

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Members in Christ,

As we inch ourselves along the way in moving toward the single worship service which will begin on September 11, required is a level of spiritual boldness by all within our faith community to worship in a manner which is new and glorifies God.

- boldness by those leaving the sanctuary and entering into a new worship space;
- boldness of voices and instruments from both worship services seeking to glorify God as one worship team;
- boldness of selected members who are open to risk and share in the using of their gifts to glorify God; and
- a boldness of the larger faith community here at Avondale who believe that God is at work doing something new.

The worship and music planning team continue to plan and pray and find strength with their future vision of worship.

While the Gospel calls all of us to look forward and to put the past behind us, sometimes there is value in confirming where we have been and

address the issues which prompt the forward move.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):

Following are four frequently asked questions regarding the new single service of worship.

The comments that follow are the combined responses of your church leadership to the questions.

Why one service?

Response: The leadership recognizes the value of being unified in worship and mission.

Why the Family Life Center for the single service?

Response: The Family Life Center offers greater flexibility and accessibility for members and for the utilization of all gifts to glorify God.

How long is "not permanent" in regards to worship being in the Family Life Center?

Response: The leadership is uncertain but recognizes a commitment to defining our vision to the Sedgfield Middle School community.

continued next page

Session Update

At the June meeting of the Session, the following two actions of significance were taken:

Call Congregation together:

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, June 26, at 10:50 A.M., for the sole purpose of electing a 2017 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. (G-2.04: Book of Order)

Update: At the Congregational Meeting held this past Sunday, the following Elders/ Members were elected by the congregation to comprise the 2017 Nominating Committee.

They are:

- Elders Rick Parler and Lisa Worf
- Members Jim Flowers, Beth Suydam and Rogers Magee.

The Committee seeks your prayers as they consider Nominations for the office of Ruling Elder.

A second motion of significance:

The Session approved up to \$25,000 from the endowment for the purpose of safety, acoustical and other aesthetic improvements to the Family Life Center for the purposes of using the space in conducting single worship services.

The approved amount does not interfere with the principle within the endowment but pulls from interest of the principle.

continued next page

Pastor's Letter cont.

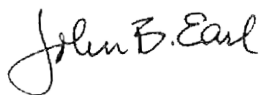
Why are we not moving into a Capital Campaign for the sanctuary?

Response: There is value in awaiting the response from the Prayer and Dream Teams in discerning God's movement with the Sedgefield Middle School community. Their recommendations to the Session may have direct implications upon the larger church facilities.

Reflecting on the past and looking to the future compels us all to hold to the inner certainty of Christ leading. Our twenty-three youth and leaders heading off on their mission journey to see Machu Picchu in Peru have something to offer. The youth have seen pictures and they are aware that somewhere beyond their days of intense hiking, there, lost within the Andes mountain peaks, exists the ancient ruins of a community. For some, when arriving, it will be a religious experience. The embrace of a vision. For all, they will arrive taking one step at a time knowing that beyond them there is a vision which becomes reality. This is the reward of their spiritual obedience.

Although we cannot construct a spiritual experience with our Creator, we continue to trust the "blowing of the wind" and wait to be "surprised by joy". Such is our unsettling disturbance which will bring us to a newly defined sense of glory. Obedient to the call of Christ we continue on our way.....

Yours in Christ,



Session Update cont.

Also approved by the Session:

The position of a basketball program coordinator was approved for September 1, 2016 through March 5, 2017. This request was granted by Personnel in the effort to assist Rev. Chris Lee with the expansion of the basketball program here at Avondale. The position will be a supervised ministry internship reporting to the Associate Pastor. Compensation not to exceed \$3,800 with the position being funded by revenue from the basketball program.

Chris Lee also reported to the Session concerning the continued meetings of the Prayer Team and Dream Team in defining our vision and mission to the Sedgefield Middle School Community. Energy and participation is strong. The Dream Team will be reporting back to the Session in August with recommendations.

Appreciation was expressed to:

Sedgefield Reading Buddies and to those who contributed to the "Moving On" graduation service and the Sports Banquet for Sedgefield Middle School.

More About Our Move to a Single Service

Read *more detailed* responses to the Frequently Asked Questions online.
<http://tinyurl.com/APCSingleServiceJuneUpdate>

To read *all the communications to the congregation this year* about the move to a single service, see this document online.
<http://tinyurl.com/APCSingleService6-16>



Serve on the Planning Team?

Interested in serving on a planning team which will shape and plan the new single worship? Please share your interest with Dr. Earl. The team will meet weekly, beginning July 10, from 10:00–10:50 A.M. on Sunday mornings.



