

## Updates from Session

On May 10, the Session gathered on Mother's Day evening for their monthly meeting. Your leadership made 5 decisions, which will have an immediate bearing on ministry. They are:

1. Two Called Meetings on Sunday, May 24, at both the ARISE and traditional worship services. The purpose of these meetings will be the election of a 2018 Nominating Committee reflecting the diversity of the congregation. The two ruling elders chairing the Committee will be Jim Bowen and Rick Parler. It is required that no less than three members be elected to complete the Committee with the pastor serving ex officio and without vote. As a member you are asked to prayerfully consider who might best serve and ask them as to their willingness to serve in this capacity.

2. The Session expressed gratitude to the Finance Ministry Team, Renita Fowler, Maureen Hunter, D. J. Saleeby and Pat Banks for their diligence in completing an audit of the church financial records. The recommendations made were received and appreciation was expressed.

3. A request was made from the Mission Ministry Team to hire a summer intern who would help Chris Lee manage the growing summer work camp CONNECT ministry. Between June 8 and August 7 there will be 8 camps on the Avondale grounds serving the larger Charlotte community. This summer intern would be accountable to Rev. Lee and would help with the education, enlistment and coordination of work camp opportunities with church members. Payment of the position would come from the income generated from the work camp CONNECT program.

4. Christian Nurture received the support to enrich the Small Group Ministry that currently exists at Avondale. The

purpose is to build on existing small groups and to embrace a more comprehensive ap-

proach to Small Group Ministry. This will be done by expanding and deepening our current small group ministry and offering a variety of groups: study, social, service, support and discipleship.

5. Lastly, the church leadership reviewed the goals of the church staff, as presented by our Personnel Ministry Team. Staff reviews for Parish Associate, Associate Pastor, Director of Music/Organist, ARISE Music Coordinator have been completed and 2015 goals have been reviewed and adopted by leadership. The work of the Personnel Ministry Team continues through the course of the year with review, accountability and thanksgiving for the staff and their leadership.

At the end of the long evening, the leadership expressed thanks to all who served on the audit team, to Will Vick and members of the Communications Ministry Team for their education of leaders, to Cindy McKenzie and other members for their work with the Sedgefield Middle School staff appreciation luncheon, to those who worked with the Worship Workshop, those who continue to serve on the Small Group Task Force, and to those who serve on the Personnel Ministry Team.

*"...if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." 1 Corinthians. 12: 26b*

Yours in Christ,



**"Called to love God, love one another and serve community."**





# Celebrating “Difference Makers”

## Flo Bowen – All Aboard

Why would Flo Bowen make the effort to bequest a portion of her estate to the ***Always Avondale Endowment***? There is no better person to ask than her son, Jim Bowen. So we did, and here is what he had to say:

*“My Mom, Flo Bowen, died three years ago this March. As executor of her estate I learned that she left a portion of her estate and a portion of her life insurance benefit to the church. It was news to me then that the church was a beneficiary, as she wasn’t much for discussing end-of-life issues, but it didn’t surprise me that she had done so. I can explain in two ways: 1) Flo joins the bell choir, and 2) I know you; you’re Flo’s son.*

- 1. Flo joins the bell choir - Mom was one of the least likely choir members, but she joined, had fun, and did what she could to contribute. Nerve damage from surgery and radiation treatments in the 80’s made her left arm unusable. She was blessed with little sense of rhythm and couldn’t read music. Learning a musical instrument as a kid was a luxury not possible growing up poor on the farm in Ohio. Did that stop her? No it didn’t. As a musician, she didn’t have much, but she gave what she could, with a smile, or a funny little “whoops” when she made a mistake.*
- 2. I know you; you’re Flo’s son – Many times I heard that phrase in the years after Mom moved to Charlotte from Bremerton, Washington. Here it was warmer, sunnier, and closer to the four of us, where she felt needed. Around Charlotte she drove her grandsons in the cute little Gramacab; at Avondale she told funny, outrageous stories about her four rowdy sons. She joined the circles, the Aitken class, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, was a ruling Elder, and attended many a women’s retreat. She could barely swim (ask Nadja), but she dove in nonetheless.*

*Avondale was Mom’s home and her family, so it didn’t surprise me that her will stipulated the four sons would share the estate with Avondale. She was born poor and didn’t die rich, but thought she could help, and felt the Spirit’s call to share some of what she had.”*

The Session decided to use Flo’s gift to fund the purchase of Avondale’s Church bus which is used weekly to further Avondale’s mission. The bus is used to transport Avondale members for service and recreation efforts and our homeless friends to the Church for Room In The Inn. Prior to acquiring the bus Avondale was spending significant resources to rent vehicles.

Flo’s gift to the Endowment helped Avondale buy a bus that she will never ride; however, her faith and service continues to be present whenever anyone boards the bus. Please contact Fred Wilkerson [fwilkerson@att.net](mailto:fwilkerson@att.net) if you would like to discuss how to include Avondale in your estate.

