

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Avondale Church Family,

A recent Sunday, someone brought to my attention that a year ago, I gave a sermon about tithing using goods from the grocery store to illustrate the abundance we all have in our lives. Though we do live in God's abundance - abundant grace, abundant love, abundant peace, abundant joy and abundant health, and so much more - I am struck that God's abundance on earth is just a reflection of the abundance we will have when we are joined with our Savior and all the saints who have gone on before. All the abundant pain, abundant fear, abundant separation, abundant disgrace, abundant hate, abundant illness that is part of this world will pass away.



I have been with you here at Avondale for just over a year during a time of shared ministry with you. I do not know how much longer my time with you will be. It could be months or even another year. But as I reflected on the past year, I am abundantly grateful to God for the work, ministry and faithfulness you have shown in this little white church on the hill. I am also abundantly grateful to God for all of you. As we approach the beginning of the church year with Advent, I pray that you will share with your family, your friends and your neighbors in the most abundant gift of all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[See text box insert from Veronica]

I pray your Thanksgiving was a blessing to you and others and may the joy of Advent fill your homes.

In Christ, Rev. Veronica

*May your tables always be filled with plenty;
May your homes always be filled with peace;
May your coffers always be filled with
treasure;
May your hearts always be filled with love;
May your minds always be filled with
knowledge;
May your lives overflow with joy; and
May Christ always lead and guide you in
the ways of faith. - Veronica Cannon*

Update from Session

At the October 21, 2018 meeting, the Session Approved:

The minutes of the 9/9/18 Stated Meeting and also the 9/9/18 Called Meeting of the congregation

The church financial statements and summation for the period ending 9/30/18

In addition, the Session received and reviewed a summary report from the Avondale Children's Center for the period ending 9/30/18

The Session took the following action at the October 21, 2018 Stated Meeting:

Received and accepted a gift from the Estate of Jim and Lou Singer of two (2) burial plots and vaults located at Forest Lawn East in Matthews, N. C.

Adopted a comprehensive Personnel Policy Manual for the church as recommended by the CPA firm during its review in 2017

Approved a preliminary budget for the PNC

Shared Information:

The Worship Ministry Team has begun planning for recognition of Avondale's 75th Anniversary next year.

The next Session meeting will be on November 11, 2018 at 1:15 o'clock P. M. in the Vanguard Classroom.

Expressed gratitude to:

Alice Cuvillo and Ruby Cathey for their work on the Congregational Retreat

The PNC for its continuing work

The Sacred Space Team for its continuing work

All of the workday volunteers

Jessica Shanks for her contributions in the office

Other:

Change to the 3's, 4's, and 5's Sunday School. (See details in this edition.)



Birthdays in December

1	Lilly Stout	10	Kyle Bowen	22	Natalie Thomas
2	Jay Meier		Lynn Daniel	25	Caroline White
	Susan Talton		Megan Hunter		Grace White
3	Evelyn Hautop		Wynanda Sutherland		Scott Coble
	Jim Bowen	11	Mac Drozd	26	Wilson Major
4	Logan Harris		Wilson Reed	27	Robert Suydam
	Steven Phillips	12	Nell McRae	28	Alison Norris
	Walker Hipps	13	Caroline Reed	29	Christie Flowers
5	David Finison	14	Miller Boyd		Greg McKenzie
7	Kathleen Shannon	16	Meredith Smith	30	Abigail Smith
8	Brian Drozd	17	Elizabeth Eyer		Chris Gardner
	Margaret McGinn	18	Peggy Simpson		Chris Steude
	Oscar Miller	19	Sara Chelena		Lilly McDonald
	Soren Miller	20	Marimartha Matthews		Trish Boyd
9	Elizabeth Sloan	21	Jason Mathis	31	Kemper Boyd
	Olivia Sutherland		Wade Mitchell		Susanne Anderson