Conversations about Single Service

With the move to a single worship service on Sunday, September 11, questions may exist in regards to "What next?" and "What will change?".

Three Sunday morning sessions are offered to provide opportunities for conversation. Attend one, or all, of these sessions:

Sundays:

June 26, July 31, or/and August 28

Classes will meet in the sanctuary from 10:00-10:50 A.M.

Ruling Elders and representatives from the Single Worship Planning Task Force will conduct these sessions.

Growing in Stewardship

Stewardship in Mission

Stewardship in Mission: Room in the Inn

The Room In The Inn ministry provides dinner, breakfast, a bag lunch and a safe place to sleep for 12 homeless neighbors each Tuesday from December through March. Guests enjoy the use of our shower and laundry facilities. Volunteers perform all tasks such as preparing meals, transporting guests, spending the night, providing hospitality and in return enjoy fellowship and building relationships. Most volunteers are Avondale members but some are local neighbors and friends that have been moved by this ministry and want to help. Michael Harrison says his experience with RITI can be summed up in one word - *gratitude*.

Grateful to be a part of a spiritual community that believes in the humanity of all. Grateful to build new friendships with other Avondalers. But most of all, grateful, for God's gift of willingness to be of service.



Stewardship in Mission: Spotlight on PWA's Mission Contributions

Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA) has been providing staff support to the teachers and administration at Sedgefield Middle School for the past year. Sedgefield's Principal, Mr. Erik Turner, credits PWA with changing the teaching atmosphere, lifting morale and reducing attrition. PWA's efforts have included hosting breakfasts and lunches for the more than 80 staff members, donating gift cards to teachers to lift morale, and purchasing over 70 packs of paper. On June 10, the Mission ministry team and Presbyterian Women provided a lunch for the entire staff and thanked Principal Turner with balloons and a monetary gift.

Mini Interview with Lyn Sweet and Brenda Coble:

What influenced Presbyterian Women's decision to shift your mission focus to local ministries?

Many of us are former educators and understand the challenges that teachers face, especially in schools that don't have a PTA to provide school supplies and lift morale.

Why did you choose Sedgefield Middle School?

There were many reasons. Sedgefield Middle School is very close to Avondale and does not have a PTA. PWA wanted to support the efforts of the church. We want the students and teachers at Sedgefield to know there are people who care about them.

What are your goals for next year?

We want to continue our efforts and build on this year's successes. We want all the teachers at Sedgefield Middle to know they are valued and appreciated.



Stewardship cont.

Stewardship in Mission: Spotlight on CONNECT Camps Ministry

Avondale's CONNECT summer ministry provides urban mission opportunities and projects for youth and adults. Avondale members are vital contributors to this ministry as they serve as hosts, site coordinators, supervise mission opportunities, and provide meals and hospitality to groups during their stay with us.

Stewardship in Mission: Haiti Ministry

Avondale's Face-to-Face in Milot mission works with partners in Haiti to provide essential food support for thirty men and women in Milot, a rural town of 5,000 people in northern Haiti. This mission has a simple goal: to ease the suffering of the disabled and elderly of Milot. This mission of feeding, serving, and loving the elderly poor in Milot is our way of following in the footsteps of Christ. Twice a year, Avondalers travel to Milot to meet our Haitian program hosts and partners and participate directly in the program. We buy food in the local market, package it into a 15-day supply, and carry it on our backs as we hike the hills around Milot delivering food. We spend some time in conversation and prayer with each person we serve, bringing them the good news of Christ's love for them. We hope you'll consider joining us in November. For more information, please contact Jim Bowen at jdbowennc@mac.com.



Sedgefield Ministry Update

To continue and build upon Avondale's rich history of ministering to families and children, and strengthening our partnership with Sedgefield Middle School and the Sedgefield Attendance Zone, we invite you to share the joy of our multi-faceted efforts to build bridges to the Sedgefield community. Read about recent events and see pictures online: <http://tinyurl.com/Sedgefield06-2016>

Financial News

Check Request forms and information is now available online so you can request reimbursement from your own computer as well as save the forms to your computer. There are no changes to the request and reimbursement process.

We realize there may be people who have not learned about this reimbursement process, but have a need to know about it. Hopefully, this link below to instructions and forms can be helpful to all who purchase on behalf of the church. Thanks in advance for your efforts.

Online: <http://tinyurl.com/APCExpenseReimbursement>



Opportunities to Share Your Gifts

Elder Ushers for Sunday Worship

We are in need of Elder Ushers for the 11:00 A.M. worship service. If you are able to help, please speak with Lynn Wilkerson or Harry Greyard. Thank you.

