

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Members of Avondale,

The Session gathered for their monthly meeting this month with the primary item on the agenda being discussion in regards to the report from the Single Worship Task Force. Your leaders also received contributing comments to the report from the Worship and Discipleship Gathering groups, as well as the Personnel Committee. With no decision made regarding the location and starting date of returning to a single service, your leaders will continue in prayer and discussion. The Session expressed gratitude for the thorough work of the Task Force.

Specific actions taken at Session meeting:

- receiving of the March Financial statement;
- approval of the Sacrament of Baptism to Brylie Major on May 1, 2016; and
- approval of a youth fundraiser to assist with financial costs of youth to Peru (more information in this newsletter).

Continuing with forward movement in regards to defining our outreach to the Sedgefield Middle School community, we invited Mr. Erik Turner, Principal of Sedgefield Middle School, and Mr. Mike Primiani, a CMS Community Partnership Coordinator, to speak to our congregation on Sunday, April 17. This event was to help with defining need in the community and sharing open possibilities of involvement.



At the April 17 event, we shared the names of those who have agreed to serve on the Prayer and Dream Teams. See the **Sedgefield Update** in this issue for more details.

The greatest joy of the evening for our Session was in the examination of eight young people who desire to unite with the church and profess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They will be received by the larger congregation on Youth

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Growing in Stewardship

**Growing in Stewardship:
Vacation Bible Camp**

Each summer Avondale hosts a bunch of kids on our campus to help them discover what a friend they have in Jesus. Vacation Bible Camp allows them to explore God's world with a field trip, learn about the Bible in a fun way, and build new friendships in Christ. We asked kids what they liked most about last year's camp. Here's what they said:

*Spending time with my group!
The lake! Wearing my bandana!
Meeting new kids! Seeing the
characters act out the bible story!*

That is a testament to the work Avondale and its members of all ages put into that week by helping to demonstrate God's love and joy to the youngest among us. We invite you to volunteer to help prepare the hearts and minds of these



children to follow Jesus.

You can sign up here to volunteer:
<http://tinyurl.com/VBS16volunteer>

If you have kids who turn four by August 1 up to rising 5th graders, we'd love to have them join Vacation Bible Camp this year.

You can register your camper here:
<http://tinyurl.com/VBS16camper>

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Stewardship cont.

Growing in Stewardship: Youth Ministry

In Andrew Root's book entitled, **Unlocking Mission and Eschatology in Youth Ministry**, he says, "Youth ministry is not about getting things accomplished - only the act of God can bring about the transformation we seek. Youth ministry is about participating deeply in young people's lives as we await, together in suffering and joy, the coming of God."

Youth ministry at Avondale seeks to embody and live out these words in all that we do, whether it be on Sunday evening or on summer mission trips or conferences.

In 2016, Avondale will send 23 youth and adults to Peru and 23 youth and adults to Massanetta Springs Mission Camp and Conference. We had a Confirmation Class consisting of eight youth served by eight mentors who are Avondale members.

Youth ministry doesn't happen without member support,



especially adult youth advisers who freely give their personal vacation time to fulfill the vows they took when the church promised to nurture and care for these children at their baptisms.

On Sunday evenings, we have over 35 youth and 3-4 adults who, for two hours, share table fellowship, study Scripture, and, equally as important, fellowship through play. There is tremendous energy in youth ministry and it does not happen without two costs - money and time.

Growing in Stewardship: Supporting Our Congregation

Member Care addresses needs of our congregational members in many different ways. We provide a bereavement meal and/or reception for the family of a deceased loved one, deliver nourishing meals to a variety of people, send cards, make phone calls, and visit. Our Shepherd Committee visits elderly members or those in need in their homes to provide friendship, a random gift (flowers, a food treat, etc.), and a time to chat and listen. They also call and send cheerful cards. At Christmas, our Shepherd volunteers provide a special treat. Please let us know if we can help you or if you would like to help.

Pastor Letter cont.

Sunday, May 1.

Your leadership expressed gratitude to those who served as mentors to the 2016 communicant's class, those who participated in the most recent Work Day, for the many who unselfishly gave of their time and energy in supporting Room In The Inn, to the photographers who shared their gifts during the season of Lent, and to the sacrifice of Ted Todd and Debby Sacra (and workers at the Blossom Shop) in bringing enormous beauty and meaning to Easter Day.