Wedding Anniversaries in December

8	Adrian and Wynanda Sutherland 2012	16	Jason and Elizabeth Hayes 2006
12	Harriette Thomas 1936	18	David and Holly Thompson 1993
	Ted and Belinda Camp 2012	21	Martha Rogers 1945
16	Lynn and Chris Mathis 1972	29	Karey Martin and Brad Marren 2010

Avondale At Work

ABC Christmas Party & Dinner

Please RSVP to join us as Avondale and Bethlehem Center families come together again this year to celebrate Christmas! All are welcome. Here is what to expect on Friday, December 14 in the FLC – live music, crafts for children, Christmas program, Angel gifts shared, and much more.... What a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season and continue to build relationships with our Bethlehem Center friends and neighbors!

See the party [schedule and RSVP](#) to attend by visiting our Avondale website. You can also RSVP by signing-up at the ABC Christmas Party table at Worship.

ABC Kid's Café

Prepare a Meal for ABC Kid's Café! The ABC ministry is seeking groups or individuals to prepare a meal for 35-45 Bethlehem Center children and youth on select Friday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall. Food and instructions are provided to you and you will be reimbursed for any extras you choose to add. For more information or to sign-up, go to our Avondale home page or <https://tinyurl.com/ABCKidsCafe>. Thank you!

Peru Ministry

Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson, PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers to Perú, will be visiting Avondale on December 2 at 4:30-5:30 PM in the FLC, to update us on the ministry that continues with our partners in Peru. Any who are interested in this partnership or who would like to say hi, please feel free to join us. Questions? Contact Shea Chambers at sheawchambers@gmail.com.



Playbook for Life Basketball

League Practices have begun! Games begin the first Saturday of December and continue through March 2019 in the FLC.

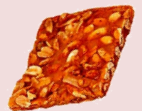
Practices

5 - 9 PM / Mon - Fri (not Wed)

Games [LINK](#)

8 AM - 4 PM / Saturdays

Help with
Peanut Brittle
for ABC Christmas



Saturday, December 1
11 AM - 2 PM

We need helping hands to break-up and package the delicious Bowen Brittle for ABC Gifts!

To help, RSVP to Kay Chelena:
kay@themanagementoffice.com



Birthdays in January

1 Jennifer Matz	16 Billy Caldwell	26 Bob Gaddy
Lorin Bookout	Evan Wood	JT Earl
2 P.K. Kalevas	18 Garrett Whitesides	Thomas Martin, III
3 Marian Stout	Liam Platt	27 Holly Thomson
Tony McKenzie	19 Sue Haag	Jennifer Oglesby-Dewyer
4 Palmer Horton	20 Becky Chavaree	28 Bill Byrd
5 Jim Branden	Deidrea Pavlin	Linda Haigh
7 Millie Patterson	23 Bill Thomas	Roger White
8 Croft Hamilton	David Phillips	Steve Thomas
11 Thomas Lawson	Ted Todd	29 David Lindsey
13 Karen Eakes	24 Drew Russell	Kristen Martin, III
Leslie Saleeby	Ginny Mitchell	30 Jay Wardlaw
Marcia Halsey	25 Andrew Patterson	31 Bill Thornberry
14 Juddie Finison	Bonnie Howard	Carolyn Wright
15 Betty Patterson	Tom Cavanaugh	Joshua Oswald
Connie Love		Julie McDonald

No Wedding Anniversaries in January

Joys & Concerns

Members: Jay Barron and family; Molly Carver; Billie Coates; Rose Graham; Sue Haag; Martha Hayes; Linda Haigh; Olivia Magee; Betty Marshall; Debi Medlin; Martha Meunier; Matt & Stephanie Mitchell & family; Betty Parrish; Ryan & Ann Patterson & family; David & Libby Phillips; Martha Rogers; Peggy Simpson; & Tina Wilson.

Family and Friends: Donna Allen; Marvin & Pattie Bethune & family; Mary Coffey; Will McClure; Grace Mullis & family; & Patti Pittman.

