

## Letter from the Pastor



Dear Avondale Church Family,

I believe that we are great because we strive for greatness! If there are failures in this, it is because we do not seek to put our best foot forward at all times. We can get so caught up in the petty things in life that we overlook the greatness in us. We serve a God who is all powerful and can do anything except fail. Yet in many of our lives we treat our problems and challenges as though they are greater than God instead of the other way around. When we perceive and act as though our problems are greater than God rather than God is greater than our problems, are we not diminishing God in our minds and actions?

I am reading a book entitled "The Circle Maker" by Mark Batterson. In one chapter he speaks about Moses when he is called to take the people out of Egypt. You may be familiar with the story. Moses took the people out of Egypt after a number of plagues against the Pharaoh and his people forced his hand to let them go. Taken from the bondage of slavery, the people set out to the promised land; a land flowing with milk and honey. But before they got there, they had desert experiences. And as often we will do when God takes us out of a bad situation toward a better situation, we begin to grumble. The people in Moses' time were no different. They were freed from hard labor and bad conditions and were moving toward a better life, a God given life. But the people began to moan and grumble about not having meat to eat. Never mind the Manna from heaven that God provided every day. They wanted meat.

Moses had been leading the people alone and the burden was too heavy for him. So, he prayed to God for guidance and the Lord answered:

**Numbers 11:16-20 (NRSV)**

16 So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

17 I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the

people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.

18 And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the LORD, saying, 'If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt.' Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat.

19 You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days,  
20 but for a whole month—until it comes out of

your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the LORD who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'"

Moses replied to God that there were so many people, six hundred thousand. They were in the middle of the desert, how could God feed that many, every day with meat for an entire month? Moses asked, 22

"Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?"

And then God answered with a question. Mark Batterson said it is *the question* and I agree.

"23 The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's power limited?" (NRSV) *continued*

When we perceive and act as though our problems are greater than God....



## Pastor Letter cont.

Wow! Is the Lord's power limited? We know the answer. It is no. But we treat God and our problems as though it is. Be encouraged today. God's power is not limited. God can do more, MORE, than we can ever ask or imagine. God's power is only limited by our smallness and lack of faith. Think big and dream big. Ask God to do great things for you, your family, your church and your job. Then watch what God will do. Make it big enough so that you will have no doubt that it is God and not you. God will show up and show out. You will never doubt again the greatness of God and God's unlimited power. As God bought quail every day from the sea to the desert he fed the people heartily. Every day they had quail that was a bit more than three feet deep and covered a span of sixty miles around the camp. Every day they ate and ate well. Imagine that! This is what God is able to do.

Do not limit God in your needs and desires. When grumbling begins remember God's question to Moses. Is the Lord's power limited? Have faith, set self aside and see what God is able to do. In Christ, Rev. Veronica

## Session Highlights

- **Called Meeting of the Congregation** on February 11, 2018 immediately following the worship service for the purposes indicated below:  
That a Called Meeting of the congregation be held on February 11, 2018 immediately following the 9:30 AM worship service for the purpose of:
  - Hearing a motion changing the terms of call as it relates to the annual compensation of Rev. Chris Lee
  - Providing a copy of the Annual Report to members and
  - Receiving the Annual Report.
- Approval of **2018 Budget**.
- **Communion** will continue on the 1st Sunday of the month, as we have done for years.
- **Members**, Mary LaRoach and Paige Cohen, to be removed from the roll.
- **New Officers** for the corporation were elected:
  - Cindy McKenzie – President
  - Jackie Shannon – Vice President
  - Chris Swart – Secretary
  - Jennifer Patterson – Treasurer

**Our Youth BBQ sale is this  
Saturday, February 3**  
9 AM to 2 PM  
Pre-Order and  
Walk-up Sales available!



Pre-order your BBQ and sides!  
<http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org/youthfundraisers>  
Volunteer with the BBQ fundraiser  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094fafae2aa6fd0-youth>

## HANDS & HEARTS

### Youth BBQ Sale

Cooking, kitchen, orders, sale, more

[Sign-up](#)

### Avondale Adventures

Contact [Kelly Platt](#)

### Avondale Sign Message on Park Road

[Details](#) & [Sign-up](#)

### Serve on a Ministry Team

Contact [Rev. Chris](#) or [Rev. Veronica](#)