Yours in Christ,

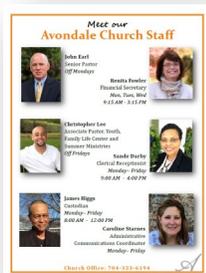
John B. Earl

Staff Pictures

We updated our staff list on our website under Leadership:

www.avondalepresbychurch.org

Visit this webpage to see staff names, pictures and general work schedule.



Member Directory

Soon we will be updating our Member Directory on the website as well as printing a hard copy.

Directory Online

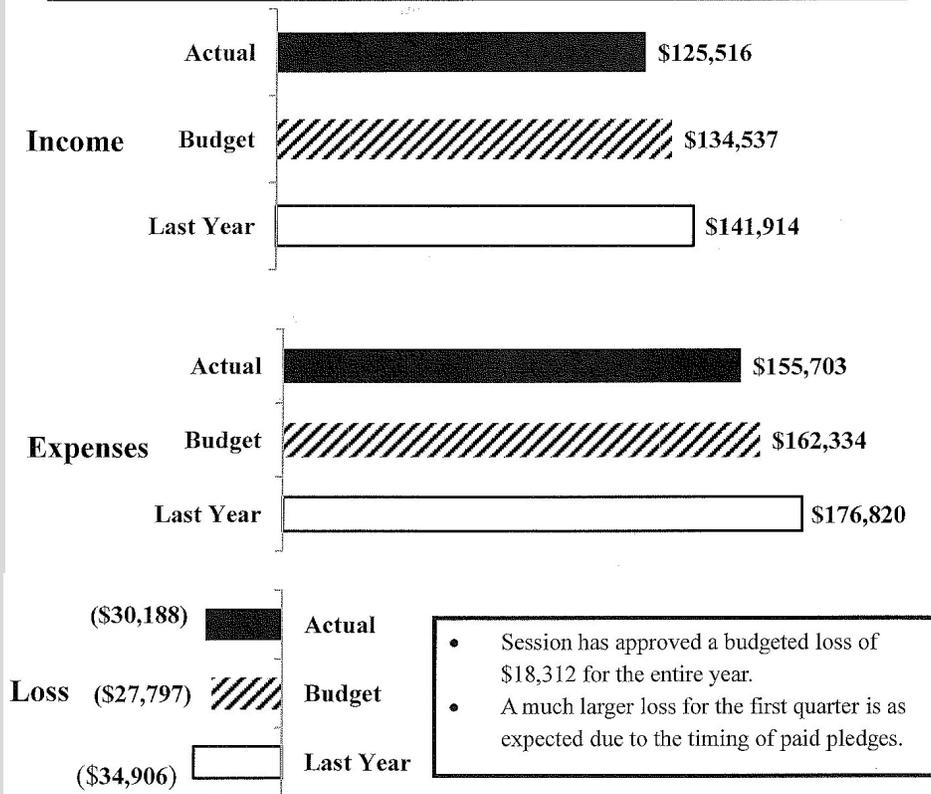
Website Login:

www.avondalepresbychurch.org

Click Member Directory on the homepage, then when prompted for a password, type: *member*

Financial Update

First Quarter Ending March 31 Financial Update



Fund Balances at March 31

	2015	2016
Endowment	\$531,950	\$583,232
Facilities Fund	\$24,817	\$46,234
Columbarium Fund	\$32,457	\$34,802

Sedgefield Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking volunteers to help with the following events.

Sedgefield Student Service at APC Thursday, May 12 2:00 P.M.

Help supervise students as they work at Avondale. Contact Cindy McKenzie.

Sedgefield Athletic Banquet Monday, May 16 6:00 P.M.

Help with the event and/or attend. Contact Chris Lee.

Above and Beyond Students "Fundraiser" Thursday, May 19

Help with the event and/or attend. Contact Cindy McKenzie.

Sedgefield Update

As we move forward with our Sedgefield Middle School attendance zone ministry, we have formed a Dream Team and a Prayer Team.

We are excited to announce that the following Avondale members and community partners have agreed to serve on the **Dream Team**:

Mike Primiani, Partnership Coordinator at CMS; Jared Keaton, Assistant Executive Director with The Bethlehem Center located in the Southside Homes community; Will Rice, Soccer coach at Sedgefield Middle; Janet Harrison; Sharon McCarthy; Mary Martin; Debi Medlin; and Jay Meier.