Church Triumphant: We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of...

- our member, Dorothy M. "Dot" Burke, who passed away (June 6, 1931 - October 9, 2018). A service was held October 27, 2018 in the Sanctuary of Avondale.

- Marian and Tom Stout, on the passing of her father, Charles "Chuck" Johnson on September 23, 2018 at his home in Hillsborough. A service was held September 27, 2018 at Clements Funeral Chapel in Durham.

- Eric and Corey Shanks on the passing of their grandfather, Raymond McCorkle (March 10, 1923 - September 30, 2018). A service was held on October 3 in Lenoir, NC.

- Kay and Vince Chelena, on the passing of her mother, Jeanne M. Engleby (September 7, 1925 - October 8, 2018). A service was held October 12, 2018 in Ashland, VA at Duncan Memorial UMC.



- Paul M. White, a former member of Avondale in the 1990's. White went home to the Lord on November 16, 2017. The address of his wife, Chris White, is: 9400 Nolandwood Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Flowers: Flowers were recently given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of...

- Katie Stout, by Tom, Marian, Sarah Jane and Lilly Stout on September 23, 2018.

- Edd DeArmon, by Kay DeArmon on October 7, 2018.

- Jan Parler, by Rick Parler on October 28, 2018.

All Saint's Day: We remembered those who have passed in the last year... James P. Singer; Billy "Bill" D. Parrish; Anne Sarratt Hamilton; Frances Ruth Robertson; Rachel Frances Darling; Pamela Fridinger Braswell; and Dorothy M. Burke.

Birth: We announced the birth of Benjamin "Bo" Owen Mitchell, born on September 21, 2018 at 5 lbs. 11 oz., the son of Matt and Stephanie Mitchell and sibling of Wade and Brooks. In October, we rejoiced when the Mitchells brought baby Bo home from the hospital.

Marriage: Congratulations to former Avondale youth...

- Matt Comstock and his new wife, Rosy Kirby, who were married in Asheville, NC on September 29, 2018.

- Mackenzie Earl and her husband, Matthew Sawyer, who were married in Wrightsville Beach, NC on June 9, 2018.

Matt & Mackenzie Sawyer, 127 Driftwood Ct, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.



Stewardship: A Way of Living

This is the message of the emblem for our Stewardship Ministry. All that we have is a gift from God. Believing in God's grace we complete the circle of faith by being good stewards of all with which we have been entrusted, using our gifts throughout our faith.

Christ lives in us. Believe in our future.
A church serving a growing, evolving community.
Bringing people to Christ. Building something eternal.
Building the kingdom of God.

Stewardship and Finance

Contribution envelopes for 2019 are available for pick-up at Worship as well as in the office.

Haven't pledged yet? Consider making a gift via recurring ACH from your bank account or by transferring a stock gift. Contact Jacqueline Howells in Finance for more information at jacqueline@avondalepresbychurch.org.

Would you like to receive your contribution statements via secure email with Constant Contact?

Check the box on your pledge card to go paperless!

We've modernized our technology! Finance has upgraded to QuickBooks Online and Admin/Communications has upgraded our member software from ACS to Realm, its cloud-based next generation upgrade.

Pledge Online for 2019

We invite our Congregation to send in your pledges for 2019, if you have not done so already. Thank you to those who have already pledged.

**We have \$360,865 in pledges
as of November 27, 2018.**

Pledge online now:

www.avondalepresbychurch.org/pledge

Our bank, New Dominion, has been acquired by Park National Bank and staff now have credit cards for church expenditures. Instead of submitting check requests, consider asking the member on staff working with your ministry to make electronic purchases!

Avondale At Work

Haiti Ministry Update

Zach Chambers, Ainsley Chambers, Joe Zuyus and Corey Shanks made the fall trip to Milot, Haiti. We were present for the day long concrete pour of the Mission House second level slab of 3,000 sq. ft.. At one time we counted over 30 Haitians working to complete the task of mixing, placing and finishing the concrete slab which provides the roof for the first level. We paid for the materials and labor to complete this task through from the money raised at the Cornhole Tournament in June and from donations designated for the Milot Mission.