### Worship Setup

Sign-up on Sundays

### Room In The Inn

[Sign-up](#)

### ABC Ministry Volunteer

[ABC webpage](#)

### Redesign of ABC Teen Center

Call Covert Suydam mobile: 704-293-9924

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Special Offerings 2017

Ten Cents a Meal	\$5,498
Harvey Relief Fund	\$3,960
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,802
Pentecost Offering	\$2,678
Joy Gift	\$1,806
Peace and Global Witness Off.	\$1,157
Paper for Water Offering	\$502
VBS Offering	\$160
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,562</b>

### 2018 Pledge Update

\$491,266 Pledged for 2018 as of

Tuesday, January 30, 2018



## Birthdays in February

<b>1</b> Candace Williamson Debi Medlin Kendel Parks Stephen Hummel	<b>8</b> Cathy Watson Rebecca Harris	<b>18</b> Lou Johnson Rebeca Presson Rob Blake
<b>2</b> Katie Swart	<b>9</b> Cindy McKenzie Mary Nell Howard	<b>19</b> Bordie McCloskey
<b>3</b> Ella Ferguson John Earl	<b>10</b> Kelly Eakes Mickey Melton	<b>20</b> Amy DeArmon Milli Mann
<b>4</b> Lauren Blake Rena Beall Stacey Longshore	<b>14</b> David Byrd	<b>24</b> Dee Dee McDonald
<b>6</b> Betty Marshall	<b>16</b> Harry Greyard <b>17</b> Katherine Hall	<b>25</b> Nancy Bohrer <b>26</b> Ellen Watson
	<b>18</b> Amanda Mullennix Cheryl Judd-Magee	<b>27</b> Cynthia Rupert <b>28</b> Harriette Thomas

## Wedding Anniversaries in February

<b>7</b> John Magee and Cheryl Judd-Magee 1987	<b>20</b> Todd and Patti Oswald 1993
<b>14</b> Joe and Emily Zuyus 1998	<b>22</b> Mahlon and Susan Thomas 1981
<b>19</b> David and Juddie Finison 2010	<b>25</b> Eleanor Ramey 1950

## Joys & Concerns

### Concern for Members:

Carol and Jim Bowen: Mary Alice Bryson; Rachel Darling; Rose Graham; Sue Haag; Mary Hall; Delia and Bordie McCloskey; Martha Meunier; Betty Parrish; Ann and Ryan Patterson; David and Libby Phillips; Martha Rogers; Eric and Amanda Shanks; and Peggy Simpson.

### Concern for Family and Friends:

Donna Allen; Caitlen Ainsworth; the Blottman Family; Ray Cannon; James Higgs; Stuart Jernigan; the Kocmand Family; and Tor Smith.

### New Members Received:

With warm and open hearts, we received new members recently: Mark Brantley (on Dec. 17);

Kirk and Kristen Martin and their child, Knox (on Dec. 17); and Bryan and Jennilyn Emory and their baby, Griffin Reid Emory (on Jan. 28).

### Member News:

A special letter from Eric and Amanda Shanks was shared with our congregation recently. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Church Triumphant:

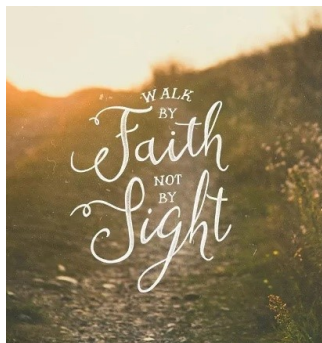
We extend our Christian sympathy...

...to the family of Billy D. Parrish, who entered the church triumphant on December 25. A witness to the resurrection service was held December 28 (September 16, 1931 - December 25, 2017).

...to the family of Audrey Dougherty, who lost her brother recently.

### Baptism:

Baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, was Griffin Reid Emory, son of Bryan and Jennilyn Emory, on Sunday, January 28, 2018.



Walk by faith,  
not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

## Emergency Next of Kin

Dear Avondale,

In an effort to provide the best care possible for our members in case of an emergency, please consider giving the front office a name for next of kin and a phone number where they might be reached.

We want to ensure, as much as possible, that we can reach a loved one in an emergency, if something were to happen on our campus or beyond and because we love you.