This group will brainstorm ideas about partnering with and building bridges to our neighbors in the Sedgefield Attendance Zone.

The following Avondale members have agreed to serve on the **Prayer Team**: Ted Todd; Wendy Campbell; Cynthia Rogers; Betty Boyd; Daisy Alexander; and Betty Chambers. Their focus will be praying for Avondale, our new ministry and the neighborhoods and families who need our help.

Reverend Chris Lee will moderate both groups. Please keep these two groups in your prayers as they begin their work.

Stay posted for additional information.

Spring Luncheon

PWA'S Flowery Spring Luncheon

The "Flowery" Spring Luncheon for women and girls of all ages of Avondale will be held following worship on Sunday, May 22 at 12:00 noon. We will name and award our Honorary Life Member.

Please bring your favorite salad to share.

Enjoy an exciting "Flowery" program following.
Watch eNews and the Sunday Bulletins for more information about this gathering.



The luncheon is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of Avondale. An Honorary Life Member is selected, awarded, and honored each year.

Haiti Mission

Mission Trips to Milot, Haiti May 27-30 and October



These trips are made to monitor our ministry in Milot. We will assist our partners in visiting and delivering food aid to the thirty elderly and/or disabled people we serve there. Learn more about the trip with our **Mission Trip brochure**: <http://tinyurl.com/APCHaiti2016>

For the Memorial Day Weekend trip, five people have committed to go: Daisy Alexander, Jim Bowen, Wendy Campbell, Emily Shannon, and Erik Thomson.

If you are interested in either dates, please speak with Jim Bowen, Zach Chambers, Sharon McCarthy, or Joe Zuyus, or email Jim at jdbowennnc@mac.com.

Thank you for supporting our Haiti ministry and considering a visit.

Retreats 2016

Save the date!

August 26-28 is the final retreat for our **Session and TAG Consulting Services**.

October 21-23 is the **Congregational Retreat**.

A time for all to join together in fellowship and spiritual refreshment.



Friendship Garden

Many Saturday mornings, you'll find volunteers at Avondale's vegetable garden. We plant, grow, and harvest produce to help feed our community. We are a Friendship Garden with our harvest benefiting Friendship Trays, who prepares and delivers over 700 meals each weekday to local citizens in need.

Chair Yoga



Is chair yoga right for you?

Ham Thrower leads a weekly gathering of welcoming enthusiasts on Tuesdays from 10:00 - 10:45 A.M. in the FH and invites you to join in. Attend individual classes for \$7 or the 12 classes series for \$60.

Bunco

Our next fun Bunco gathering is Friday, May 6 at 6:30 P.M. in the FH. It is great fun for ladies of all ages! All women invited. Don't know how to play? No worries, we will teach you. Bunco meets the first Friday night of each month, except July and August.



Youth Sunday

10:00 A.M. Youth Sunday on May 1 **Theme: "Things Change, But..."**

Sunday School at 9:00 A.M. Lunch immediately following worship in FLC.

ABOUT: Every aspect of this service is prepared for and created by our youth!

WHAT: Graduating Seniors to proclaim the Word. Presentation of the Confirmation Class of 2016. Confirmands presented to the larger church and received into the fellowship. A Baptism and more.

Youth Fundraiser



The Big Unveil at Lunch following Worship on May 1

We thank the congregation so much for your support leading up to the Peru trip by our Avondale high school youth. Our final fundraiser for the 2016 Peru trip is the Number Board Fundraiser. It will run the month of May and be introduced to the congregation on May 1st at the lunch following Youth Sunday worship. Our congregation, friends and family will have the opportunity to donate a chosen amount to our trip and will receive a card with a prayer request or snippet of information about the trip and/or the people involved. Stay tuned for the big unveil May 1!