We all marveled at the manpower and effort to pour the concrete as well as the primitive yet genius way of getting concrete up on the second level. The next day, we set out on foot to deliver meals to elderly in the feeding program as well as deliver solar powered

LED lights that can be used for charging cellphone batteries, as well as providing light at night. After lunch we set out on motor bikes to ride up to the Citadel while making meal delivery stops along the way. The final hike up to the top of the Citadel was breathtaking, literally and figuratively. Sunday we attended worship. A lasting memory of this wonderful experience is the listening to the hymns sung in their native Creole language.

It's hard to put into words something you have experienced that is life changing. I am so grateful for being asked one Sunday if I was interested in going to Haiti. You never know what someone will say "Yes!" to unless you ask them. — *shared by Corey Shanks*

Haiti Video

See a video of the roof going on and images from the trip.

<https://youtu.be/GLUnc2vHtQ>

Haiti Ministry International Student

The oldest son of Jacqueline and Sadira Valmyr, our ministry team partners and host family in Milot, is coming to Charlotte. Last spring, Davidson graduated high school with hopes of going to college. Through the relationships formed on our many trips to stay and serve with his family, this will become a reality. Davidson will be arriving December 8 and will begin school at CPCC in January, with hopes to transfer to a four year university. Davidson is looking forward to becoming a part of our church family and exploring all that Charlotte and the US have to offer. On December 16, we will have an Advent Offering for Davidson. The offering will be for gift cards to stores that are accessible to him (with more details to come), to assist him in getting settled in the city.

Avondale Presbyterian Church

Advent 2018

“His Gift, His Story, Our Story”

Passages, Programs & Presents



Passages of Advent

Advent I - HOPE	December 2	9:30 AM	Luke 2: 8-20
Advent II - PEACE	December 9	9:30 AM	John 1: 1-14
Advent III - JOY	December 16	9:30 AM	Luke 2: 1-7
Advent IV - LOVE	December 23	9:30 AM	Christmas Cantata
Christmas Eve	December 24	two services	
	Christmas Eve Family Service	4:00 PM	Family Life Center <i>“A Super Christmas”</i>
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	11:00 PM	Communion in the Sanctuary
Advent Booklets	pick-up a copy at Worship or Church Office		

Programs of Advent

An Advent Workshop for Children	December 2	Learn about Advent and make a Manager following Worship Service	for K-5th Grade
An Advent Sunday School	begins December 2	11:00 AM Fellowship Hall	<i>“All I Want For Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God’s Grace”</i> for Youth & Adults
Children’s Christmas Musical	December 9	11:00 AM Fellowship Hall	<i>“Chris-myth Busters”</i>
Christmas Caroling	December 16	join Member Care after Sunday School	at Merrywood & Sharon Towers
An Advent Concert	December 16	3:00 PM	<i>“Christmas with Crossroads”</i>
A Christmas Cantata	December 23	Worship Service	<i>“That’s Where the Story Began”</i>

Presents We Bring

ABC Angel Tree (ABC is Avondale and Bethlehem Center)	Tree in the Family Life Center, approximately 80 Angel tags for a child or family		
ABC Christmas Party & Dinner	December 14	5:30 PM	Family Life Center
Haiti Ministry International Student	December 16	9:30 AM	Worship Service
Christmas Joy Gift Offering	December 23	9:30 AM	Worship Service

See details in this edition.



Avondale Presbyterian Church

Advent 2018

“His Gift, His Story, Our Story”

Program Details

ABC Angel Tree – begins Nov 18

Thanks to all who selected an Angel Tree ornament to provide a gift and hat/glove set for a Bethlehem Center child/youth. We will also have Bethlehem Center family names on the tree; gift cards for either: 1) groceries, 2) Wal-Mart, or 3) Entertainment (bowling, movies) will brighten the holidays for a BC family.