[Link: Emergency Contact Form](#)



## Birthdays in March

- |                    |                        |                     |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jessica Shanks   | 10 Jodie Lawson        | 22 Barbara Hill     |
| 2 Billie Coates    | Kay Cameron-Conner     | 23 Joe Zuyus        |
| Sena Miller        | Lyn Sweet              | 25 Shirley McDowell |
| Todd Oswald        | Mollie Zuyus           | 26 Beth Moss        |
| 3 Fran McCoy       | 11 Tracie Hummel       | 27 Bryan Emory      |
| Sarah-Kate Pease   | 14 Sherry Whitesides   | Lacey Beall         |
| 4 Dann Smith       | 16 Allye Powell        | Laura McCarthy      |
| Langston Longshore | 17 Jed Wilkerson       | 28 Erik Thomson     |
| 6 Barbara Barber   | Martha Branden         | 29 Cheryl Yount     |
| Joshua Sutherland  | 18 Henry Stockwell     | Claire L. Graham    |
| Megan McCarthy     | 19 Anita Dorroh-Thomas | Lynn Wilkerson      |
| 8 Isla Smith       | Mia Platt              | 30 John Eyer        |
| 9 Erin Passaly     | Owen Shumate           | 31 Alex Shumate     |
|                    | 21 Alice Balfe         |                     |

### Humor:

I like having conversations with kids. Grownups never ask me what my third favorite reptile is.

## Wedding Anniversaries in March

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Jim and Carol Bowen 1980    | 20 Betty Parrish 1955          |
| 3 Tim and Betty Chambers 1973 | 21 Jack and Sharon McGinn 1958 |
| 8 Mike and Connie Love 1970   | 25 Jennifer and Tim Dewey 2017 |
| 16 Heather and Jack Hogston   |                                |

## Memorials

In memory of: Mike Cathey  
Given by: Linda Haigh

In memory of: Jim Singer  
Given by: Linda Haigh  
Barbara Witzel

In memory of: Jack & Betty Marvin  
Given by: Laura A. Witter  
Beverly J. Crabbs

In memory of: Bill Parrish  
Given by: Joseph & Margaret Hardegree  
Brenda & Vance Horton, Jr.  
Peggy & Boyce Morrow  
William & Joann Burge  
Steve & Sue Eagle  
Mary Thornley  
Taffy Williams



In memory of: Ruth Lipford  
Given by: Birch Carlson

In memory of: Edward "Poppy" Balfe  
Given by: Ann Gaul

In memory of: Edward F. Balfe  
Given by: Kevin Balfe  
Ann Gaul

## Honorariums

In honor of: Christian Nurture Ministry Team  
Given by: Linda Haigh

In honor of: The Church Staff  
Given by: Linda Haigh

In honor of: Linda Haigh  
Given by: Andrew & Jennifer Patterson

In honor of: Youth Mission  
Given by: Linda Haigh



## The Church at Work

### Haiti Ministry

On Friday, October 27, the Zuyus family (Ava, Mollie, Emily and Joe), Cory Shanks, Debby Sacra, and Ted Todd flew into Cap Haitien, Haiti and drove to Milot. Milot is a small commune approximately 30 minutes from Cap Haitien. It was a short four day trip, but a full four days. The main purpose of the trip was to explore the possible funding of a New Mission house in Milot, and review where we are in the current funding of the meal commitment.

As many of you know, Jacquelyn Valmyr is our host-guide-contact-friend in Milot. During the trip, we carried food to many of the friends and families we have met before. (In past years, Avondale has feed many elderly who otherwise would go without food.) We visited the partially started Mission House. It is remarkable how much of the structure has been completed with so little resources, but so much determination.

I think we can speak for several of the congregation that have traveled-experienced Haiti - it is a uniquely spiritual experience. It is a unique opportunity to be immersed into the life of this community in an intimate way and be able to share life with our friends and acquaintances.

I wish I could point to a specific or unique experience or theology that would clearly state the experience that is brought back in your heart, and there may be others that have gone that are able to do that. For me it is a sense of The Holy Spirit hovering over, engaging and being in the eyes of those we meet. Christ seems to reach right out of them into your heart and touch in some subtle way. Your consciousness is quickened. It is raw and yet refined. Dark and light all in one day, much like Haiti. A place full of paradox!

In the next few weeks, the Mission Team hope to have a congregation gathering that will offer more information about our need for continued support in Milot, Haiti. In Christ's Light...