Confirmands & Their Mentors 2015-2016

Confirmand / Mentor

Ava Zuyus / Linda Haigh

Garrett Whitesides / Greg McKenzie

Ben Meier / Corey Shanks

Caroline White / Mary Comstock

Confirmand / Mentor

Grace White / Jenny Matz

Walker Hippy / Jeff Meier

Marin Blake / Lynn Wilkerson

Brylie Major / Shea Chambers

Youth Trips

Peru Trip

June 19 - July 4

Senior High Youth Mission Trip to Peru



On June 19, our Avondale high school youth are off to Quillabamba, Cusco, Peru to work in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas and local Peruvian delegates to improve and add to the facilities of Instituto Superior de Teologia in Sajirayoc (Sajirayoc Bible Institute). We are contributing funds and hands-on work towards the construction, sanding and painting of 20 bunkbeds for the seminary students, building sidewalks, and possibly doing some light construction and electrical work. After a week of work, they will embark on a five day trek to Machu Picchu, putting intentional discipline into their spiritual lives as they walk. We look forward to sharing trip details and are thankful for your support.

Massanetta Trip

July 10 - 15

Middle School Youth Mission & Conference Trip to Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center

Conference Theme
(3 days): "Gone Fishin'"

Mission@Massanetta
(2 days): The program at Massanetta Springs coordinates all the details for group mission work in the beautiful Shenandoah

Valley. Work sites are carefully selected to allow students to perform meaningful and fun tasks while filling real needs. Much of the work is physical. Some work will be done at the Massanetta Springs campus and some spent in a local community site. The students have opportunities to engage directly with those we are serving. <http://www.massanettasprings.org/>



Connect with CONNECT



Hurricane, WV

This summer, we will host youth groups as they travel from Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia to serve in the Charlotte area as part of our CONNECT program. As we look to

further engage Avondale members in this wonderful program, we are expanding opportunities to **connect with CONNECT**.

Groups prepare and cook dinner on their own during their stay with us. This summer, we are looking for several adults to cook, serve and show hospitality for one evening

for each CONNECT camp. We have a vision for this dinner, and it revolves around the grill. We would like to provide a steak dinner for each camp! If you are passionate about fellowship, hospitality and grilling out, please contact Rev. Chris Lee for more details.

CONNECT Camps 2016:

June 19-July 25

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church; Hurricane, WV

July 10-July 15

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, MI

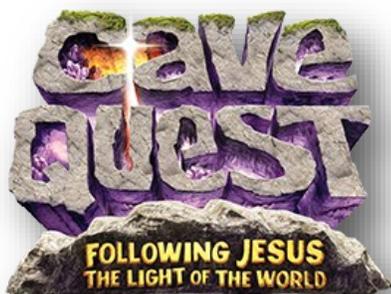
July 18-24

First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, PA

Vacation Bible School

CAVE QUEST!

Following Jesus, The Light of the World



This VBS promises to be an over-the-top, underground adventure! Plus, kids walk away understanding what it means to follow Jesus and shine his light. Join our team - register to be a part of Cave Quest VBS!

Dates: August 1-5, 2016

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Registration Deadline: May 31, 2016

Contact Information: 704-333-6194

Ages: Rising K-5th grade

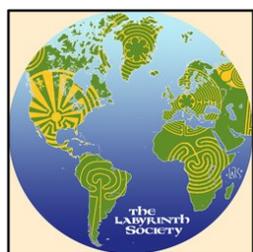
Cost: Register before May 15 for early bird rates.

<http://tinyurl.com/APCVBS2016>

Avondale & The Community

World Labyrinth Day Event

May 7 at 1:00 P.M.



Celebrate the eighth annual World Labyrinth Day on Saturday, May 7 in our Sacred Garden as we welcome the community to walk our labyrinth for "Walk as One at 1".

At 1:00 P.M., join others around the world for a rolling wave of

peaceful energy as labyrinth walks are held around the planet. In every time zone, labyrinth walkers will be praying and meditating during that hour for a more compassionate, peaceful world. Volunteers are needed to be "Labyrinth Hosts" for this event. Contact Caroline Starnes in the Church Office. 704-333-6194

Sedgefield Student Service at APC

May 12 at 2:00 P.M.



Sedgefield Middle School's Montessori magnet program encourages students to perform service projects in the community. Since last fall, Avondale Church and Children's Center have been the recipient of the helping hands of these students. Recently, students walked over

from the school to help with the vegetable garden. Their next service day at Avondale is May 12 and we need a few adults to help lead the students. For more information or to suggest projects, contact Cindy McKenzie. 704-953-0421

Key Life Dates Shared



We would like to celebrate key dates in the lives of the membership each month. If your special day(s) is not shown, please contact the Church Office at (704) 333-6194 or email caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org with the information. If an incorrect date is shown, please be sure to let the Office know the correct information.