Advent Sunday School – begins Dec 2

We extend our arms to Adults and Youth for an intergenerational Christian study time. We will study “*All I Want For Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God's Grace*” by James W. Moore for five sessions. (11 AM on Dec. 2, 16, 23, 30, and January 6.)

Children’s Holiday Musical – Dec 9

The Avondale Adventures children will perform the holiday musical, “*Chris-myth Busters*”! A lunch will follow the performance. In this musical, Ethan has a new brother, Michael, only he's not a little bundle of joy. He's a pretty big kid... adopted... and a bit of an annoying trivia buff. When Michael starts busting some myths about Christmas to Ethan's friends, it causes quite a stir.

ABC Christmas Party & Dinner – Dec 14

Come join in a Christmas celebration with our neighbors. We have a great program of joy planned for the evening with a delicious meal and crafts for the children. Please [RSVP to attend](#) via our website or call the church office. Desserts are needed.

Haiti Ministry Student – Dec 16

We will have a Special Offering for Davidson, the oldest son of Jacqueline and Sadira Valmyr, our ministry team partners and host family in Milot, Haiti. Davidson will be arriving in Charlotte on Dec. 8 and begins school at CPCC in January with hopes to transfer to a four year university. Davidson is looking forward to becoming

a part of our church family and exploring Charlotte and the U.S. The offering will be for gift cards to stores that are accessible to him to assist him in getting settled in the city. More details to come.

Christmas Caroling – Dec 16

Join us in spreading Christmas Cheer! Avondale Member Care will be visiting and caroling to our friends at Merrywood and Sharon Towers after Sunday School. We will start with food and fellowship at McAlister's for lunch and then head to Merrywood and Sharon Towers to spread the good news of our Savior's birth through song. Please RSVP to Rena Beall at renabeall@gmail.com or 803-487-0537 or call the church office.

A Christmas Cantata – Dec 23

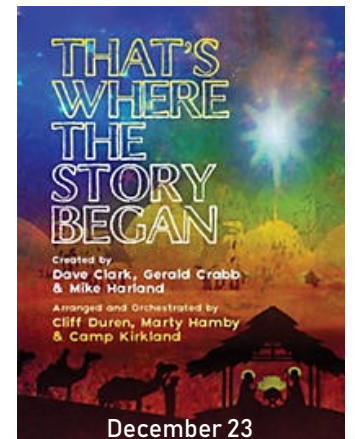
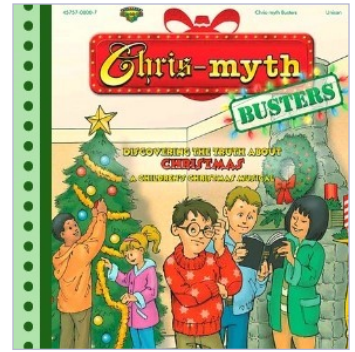
Enjoy “*That's Where the Story Began*”, a Christmas musical created by three amazingly talented songwriters, offering new songs, familiar carols and stirring narrations. Through music, we'll celebrate the joyful announcement of the Messiah's birth, explore the way and why He became flesh to dwell among us.

Christmas Joy Gift Offering – Dec 23

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Christmas Eve Family Service – Dec 24 **“A Super Christmas”**

Come worship and celebrate the birth of Christ through the singing of Christmas Carols and the telling of the Christmas story with appearances from your favorite Super Heroes!



Christian Nurture Advent

Season of Advent is December 2-24

During Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. Our theme this year is "His Gift, His Story, Our Story". Please see Passages, Programs, and Presents in this edition and below.

Advent Workshop for Children on December 2

There will be an Advent workshop for children, kindergarten to 5th grade, this coming Sunday, December 2 in the Children's Sunday School wing following worship. Children will learn about Advent and make their own manger with people figures. We hope your family can join in for this special event.