*Always*  
**Avondale**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*The Endowment*

# Why Haiti?

**Joe Zuyus** – I have admiration for the people of Haiti. They are extremely kind, hard working, religious and resourceful. While we fill our lives with our jobs, going to stores, taking children to sports and participating in events, they fill their lives with basic survival needs. They walk a fair distance to get a 5 gallon bucket of water, tend to animals, go to market, keep their house clean, and cook a small meal with charcoal. By helping the seniors in Milot the world becomes smaller. Connecting to people on this level brings you closer to God. I am thankful for Avondale supporting this program and hope many Avondale members will make the trip.

**Shea Chambers** – I read a quote recently that stated: “the more we read the Bible, the more we realize that God cares more about our motives than about our actions.” I want to go to Haiti because I yearn to care for those in need, out of gratitude for God’s care of me. I also want to serve, and love people who probably know more about love than I do. Part of my “motive” is that I selfishly want to revel in their joy for life and God, and bring that back to my family and church family. I want a taste of life fully dependent on God, without distraction, and to know that I am living out my faith in genuine action. A change of scenery allows us to open our hearts and be fully present enough to do that. I am thankful that Avondale has given me opportunities to serve out my faith in action.

**Betty Chambers** – I cannot tell you yet why I am going to Haiti. Certainly I have empathy and compassion for a people who struggle so hard to survive. I can only tell you that God has called my name and said “You are going to Haiti, now”. And so I will leave my comfort zone, and get off the couch and go! Maybe later I will be able to share with you what God has in mind for me. Until then Traveling Mercies!

**Pat Cargill** – Through my nephew, Joe Zuyus, I have had a vivid and eye-opening education about the situation in Haiti, and have followed Avondale’s trips throughout the years. The beautiful, heart-opening photography of Laura Meier, has put faces to the stories and I feel drawn and fortunate to participate. I am thankful for this amazing opportunity. Thank you to all who support this important work.



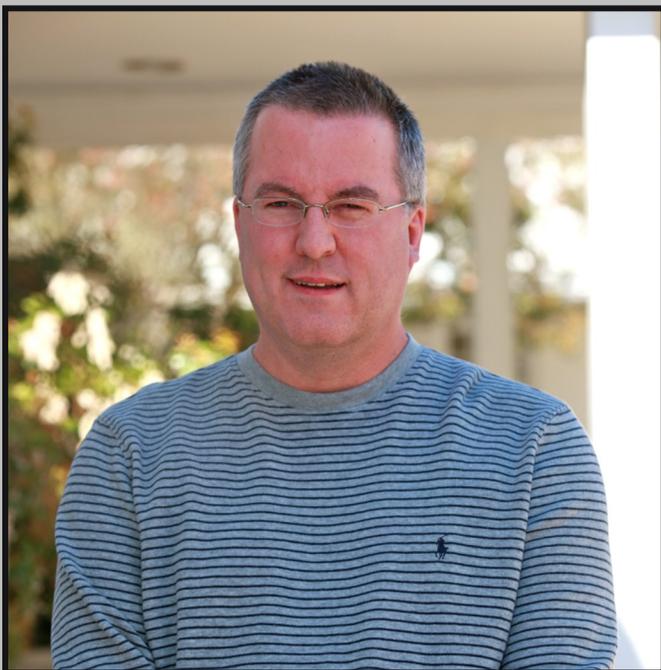
## Sedgefield Athletic Banquet

On Tuesday evening, May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Family Life Center was filled, wall to wall, with over two hundred staff, faculty, students and their families as the Mission Ministry Team partnered with Sedgefield Middle School to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sedgefield Middle School End of Year Athletic Banquet. The student-athletes were presented awards for their achievements both on the field and in the classroom. A staff member at the school commented that it is so important for these students to be able to come to a nice setting, to dress up and be recognized for something positive. There were grandmothers present, cousins, aunts and uncles...all cheering for their children. The event was catered and included remarks from Mr. Reggie Robinson, Principal, Robert Ellyson and Rev. Christopher Lee. The last award of the evening that was presented is called the Avondale-Sedgefield Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. The award is given to the male and female students that have earned the highest grade point average, excelled in their respective sport, and conduct themselves in such a way that contributes to a positive school environment. As we continue to partner with Sedgefield Middle School, we realize that it truly “takes a village” to support and nurture our children.

# Spotlight on New Members

This is a recurring column sharing some interesting details about our new members.

**Floyd McClung** joined Avondale on March 23 through transfer of membership from Matthews Presbyterian Church, where he was a member for 10 years. In September 2014, Floyd and his wife, Doris moved to Merrywood where Floyd met John Earl and began attending the Wednesday Bible Study. Floyd is a member of the Bible 101 class and attends the 11am worship service. Floyd and Doris just celebrated 57 years of marriage this month.



**Jerry McClure** lives near Avondale and has become a regular member of the Bible 101 class. He also attends the ARISE service and helps make a mean pot of ARISE coffee. Jerry is an outdoorsman and loves hiking, camping and fishing. Ask him about his recent outdoor adventures when you see him at the ARISE service or Bible 101.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In Memory of...

