara Town  
Bill & Nell Stowe  
Harry & Donna Johnson

## **“Magic of Christmas”**

Join the Presbyterian community of Charlotte for a private performance by Charlotte Symphony Orchestra on Thurs. Dec. 4th at 7:30pm in the Belk Theatre.

Proceeds from our tickets sales for this performance will be donated back to Avondale.

Tickets: \$25 General/ \$50 Grand Tier .... Grand Tier guests will receive a free parking voucher and are invited to a pre-concert reception at the theatre.

Tickets are available through the Symphony Box Office 704-972-2000 or ValM@charlottesymphony.org.

You may also call the Avondale office 704-333-6194. Please keep in mind if your order tickets through the church office and find that you can not attend, your money can not be refunded.

## **ROOM IN THE INN**

It's that time of year again when the weather turns cold, we huddle indoors, under our blankets, in our warm beds, cozy fires going and soup on the stove! Some of us are not so fortunate to have the luxuries of simple shelter and food-- especially now, with Charlotte looking at an uncertain future.

Room in the Inn, as organized through the Urban Ministry Center, reaches out to Charlotte churches to take in homeless men, women and children during the cold winter months. We give our guests a hot meal and a safe, warm place to lay their heads for the night, then send them off with a bag lunch.

Avondale has been participating in Room in the Inn for years and are pleased to be able to continue this mission for December 2008-March 2009. Please join us using your gifts and talents to help us have another successful year serving as a host church for Room in the Inn.

From drivers to hosts to cooks, we need you! Look for the sign up boards following both services each Sunday. You may also call Laura Meier at 704-376-7673 or email [laurajmeier@bellsouth.net](mailto:laurajmeier@bellsouth.net)

## **GREENERY & POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

The order deadline for placing orders for Christmas wreaths, garland, centerpieces and poinsettias is fast approaching – it is Sunday, November 9. The greenery is from our own North Carolina mountains and is provided by the same supplier that provides greenery for the Biltmore House. The poinsettias are provided by a local family owned greenhouse that works with church youth groups to provide high quality plants for fundraising. The proceeds from the greenery and poinsettia sale will fund the next youth group overseas trip. Look for the table set up in the courtyard on Sunday to place your order. A copy of the order forms and color poinsettia brochure are also attached to the online version of this newsletter. The youth THANK YOU for your order!

Have questions? Contact Mary Comstock 704-365-9040 (home), 704-975-5437, (cell) 704-377-8102 (work), [mcomstock@rbh.com](mailto:mcomstock@rbh.com); [comstockfam@earthlink.net](mailto:comstockfam@earthlink.net)

**Postmaster: Please send address changes to:**

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

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

**Avondale Avenues is sent out every other Tuesday.**

Announcements must be submitted by the Tuesday before the mail date. Announcements can be:  
Brought to the church office    Faxed to 704-333-5901    E-mailed to: [ann@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:ann@avondalepresbychurch.org)

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Entering Into The Church Triumphant**

Elmore Camp    October 23, 2008

Our sympathy is extended to Elmore's wife  
Willene and to their sons John and Ted.

**Ministry of Caring to Members of our Church:** Gatha Land, Polly Vaughn, Betty Eudy, Tommie Connell,

**Ministry of Caring to Friends of Our Church Family:**  
Justin DeMartino, Isabelle DeMartino, & Shannon Judah  
(relatives of Barbara Cromar)

Glenn Harris (son of Mary Frances Harris)  
Nelson & Martha Kessell (friends of Mary Anne Hogue)  
Janet Dougherty (relative of Audrey Dougherty)  
Theresa Wu (friend of Joan & Karl Munn)  
Will Walker (friend of Olivia Magee)  
Betty Elliott (mother of Lisa Elliott-Lewis)  
Carrie Brennan (daughter of Barbara & Bill Town)  
Fred Anderson (nephew of Tommie Connell)  
Karl Pittard (son-in-law of Barbara Darling)  
Bob McCoy (son of Fran McCoy)  
Jean Gaither (sister of Ann Gregory)



**Consecration Sunday**

Many thanks to those who attended the Consecration Sunday Service and luncheon. I trust you were enlightened by what each Ministry Team highlighted for 2008 and where they would wish to go in 2009.

We received estimate of giving cards from 129 giving units on Sunday. There were some 88 giving units who did not attend this day. If you were one of those folks a card will go out in the mail this week and will contain a self addressed stamped envelop for you to mail back in to the church office.

Of the 129 commitments that were made on Sunday the total was over \$381,000, and represents just above a 3% increase over last year for that group.

We will still continue to receive cards over the next two weeks and will publish additional statistics in the very near future.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to do financially here at Avondale!

Thanks be to God!  
Bill Thornberry