Advent Sunday School for Youth & Adults

This holiday season, we'll gather together in the Fellowship Hall for an intergenerational Christian study time for five Sundays. See more details on Advent programs page.

Advent Booklets for Adults & Families

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing... Following worship this Sunday, December 2, families of the church are invited to pick-up a booklet to read during this Advent season. We have "God Lifts the Lowly" for adults and "Advent A to Z" for families. These booklets will help children, youth, and adults listen, look, and be aware of the sights and sounds of Christmas as we await the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas day. In the midst of this busy season, these help us pause to reflect and remember the reason we celebrate. Please get a copy at Worship or in the Church Office and enjoy as you prepare for the birth of the Christ child once again.

Sunday School & More

Recent Children's Sunday School Change

In November, we made this change to our 3's, 4's, and 5's Sunday School. Following the Children's Message in Worship, the children follow their Sunday School Teacher to the "3's Classroom" in the Avondale Children's Center. They will have their lesson and remain in this room for play until parent pick-up. Parents, you may pick-up your children in this room following Worship or the Adult Sunday School hour, ending at 12 PM.

Children's Sunday School and More - New in January!

Beginning on January 6, 2019, our children, ages kindergarten to 5th grade, will experience Sunday School in a new and creative way! We will begin providing fellowship gatherings and special events to grow and learn together *outside* of Sunday mornings. Our K- 5th grade age children will be divided into two groups, K- 3rd and 4th- 5th graders, and meet once a month on Sunday afternoons for fellowship gatherings and Wednesday evenings, as part of our new *year-round* Avondale Adventures program. We hope these expanded age-specific gatherings meet more of the needs of our young children and their families. We see this as a way to foster fellowship and community among this age group, while increasing attendance and participation. More details to come.

Wednesdays for Adults - New in January!

We will also offer Adult programming on Wednesday evenings, as well as Avondale Adventures, to create an intergenerational learning time for all. We will provide a meal for families on these nights to encourage fellowship among children and adults. There will be a small cost for the meal each week. More details to come.

New Programs in 2019

This new programming shared above will be done on a trial basis with an evaluation in May. Please pray that God will be our guide during this new adventure and that we will be able to discern a direction that will meet the needs of our young families and their children. Our goal is to develop young disciples with a purpose and message to share.



Taizé Prayer Services

All welcomed. Come for Taizé song, silence, and prayers for our church and the world. Services last 30-40 minutes.

Next services will be at
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
December 11
and January 15, 2019

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

Avondale At Work

ACC Board

The day to day operations of the Avondale Children’s Center are overseen by a Board of Directors that includes Church members with children at the Center, Church members without children at the Center, and parents of children at the Center who are not Church members. The current Church members on the Board are: Lynn Daniel; Brian Drozd; Jodie Lawson; Stephanie Mitchell; Lyn Sweet; and Caroline White. Veronica Cannon serves as an ex officio member of the Board in her role as Interim Senior Pastor. Jennifer Patterson is the Elder liaison to the Children’s Center and also attends the Center’s Board’s meetings.

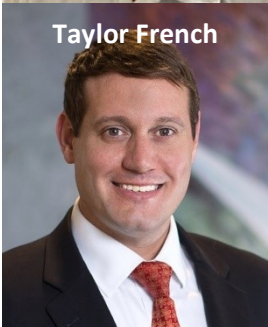
As part of the Church’s ongoing effort to work more collaboratively with the Children’s Center, the President of the Board met with the Session at its November meeting. The Board’s President is Taylor French. He has two daughters, one currently enrolled at the Children’s Center and one who graduated last year and is now in kindergarten. He lives in the Dilworth neighborhood and works as an employee benefits attorney at McGuireWoods.

Taylor has served on the Board for several years and has been the Board President for the past year. Taylor spoke to



Blaine Jenkins

the Session about the Center’s commitment to high quality child care, its excellent teachers and low staff turnover rate, its management structure, and the annual budgeting process. Taylor and the Session discussed ways to work together better, including in the areas of health insurance benefits and property maintenance. They also discussed the future of the Children’s Center and agreed to continue the dialog between the Session and the Board.