Jim Boyd:	Edna Hilton
Sarah B. Hendrix:	Edna Hilton Bill & Marsha Rose
Edd W. DeArmon, Jr.:	Bill & Marsha Rose Eleanor Ramey Ruth Marple Heath & Carolee Brewer
Virginia Melton:	Edna Hilton
Margaret Ratchford:	Edna Hilton Bill & Marsha Rose Eleanor Ramey
Munro Sefcik:	Bill & Marsha Rose Eleanor Ramey
Lucile Robertson:	Betty McBrayer Larry & Susan Jackson Kurt & Barbara Van Dyk Pres. Women of Avondale Aitken S. S. Class Louise Ross Bill & Marsha Rose Ellen Hamilton D. J. & Leslie Saleeby Eleanor Ramey Kay A. Cox Stewart Farris Mary Louise Serdy Ruth Marple
Paul Simpson	Viola Clontz D. J. & Leslie Saleeby Lois Payne Mr. & Mrs. Harry Booth Eldon & Connie Stout Paul & Dorothy Ham William & Sally Boger Bill & Marsha Rose Robert & Joanne Duff Eleanor Ramey Bernice S. Wilson Martha & H. T. Bryson Stewart Farris Ruth Marple

### Entering into the Church Triumphant Margaret Gallant Winchester August 18, 1917 - April 30, 2015

Our sympathy is extended to Tina and Bob Gaddy, and their family and friends.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In Memory of...

Emily Bearden:	Audrey Dougherty Ruth Marple Rose M. Senn Libby Thompson Mickey Nash Linda Haigh Presby Women of Avondale Eldon & Connie Stout Thomas B. Pettit Mildred P. Ragan Susan and Dennis Brandau Ellen Watson Jupiter Cohort - Winthrop George & Gayle Sawyer Tina Wilson Cathy L. Martin William R. Bullock, M.D. Betty McBrayer Jennifer C. Etheridge Homer & Martha Phifer Brenda & Scott Coble
Margaret Winchester:	Mickey Nash Ruth Marple Libby Thompson Fleta Windell Pres. Women of Avondale Brenda & Scott Coble William C. Parlier Ellen Watson Betty McBrayer Heath & Carolee Brewer
Lynn Robertson:	William N. Robertson Larry & Ginger Black

### In Honor of...

The Spouses of the  
Church Staff: Linda Haigh

### Entering into the Church Triumphant Emily Pettit Bearden December 26, 1921 - April 29, 2015

Our sympathy is extended to Mary, Chick, Emily Martin, Karey and Brad Marren and their family and friends.

### Entering into the Church Triumphant Ted F. Goldthorpe, Jr. August 26, 1941 - May 10, 2015

Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Itice, and their family and friends.



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## Joys and Concerns

### **Ministry of Caring to Members of Our Church:**

Alice Balfé, Anne Hamilton, Betty Parrish, Betty Parker, Bill Berryhill, Doris Flowers, Dot Burke, Edna Hilton, Eldon Stout, Frances Robertson, Jim Neely, the Gunter family, Ida Parnell, Libby Phillips, Louise Chambers, Mike Cathey, Molly Carver, Rachel Darling, Susan Harrington, and the Vestal Family

### **Ministry of Caring to Friends**

#### **of Our Church Family:**

Barbara Aylor (friend of Heather Hogston)  
 Buck Melton (father of Barbara Hill)  
 David Boyd (brother of Louise Lawson)  
 Fred Otten (father of Debi Medlin)  
 Gayle Hackney (sister of Suzanne Baillie)  
 Gene Hatfield (father of Ann Patterson)  
 Helen Matthews (friend of Nancy Bohrer)  
 Hunter Stubbs (friend of Branden family)  
 Larry Hensinger  
 (brother-in-law of Nadja Sefcik-Earl)  
 Mary Cerena (sister-in-law of Barbara Witzel)  
 Mary Katherine Reed  
 (daughter of Chip & Caroline Reed)  
 Mike Page (friend of Becky Chavaree)  
 Scott Braswell (son of Pam Braswell)

Joyfully, we announce the birth of John Maxwell (Max) Shanks on April 27, 2015. He is the first son of Corey and Jessica Shanks, nephew of Eric and Amanda Shanks, and grandson of Rick and Betsy Shanks.

Joyfully, we announce the birth of Clark Hamilton Saleeby on May 15, 2015. He is the grandson of D. J. and Leslie Saleeby, son of Jamie and Kristin Saleeby, and brother of Fletcher, age 3.

Our sympathy is extended to Catherine, David and Lora Mitchell and their family and friends. Catherine's father, Reverend Russell N. Burson, Jr. passed away at his home in Waynesville, N.C. on April 29, 2015.

Our sympathy is extended to Nell McRae and her family and friends. Nell's son-in-law, Stephen Miklos, passed away unexpectedly on May 12, 2015 in Norwalk, Connecticut.