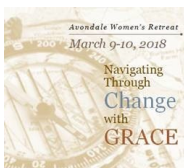
Read more about Phase II in Haiti in our [September Newsletter](#).

### Room In The Inn

We have three leaders coordinating three multi-night sessions to house our neighbors experiencing homelessness - Robert Suydam, Laura Meier, and Jim McCarthy. We are truly privileged to be able to offer comfort, safety, and filling meals for our neighbors and generous folks like each of you make this ministry happen! The first session of RITI is complete, plus the added New Year's Eve host night. Sign-up to help with our next sessions: February 9-11 and March 2-4. Find the [volunteer sign-up](#) link on our website. Read about our New Year's Even gathering in this edition.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT



Allow yourself the precious gift of time to go enjoy the 2018 Avondale Women's Retreat, March 9-11 in Montreat. In life, change is inevitable. And can be very difficult. Jessica Patchett will help us understand and appreciate God's grace in the midst of change. Find more information and a Registration Form on our [website](#).

## The Church at Work

### Avondale Children's Center

Each weekday, the loving and dedicated staff of Avondale Children's Center care for 74 children. This important mission of Avondale Presbyterian Church began in 1988 in response to the need for quality child care for infants and toddlers. Now, the Avondale Children's Center (ACC) serves children ranging in age from infants to five years old. The ACC provides high quality care and education and maintains a 5-star rating. There are currently 8 Church families with children enrolled at the ACC. In addition, several staff at the ACC are members of the Church.

The Church supports the faith development of the children at the Children's Center in many ways. Every other week, Libby Thompson, Lyn Sweet and Lynn Wilkerson lead chapel for children ages 3-5, teaching Bible stories and leading the children in song. The ASAP group has read stories to the children, enjoyed songs performed by the children, and completed craft projects with the children. The ACC also participates in many Church activities. This past Advent, the ACC



provided their families with kits to create Chrismons, which were used to decorate the Chrismon tree we displayed during worship. In addition, Children's Center families helped with our Angel Tree and with donations for the shelter that is housed at South Tryon Community United Methodist Church in the Brookhill neighborhood.

The Session recently reaffirmed its commitment to the ministry of the Avondale Children's Center. Current Ruling Elder Jennifer Patterson (whose 2 children are graduates of the ACC) will spend 2018 exploring ways to enhance the relationship between the Church and the ACC. She has already met with the center's Director and Board, and will attend the Board's meetings going forward. Her goals are to understand current operations, work to clarify any areas of uncertainty, document expectations and responsibilities, and create more opportunities for the Church and the Children's Center to share in common ministries and missions. Please watch for more updates in upcoming newsletters.

## LEADERSHIP

### New Elders Ordained & Installed

on January 21, 2018  
our 2020 Elder Class  
Jackie Shannon and Chris Swart (2018-2020).

### Gratitude for our Elders

who have completed their service:  
Zach Chambers, Session  
Ann Patterson, Session  
Lisa Worf, Session

### New! Elder serving with the Avondale Children's Center

Ruling Elder Jennifer Patterson will spend 2018 exploring ways to enhance the relationship between the Church and the Children's Center. See article about Avondale Children's Center in this edition for more details.

*Thank you for all the "Hands & Hearts"  
helping in this annual transition.*

### New Ministry Team Leaders

Christian Nurture - Tony McKenzie  
Stewardship - Bill Caldwell and Olivia Magee  
Member Care - Millie Norris and Rena Beall  
Property - Todd Oswald and Mahlon Thomas  
Worship - Karen Shannon with  
Lynn Wilkerson (continuing)  
Congregational Life - Alice Cuviallo (continuing)  
with Co-Chair [Open]  
Personnel - Chair/Co-Chair [Open]

### Gratitude for our Ministry Team Leaders

who have completed their service:  
Chris Swart, Stewardship  
Linda Haigh, Christian Nurture  
Carolyn Wright, Congregational Life  
Harry Greyard, Worship  
Betty Chambers and Kelly Platt, Member Care  
Suzi Thornberry, Property  
Bruce Vestal, Personnel