Help with Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is seeking help over the summer. As we teach our children about prayer during the summer session, there is the opportunity to help serve as a 'floater' circulating among the kindergarten through 5th grades. As a floater, your role is to assist the teachers, as needed, with set-up, clean-up, snack, and escorting the children outside to the Sacred Garden when classes are taught outside.



Please sign-up for a spot or two...go online to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eafa92-fa46-summer/> or email Julie Caldwell directly at juliecaldwell33@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School Needs Volunteers

Vacation Bible School is sold out! We'll have a full house! We are seeking volunteers to share their time and talent during the week of August 1-5 for Avondale's Vacation Bible Camp. Volunteers have an opportunity to be a Crew Leader, Lead the Imagination Station, Deep Bible Quest Adventures, Spelunker games, Cavern Cafe, and KidVid Cinema and more. Please see the Volunteer Sign-Up online on Avondale's website or you can also email Kelly Platt directly, with subject "VBS 2016 Volunteer", at nckp04@gmail.com.

Congregational Retreat Planning Team

Love the Congregational Retreat? Then Congregational Life needs you. Come be a part of the planning team. The retreat is scheduled for October 21-23. We need help with all kinds of tasks from reservations to planning programming and all things in between. Be a part of the team by calling or e-mailing Marian Stout or

Louise Lawson as soon as possible. Thank you!

tomandmarian@netzero.net and/or

louisel@ctcharlotte.org

Serve on the Planning Team

Interested in serving on a planning team that will shape and plan the new single worship? Please share your interest with Dr. Earl. The team will meet weekly, beginning July 10, from 10:00 - 10:50 A.M. on Sunday mornings.

Other Opportunities....

Help with the Giving Garden, the Front Sign, worship setup/takedown, participate in choir, CONNECT Camp... if interested, please [contact the Church Office](#).

Service Ministry Updates

Haiti Update

Jim Bowen shared an update on the Haiti Mission Trip at the June 19 worship services. "These trips change you," Jim said, "the first time, and every time you go." In Milot, Haiti with Daisy Alexander, Emily Shannon, Wendy Campbell, and Erik Thomson, Jim and the group delivered food to homes. Visiting with elderly, disabled, and hungry people face-to-face, Jim realizes that this is a time when the spirit of God flows strongest in him.

Once he returned home and had a moment to reflect, these words came to him about Milot, "God loves you, we love you, we will help you." We hope to have more stories from the

group who carried our Avondale spirit to Haiti.



CONNECT Camp Update

Last week, we welcomed Mt. Vernon Baptist Church from Hurricane, West Virginia. Here for a week of service work were 21 kids, middle and high school age, with their adult chaperones. We have a connection to Mt. Vernon – an adult leader is Josh Callaway, brother of Avondale member John Callaway.

The group worked at/with: Jackson Park Ministries, Uptown Meal Ministry, Crisis Assistance, Second Harvest, Avondale: StreetSoccer945, Samaritans Feet, ESC SafeHouse, and Sedgfield M.S.. They also learned about Human Trafficking and went to the Prayer Room.

Service Ministry Updates cont.



Peru Mission Trip

Eighteen youth and five adults are currently in Peru. They are working hands-on for a week to help improve and add to the Sajaruyoc Bible Institute facilities in Quillabamba, Cusco, Peru. Additionally, they will do a five day trek (of 50+ miles) to Machu Picchu, putting intentional discipline into their spiritual lives as they walk.

Peru Mission Trip Participants:

Youth: Eli Oswald, Wesley Hayes, Alex Shumate, Covert Suydam, Jay Meier, Croft Hamilton, Jack Littlefield, Maddie Howard, Megan Hunter, Mary Shannon, Kelly Eakes, Sarah Lawson, Elizabeth Lawson, Mary Catherine Suydam, Amanda Mullennix, Miller Boyd, Sarah Jane Stout, and Hanna Whitesides.

Adult Chaperones: Todd Oswald, Zach Chambers, Shea Chambers, Jessica Shanks, and Rev. Chris Lee

We look forward to hearing trip details and are thankful to all for your support of this mission.



Sedgefield Community Ministry

An update was shared in this newsletter below the Stewardship article. For a full update and pictures, go online to: <http://tinyurl.com/Sedgefield06-2016>

Uptown Meal Ministry

Rory Montgomery, a man we have known for all of the 13 years of our Uptown Meal Ministry, is no longer homeless! Hallelujah! Rory moved into Moore Place and we are grateful to share that his new place is well equipped with necessary items.