Taylor French

ACC Openings

The Children’s Center has several spaces open for children. Know someone who may need day care

for their child? Invite them to call the Children’s Center at 704-377-6960.

New Team Member at ACC

Avondale Children’s Center recently welcomed new Culinary Assistant, Blaine Jenkins. He assists Ashley Nightengale in all things culinary at ACC.

ASAP’s new Faithful Friends

“Faithful Friends” is a new program of ASAP about connecting with members who can not get to church often. In October, ASAP partnered with Avondale Adventures to make adorable pumpkins, then our “Faithful Friends” made visits to bring many smiles with the Adventure pumpkins. Enjoy pictures online. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/34cd9f_b970d0eca1434fa4ab342fd7baf692ea.pdf

Circle #5 Visits Royal Oaks

On November 13, the members of Circle #5 enjoyed a luncheon with Rose Graham at the Royal Park Rehabilitation and Health Center in Matthews. For many years Rose invited our Circle for our meeting and lunch at her home. We were able to share special memories with her, enjoy good food, and have our Circle meeting with her at the Royal Park. Rose was so happy to be with us. This was truly a time to be so grateful for those we love and cherish. God is Good!

Circle #5 dates— 1 PM in Vanguard Classroom
Dec 4; Jan 8; Feb 5; Mar 5; Apr 2; May 7; Jun 4

Sacred Space Team Update

The Sacred Space team, made up of Lynn Wilkerson, Tony McKenzie, Kay DeArmon, Corey Shanks, Carl McDonald and Shea Chambers continue to make progress towards a Schematic Design for Sacred Space at Avondale. We added Jennifer Patterson to the team to advise in regards to how this may affect the Children’s Center’s space. We’ve hired Will Berkeley with WAB Consulting and Charles McClure with McClure Nicholson Montgomery Architects. We expect to present our best design option with related costs to the Session at the January meeting. We look forward to then bringing that to the congregation.



Rose & Friends

Memorials & Honorariums

Given in Memory of:

Pam Braswell

Given by:

The Presbyterian
Women of Avondale

Given in Memory of:

Frances Robertson

Given by:

The Presbyterian
Women of Avondale

Given in Memory of:

Dot Burke

Given by:

The Presbyterian
Women of Avondale

Avondale can receive Memorials & Honorariums online at www.avondalepresbychurch.org/



Music Ministry

Music - A Message From the Mountains

We had a wonderful time in the mountains at the Avondale Retreat and for me personally it was a great time to pause and really reflect on my faith journey and my leadership here at Avondale. The theme of Kate Murphy's program during the retreat was "Spiritual Pruning". Pruning means cutting away branches, sometimes perfectly good branches to make space for new fruitful growth. Spiritual pruning means we may lose things or have to give up things we thought were good so we can make way for something new and more fruitful. There is a lot to unpack in that theme but one of the things I took away is to make room and space for God to move through you, change you, and use you.

Growing up Baptist we were focused on that change being a one time thing. We are born again once, we are changed all at once to the perfect Christian (at least that is how they made me feel it was supposed to happen). I really struggled with that. I never felt like I was done changing and growing in Christ. I thought I must have done it wrong, I'm not really saved because I don't feel I have changed completely to the person God wants me to be. I've learned so much from my Presbyterian brothers and sisters about God's love and spirit. We are on a continual journey with Christ. We don't decide just once to walk that journey. We decide it every day and every day He walks with us helping us grow in faith and further the Kingdom of God.

Another realization I had is there is a difference in making time for doing God's work and making time for God. So even though most of my time each day is spent doing God's work for Avondale, that isn't the same as making time for God in my life. I fill my life with "stuff", making sure I am always entertained, always watching something, reading something, listening to something. In a way it's like I am walking on a path with Christ with my ear buds in! I've always been irritated by the people who always have ear buds in their ears. I feel like they are so closed off from the world and could be missing so much. Now I realize I am one of those people!