## The Church at Work

### PWA Bake Sale

Dear Friends, Thank You so very much for helping to make our 5th annual Cookie/Bake Sale a great success. Caroline Starnes for all the advertising for us, Jim and Carol for all the delicious peanut brittle, to every cookie or goodie maker, to Sigrid Sacra and Betty Patterson for all the wonderful trail mix, to Nell McRae for the beautiful churches and decorated candy, and the biggest Thank You ever to Lyn Sweet for being a great leader and all the time she spent at Goodwill looking for mugs to fill and decorate, to all of you that spent hours on Friday boxing cookies and getting everything organized, and to Daisy, Olivia, Ruby and Connie for helping us sell on Saturday...WE ARE SO VERY GRATEFUL. May God Bless each and every one of you each and every day, Brenda Coble, PWA Secretary

### Member Care December Reach Out

Thank you to everyone who delivered cookie boxes to our members who are unable to attend church because of health or age. We delivered 21 boxes of cookies to 9 rehab or assisted living facilities all over Charlotte, Matthews and Mint Hill and a few homes. I know the visits were as appreciated as the treats. The message I have heard over and over this year is that living away from home can be a lonely life. Thank you for taking the time from your holiday preparations for sharing the love of Jesus.

### RITI at Avondale on New Year's Eve

There had been a great response from the Charlotte community to the cold weather, so we were assigned to host 6 neighbors at Avondale on New Year's Eve. Then we got a phone call from Urban Ministry asking if we could take 7 more neighbors because another host failed to show. Our great van drivers were still at Avondale and, of course, quickly returned to UMC to pick them up. In total we hosted 13 single men for New Year's Eve.

Our neighbors arrived in time to enjoy snacks and hot coffee, then a terrific hot meal of marinated BBQ pork chops, mashed potatoes, bacon green bean, homemade yeast rolls, nut bread and pumpkin pie for dessert, all while watching the Panthers game. There was plenty of food and fellowship for Avondalers and our neighbors to share together.

### Commitment to Community: Camp Grier Comes to Avondale

On Sunday, February 11, Chelsea Watkins, a representative from Camp Grier, will be here to speak during our worship "Commitment to Community" segment. She will share a little about Camp Grier with us during our worship, as well as have a table providing more information and be available after worship to answer questions. We invite Avondalers and all parents from Avondale programs and beyond to learn more about Camp Grier on this day. <https://www.campgrier.org>

### Children and "The Bible In One Year"

We will be digging in to "The Bible in One Year" curriculum and working through this program over the next four Avondale Adventures. The "DIG IN" program will create deeper bible experiences for the children. "DIG IN!" also gives more opportunities for parents and fellow church members to get involved with solid lesson plans to work from (yet provide flexible options to suit individual style and talents)! When we learn together as a family/community, we create lasting memories, meaningful conversations, and richer learning lessons.



## ABC Ministry Update

### Christmas Angel Tree

Avondale had a special Christmas tree this season – the Angel Tree. The Angel Tree was decorated with ornaments each of which provided the age, gender and gift suggestion for a child enrolled in the Bethlehem Center or a child from the Southside Homes or Brookhill neighborhoods. Members of Avondale and parents from the Avondale Children’s Center selected ornaments and fulfilled Christmas wishes! The gifts were given during the ABC Christmas party, to the delight of the children and youth, and the enjoyment of all present.

The Angel Tree was also decorated with handmade Chrismons from the Avondale Children’s Center families. Families worked together at home on these special Christian symbols. Thanks to all who made a child’s holiday bright with a special gift, and thanks to the Avondale Children’s Center families for the lovely Chrismon ornaments.

### Avondale and Bethlehem Center Families Celebrate Together

On the Friday before Christmas, the FLC was transformed by Avondale and Bethlehem Center volunteers and staff, as well as Eloquent Creations catering, into a magical Christmas party setting. The Avondale worship band and singers provided a fun and festive musical backdrop as guests arrived. April McClellan, a Bethlehem Center parent, mentioned that she loves live music and it was a treat to have the band at the party.

Georgett Johnson, BC Program Director, opened the party with a warm welcome, recognizing team members and introducing BC guests that included William McDonald (BC CEO) and Jared Keaton (BC COO). Bethlehem Center children were immediately drawn to the Chrismon craft tables,

provided by Christian Nurture. The children designed and created their own Chrismons, and they proudly displayed them to their families and Avondale members during the delicious holiday dinner.