Rory is an artist. If you have any drawing supplies that you'd like to donate, he will be thrilled! If you'd like to share food or art supplies, please drop-off to the church office and we'll deliver.



Thanks so much for your prayers and continued support of the many men, women and children we reach through this ministry.

Congregation News



New Members

The reception of new members was held during worship services on May 22, 2016. Please welcome these individuals to Avondale's family of fellowship.

- Amy Louise Major
- Andrew and Deidrea Pavlin (pictured above)
- Adrian and Wynanda Sutherland (pictured below)





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 sande@avondalepresbychurch.org with the information. If an incorrect date is shown, please be sure to let the Office know the correct information.

July Birthdays

2	Alex Gustafson Erik Smith Evie Steude Jim Neely Laura Meier	7	Martha Rogers Mary Harris D. J. Saleeby Nathan Tomey	19	Jane Shumate Luke Mitchell
3	Renita Fowler	8		20	Patti Oswald
4	Charles Hayes Marilyn Nolan Ted Camp	9	Martha Meunier Michele Lindsey Reid Parler		Sarah Jane Stout
6	Dorothy Patterson Melissa Wray Mindy Ferguson Olivia Magee Page Woods	11	Gardner Gibson Libby Barron	21	Robert Rogers
7	Amanda Shanks Eric Shanks	12	Ann Gregory Jackson Wilson Baden Stuhr Jack McKenzie	22	Gray Thomas Joy Callaway Rich Worf, Jr.
		13		23	Jack McGinn
		14		26	Ava Zuyus
		15		27	Mary Martin Taylor Cavanaugh
		16		28	Lois Payne
		17		29	Katherine Wood Louise Lawson
		18	Stephanie Barber		Sigrid Sacra

July Anniversaries

1	Chris and Brandy Lee 2006
8	Jim and Nancy Buchanan 1980
10	Zach and Shea Chambers 1999
14	Betty McBrayer 1950
15	David and Libby Phillips 1967
16	Kevin and Kristin McNeil 2003
21	Bill and Leslie Thomas 1997
22	Tom and Carey Cavanaugh 2000
30	Bob and Tina Gaddy 1966 Terry and Sandy Brodof 1966

Joys and Concerns

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

Members: Bill Berryhill; Pam Blake; Susan Brandau; Mike Cathey; Rachel Darling; Bob Howard; Milli Mann; Betty McBrayer; Betty Patterson; and David Phillips.

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

Joys and Celebrations: With joy we announce the birth of Lucas William Ferguson, son of Mindy and Travis Ferguson. Lucas was born on May 19, 2016 at 7 lbs., 6 oz. and 20.5 inches.



Church Triumphant:

To the family and friends of Alice Bolton, aunt of Oliva Magee, who entered the Church Triumphant on June 6 in Misenheimer, NC.

To the family in friends of Peggy O'Neal Bingham, mother of Susan Brandau, who entered the Church Triumphant on June 21 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of:

Eldon Stout	Earlene Little
Diane Gunter	Lamar Gunter and Tova Gunter
Fred and Margaret Ratchford	Fred L. Ratchford
Peggy Bingham	Dollie Sitton



Avondale Presbyterian Church
 2821 Park Road
 Charlotte, NC 28209

Newsletter Publish Schedule

Avondale Avenues is published monthly on the fourth Tuesday.
 Deadline for submitting content for next newsletter is July 19. Publication date is July 26.
 Send your submissions to Caroline@AvondalePresbyChurch.org.

Avondale Calendar

Recently....

- May 27- 30** - Haiti Mission Trip
- June 19 - July 4** - Peru Mission Trip - Senior High Youth
- June 19 - 25** - CONNECT Camp at Avondale -
 Welcome Mt. Vernon Baptist Church; Hurricane, WV
- June 19 - 25** - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Coming up....

- July 10 - 15** - Massanetta Mission and Conference Trip
 - Middle School Youth
- July 10 - 15** - CONNECT Camp at Avondale -
 Welcome First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, MI
- July 18 - 24** - CONNECT Camp at Avondale -
 Welcome First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, PA
- August 1 - 5** - Vacation Bible School summer camp
- August 26 - 28** - Session and TAG Consulting Retreat
- October 21 - 23** - Avondale Congregational Retreat

Job Announcement



Avondale Children’s Center is seeking a Temporary Head Chef, for late August to October, while their Head Chef goes on maternity leave. See the Job Announcement on Avondale’s website.

July 4th



Happy 4th of July. The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 4. We hope you enjoy the blessings of freedom and independence.

Like us on Facebook



Do you Facebook?
 If so, like the Avondale page! Find us at:
www.facebook.com/AvondalePresbyterian