So as I continue on my journey I need to make more space and time for God. I need to take time to be still, to listen, to simply sit and commune with God. Only then can I be pruned for new growth and fruitfulness.

A prayer using words from the song "The Power of Your Love":

Lord, unveil my eyes. Let me see You face to face, the knowledge of Your love as You live in me. Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Rich Stanley, Director of Music*

Room In The Inn

This winter, Avondale will host Room In The Inn (RITI) one night a week on Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM beginning January 6, 2019 and going through March 31. A Sign-up Genius will be available soon inviting people to sign-up to help. There will be a selection of dates and responsibilities to assist in making this program a viable part of the Avondale community. Please pray on how you and your family might serve our homeless neighbors. Contact Lou Johnson for more details at 704-333-6194 ext. 12 or lou@avondalepresbychurch.org.

Worship Music

"Beautiful!"
"Worshipful!"
"Captivating!"

These are just a few of the words we have heard used regarding the music in Worship. You can listen and watch recent music shared:

"My Lord What a Morning"
<https://youtu.be/CaU2F5MNO8Q>

"Let All Things Now Living"
<https://youtu.be/GWotbZNYmks>



Music for the Season

Children's Christmas Musical

December 9



Christmas Caroling

December 16



Christmas with Crossroads

December 16

Christmas Cantata

December 23



*Devotions by Email

Rich Stanley puts together wonderful emails full of scripture, devotions and music. You don't have to be involved in our Music Ministry to enjoy these wonderful emails. If interested to join the email list, send Rich a note at rich@avondale-presbychurch.org.



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.

6th Annual
BAKE SALE
 Saturday, December 15
 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 @ Avondale Presbyterian Church
 Family Life Center | **OPEN TO ALL**
 2821 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209

**COOKIES
 GIFTS & MORE**

6th Annual Bake Sale! *Open to All*
 Saturday, December 15 8AM - 4PM in FLC

Come shop with us! The Presbyterian Women of Avondale will have their annual Cookie/Bake Sale on Saturday, December 15. Cookie boxes, homemade candies, baked goods, crafts, and more - you'll find nice gifts. Great for teachers, neighbors, friends, frenemies... Come early for best selection!

Calling our Avondale Bakers

Sign-up your Bake Sale contributions! Find the link on our Avondale homepage or go to <https://goo.gl/forms/TuKvrQfUndKajZZ2>.

Calendar - Coming Soon!

- Dec 1 - Playbook for Life Basketball / Sat. games begin
- Dec 1 - Volunteer with ABC "Bowen Peanut Brittle"
- Dec 2-24 - Advent Season
- Dec 2 - Advent Workshop for Children
- Dec 2 - Advent Sunday School for Youth & Adults begins
- Dec 2 - Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson Visit
- Dec 9 - Children's Christmas Musical
- Dec 14 - ABC Christmas Party & Dinner
- Dec 15 - PWA Cookie Sale
- Dec 16 - Christmas Caroling
- Dec 16 - Christmas with Crossroads Concert
- Dec 17 - ASAP Christmas Gathering
- Dec 18 - Joyful Noise Christmas Party
- Dec 23 - Christmas Cantata
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 4 & 11 PM

2019 - Save the date!

- Jan 6 - New programs begin for K-5th children & adults
- Jan 6 - Room In The Inn begins
- Jan 18-21 - Youth Winter Retreat
- Jan 23 - Avondale Adventures begins
 Parent Registration meetings Jan 9 & 16
- March 8-10 - Avondale Women's Retreat
- July 29 - Vacation Bible School begins

save the date...
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 2019 / JULY 29 - AUGUST 2

#SUMMERCAMP19
 #VBS19

AVONDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 2821 PARK RD, CLT, NC 28209
 WWW.AVONDALEPRESBYCHURCH.ORG/VBS