Avondale bakers outdid themselves – so many wonderful cakes and cookies and pies! Tyler Banks, a Bethlehem Center student, announced that he really liked the desserts and drinks. And who can forget the reading of the Linus monologue from “A Charlie Brown Christmas” by Veronica Cannon and Chris Lee (in a Pikachu onesie, no less). Zadayveion Lloyd, a Bethlehem Center student, remarked that he liked the food and the play the pastors did on the true meaning of Christmas.

Excitement was building when the Bethlehem Center children and youth received gifts given by Avondale members and Avondale Children’s Center parents. Bethlehem Center families also received family photographs to memorialize the occasion. Autumn Johnson, a Bethlehem Center student, summed it all up, “it was great and everything was really fancy!”

The most enjoyable part of the evening was Bethlehem Center and Avondale guests greeting one another and enjoying fellowship and dinner together. Thanks to the many Avondale and Bethlehem Center volunteers and guests who brought this celebration to life, and who came together to greet friends and build new relationships during this Christmas season.

### Update from ABC Ministry Team

The ABC Team met recently. Here is what we discussed:

- Holiday Dinner at Avondale with Bethlehem Center families - a big success. Many thanks to the Avondale band, cooks, decorators, and all hosts and hostesses who made the event so successful.
- Redesign of the Teen Center Space from Classroom to Coffee House design- Bethlehem Center staff would like the setting to be more inviting to the teens. To do so, we are looking to build several high top tables, a la Starbucks. If any church members would like to assist on this small woodworking project, please let Covert Suydam know. His number is 704-293-9924.
- Possibility of adding an Elementary Afterschool Classroom at Avondale- The Bethlehem Center is growing, and is looking to add an additional elementary afterschool class of 15 *children at Avondale*. This would be in addition to the Teen Center afterschool that presently operates at Avondale. The ABC Team embraces the growth and is presently looking into possible church space for this expansion.
- More volunteers are needed! The Bethlehem Center will offer volunteer training sessions in February and will be reaching out to our trained church members with volunteer opportunities with the children and teens.

*continued next page*

### ABC Teen Program This Summer

Schedule:

**June 8** - ABC After School Enrichment program ends (in FLC)

Week of June 11 - Teen Program moves to Fellowship Hall

**June 18** - ABC Summer Camp program begins (in Fellowship Hall)

**August 10** - ABC Teen Summer Camp program ends

**August 11** - ABC Summer Program End of the Year Celebration



## ABC Ministry & Bridge Team Updates

### Update from ABC Ministry Team *cont.*

- We are looking into future ways to partner with Bethlehem Center in the Avondale Adventures program.
- Finally, the [Bethlehem Center Annual Golf Tournament](#) is on May 21 at Firethorne Country Club. Contact Ann Sanders if you would like to form a foursome or play on your own.

### South Tryon UMC Winter Shelter

Thank you for contributing soap, shampoo and other personal hygiene items to South Tryon's winter shelter, which serves the Brookhill and Southside neighborhoods. Those items are being used and were much appreciated! In order to sustain the shelter through the full winter season, we need new or gently-used twin sheet sets, twin blankets, wash cloths, frozen FAMILY SIZE meals, and various snacks. If you can donate any of these items, simply sign-up using this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aada929a20-south> or <https://tinyurl.com/WinterShelter18>.

Please drop snacks and linens off at the church office. Place frozen meals in the freezer labeled "Connect Camp" in the Family Life Center kitchen. Questions? Contact Ann Patterson at 704-517-3953 or [annpatterson@me.com](mailto:annpatterson@me.com).

### Community Blood Drive and Health Fair

We are partnering with South Tryon United Methodist Church to host a community blood drive on Saturday, February 24 from 10 AM to 12 noon. The blood drive will take place at South Tryon UMC (2516 South Tryon Street) and will be sponsored by the Community Blood Center of the Carolinas. We are looking for Avondale members who might be willing to donate blood. All blood is used for local needs and stays here in North Carolina to serve our neighbors. Plus, you'll get a t-shirt. If you are able to donate blood, please contact Greg McKenzie to sign-up or with questions. [toadhall@carolina.rr.com](mailto:toadhall@carolina.rr.com) or 704-953-0428

### Bridge Team Update

Yes, these two initiatives above have come from the Bridge Team, rather than ABC. The Bridge Team continues to meet monthly. In December, we hosted a Christmas dinner and party in the Fellowship Hall for some of our friends at South Tryon UMC. South Tryon UMC identified children in their congregation who needed extra help during Christmas. They were angels on our Chrismon tree. We were able to give presents to the children who came to the Christmas party.