May Birthdays

<p>1 Clay Parler Marin Blake Mary Alice Bryson Reese Hautop Zackery McKenzie</p>	<p>6 Vince Chelena, III 7 Doughton Horton Karen Annas Susan Brandau 9 Daisy Alexander Davis Hautop Hanna Whitesides 10 Anderson Cohen 11 Kay DeArmon 12 Edith Gardner 13 Jim Buchanan Tommy Wray 14 Meredith Rogers Ronnie Holm 15 Benjamin Meier Lora Mitchell</p>	<p>16 Jackie Shannon Jackson Hickman 17 Mike Mitchell Monica Hickman 18 Evie Wray Mike Cathey 20 Chris Mathis Nancy Buchanan 21 Carl McDonald David Hall Paula Huffines 22 Connor Gibbs Harry Whitesides Terry Brodof 23 Bob Watson Jack Hunter</p>	<p>23 Julie Caldwell 24 Jean Crawford 25 David T.A. Mitchell Peyton Burgh Sophie Barron 27 Lucian Hayes 28 Emily Martin 29 Betty Chambers Eleanor Ramey 30 Betty Boyd Chip Burke Jozsef Eyer Molly Carver Rick Parler 31 Eli Knight Roseanne Thomas</p>
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May Anniversaries

- 6 Edwin and Katherine Anderson 2000
- 8 Douglas and Vickie Hautop
- 11 Mike and Ginny Mitchell 1985
- 12 Greg and Cindy McKenzie 1984
- 15 Brian and Stephanie Tomey 1993
- 18 Bill and Suzi Thornberry 1985
- 19 Millie Norris 1979
- 30 David and Mary Hall 1987
- 30 Chris and Katie Swart 2009

Joys and Concerns

May God give comfort to these families during their times of sorrow, joy, and turbulence.

Members: Mike Cathey; Rachel Darling; Mary LaRoach; Milli Mann; Betty McBrayer; and David Phillips.

Family and Friends: Barbara Aylor; Scott Braswell; Sally Bridgen; Mary Cerena; Sam Favor; Theresa and Joel Henderson; Larry Hensinger; Sean Nolan; Mike Page; Claire Refaey; Hunter Stubbs; and Nora Kate Williams.

Joys and Celebrations: Stefanie and Matt Mitchell welcomed a new baby, Brooks Michael Mitchell.

Deaths: Mary Dell Prevatte Baker, our member, who passed away on April 6 and is survived by son-in-law, Randy B. Pruitt, and grandsons, Justin B. Pruitt and Jared N. Pruitt. Mary Howard, Bob Howard’s mother who passed on April 18. Emmett Merricks, Pam Blake’s father who passed on April 2.

Memorials

In Memory of:

- Eldon Stout
- John and Gloria Barringer
- Juanita Stallings
- George and Phyllis Setzer
- Mary Dell Baker
- Alan and Deborah Stewart
- Christopher and Robin Culbreth

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.*

Proverbs 3:5



Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

Inquirer / New Member Class

Saturday, May 14 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

In the Lounge. Please RSVP your attendance to one of our Pastors or the Church Office.

Worship as a Post-Easter People

Youth Sunday (Single Service) / May 1

Ecclesiastes 7: 8-11 and James 1: 17-18 "Things Change, But..."

Single service at 10:00 A.M. in FLC with lunch following.

Sunday School 9:00-10:00 A.M.

Our Youth Fellowship have planned and will perform the worship service today.

Receiving of young people into the covenant fellowship of the Church. Celebration of Communion. A Baptism.

Mother's Day / May 8

I Samuel 25: 32-33 - "When the Heroine Steps In"

The contribution of one female named Abigail in neutralizing a stress-filled life.

Pentecost / May 15

Romans 8: 1-17 and Joel 2: 28-32 - "The Promised, Arrived, and Resident Spirit"

May 22

Ephesians 5: 25-27 "What Church Membership Can Mean"

The journey of church membership and the joys of living within the Body of Christ.

Ladies' Spring Luncheon follows at 12:00 P.M.

Memorial Day Weekend / May 29

Isaiah 25: 1-9 "Remembrance"

www.avondalepresbychurch.org