The Blood Drive and Health Fair on February 24 will be a collaboration between South Tryon, Avondale and Myers Park UMC. In addition to providing blood, we are hoping to check blood sugar levels and blood pressure for residents of the Brookhill and Southside communities. Our support of the emergency shelter is a continuation of our Advent offering, which concentrated on toiletries and personal hygiene items for the shelter.

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

## Mark Your Calendar

Called Meeting  
of the Congregation  
on Sunday,  
**February 11, 2018**  
immediately following  
our worship service  
[See Session Highlights]

## Winter Homeless Shelter

We are still collecting for the shelter. Sign-up here the items you can contribute:

<https://tinyurl.com/WinterShelter18>



## Blood Drive & Health Fair

Saturday, February 24  
Blood Drive: 10 AM to 12 PM  
@ South Tryon UMC



## Community Partners

Our community partners:  
ABC Team working with  
the Bethlehem Center.

Bridge Team working with  
partners at Southside Community  
Church and residents in the  
Brookhill and Southside Homes  
neighborhoods.

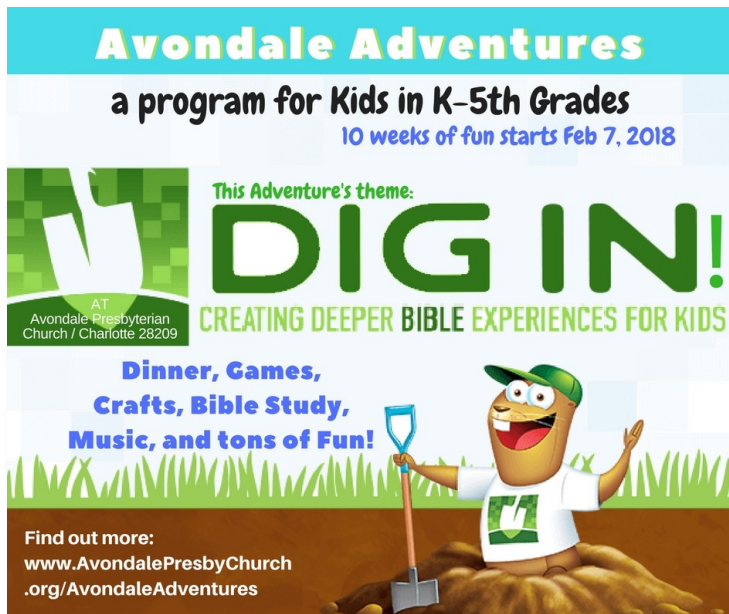


**Avondale Presbyterian Church**  
 2821 Park Road  
 Charlotte, NC 28209

### Newsletter Publishing Schedule

*Avondale Avenues* is published every other month on the last Tuesday of the month. Content deadline for the next newsletter is a week prior to publication. Send submissions to [caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org).

## Avondale Adventures



### OUR NEXT ADVENTURE BEGINS FEB. 7, 2018!

**Fun, music, games, Bible lessons, crafts and dinner.**

The fun is held Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 PM  
 February 7- April 18 (except 4/4) (Program runs 10 weeks)

#### How to register?

Attend the Parent's Registration Meeting:  
 January 31 @ 6:00-6:30 PM in the Family Life Center  
 For more information, please [SEE OUR FLYER](#) online.

## Calendar

- Jan 31** Avondale Adventures Parent Mtg
- Feb 3** Youth BBQ Sale Fundraiser
- Feb 7** Avondale Adventures begins
- Feb 9-11** Room In The Inn
- Feb 11** Camp Grier Rep here at Worship
- Feb 11** Congregational Meeting
- Feb 14** Ash Wednesday
- Feb 14** Lent (Feb 14-Apr 1)
- Feb 16-19** Youth Winter Retreat
- Feb 24** Blood Drive & Health Fair
- Mar 2-4** Room In The Inn
- Mar 4-10** CONNECT Camp here
- Mar 9-11** Women's Retreat
- Mar 11-18** CONNECT Camp here
- Mar 25** Holy Week (Mar 25-Apr 1)
- Mar 25** Palm Sunday
- Mar 29** Maundy Thursday
- Apr 1** Easter
- Apr 1** No Youth Fellowship
- Apr 2** Office Closed
- Apr 4** No Avondale Adventures

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