

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Members of Avondale,

I encourage you to see the changes taking place at Avondale as opportunities. Opportunities to glorify God in a new way and to see mission beyond ourselves, not as something that involves the select few but that opens the door to defining what it means to be a servant.

It is not up to us to twist arms and compel those outside our walls to join in worship, mission or even to become Christians. The Christian faith is a ministry of invitation. It begins within and moves out and beyond. It challenges a congregational culture which is deeply settled in the idea that "church" exists to serve those within its walls and moves out beyond so that others see a congregation engaged in the work of change and transformation. It discovers joy and surprise in the words of Acts 13: 41: *"I am doing a work, a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you."*

Moving toward our single worship service on September 11, there is an opportunity for greater congregational participation. We are seeking greeters, ushers, lay readers and worship participants to communicate the work of the Spirit here at Avondale. The choirs and band welcome all. Be as bold and as courageous as those first followers of Christ to become involved.

With the Dream and Prayer Teams reporting back to the Session with specific recommendations in August, they will be offering an invitation for all to "Come and See". Both are new opportunities in enabling a church to move out of its cocoon.

How easily our culture can silence God's Kingdom. The Republican and Democratic conventions have created a heightened level of increased polarization. The most recent shootings and deaths prompt a response and a call to look at issues differently. Issues of racism, violence, and gun control are not solved with the swipe of a magic wand. There is a community we call "the church" that is based upon the principles of faith and love, not fear. (I John 4: 18)



The opportunities facing Avondale are rich and timely in regards to building bridges between people segregated and those seeking belonging, affirmation and forgiveness. I am confident that our church leadership will be bold in identifying the next immediate steps of action. We continue to pray for spiritual transformation.

The repeated invitation to discipleship is not complex. It is best defined in three words - "Come and See" and followed with the words of the Master - "Follow me."

Yours in Christ,

John B. Earl

***"Be as bold
and as courageous
as those
first followers
of Christ..."***

Growing in Stewardship

Stewardship in Discipleship: Christian Nurture - Children's Sunday School

Each Sunday children continue to explore God's love with the help of several dedicated members of the congregation. This summer they're learning how prayer opens their hearts to God.

"I like summer Sunday School's focus on prayer because it shows how important prayer is in your life and helps you talk to God. I also like summer Sunday School because we have a smaller group which helps me learn more. Also, all the teachers are very nice!"

- Dorothy Patterson, who recently turned 10 years old

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Growing in Stewardship cont.

During the summer, the K-5th graders start the morning together with an "energizer" to help get the wiggles out and a story that introduces the lesson. The toddlers and preschoolers meet in the nursery wing for some hands-on learning. Children's Ministry is a great opportunity to nurture your own faith and teach the next generation.

"To hear them discuss who prays and why we pray has been a great reminder of the importance of prayer in all parts of life." - Jennifer Patterson, K-2nd grade Sunday School teacher

There are numerous ways you can support the spiritual growth of our youngest Avondalers - volunteer for a day at Vacation Bible School, serve as a Floater/Teacher during the summer Children's Sunday School, or Children's Nursery. To learn more contact Julie Caldwell at juliecaldwell33@gmail.com or 704-231-9440.



Stewardship in Discipleship: Christian Nurture - Youth Ministry This Summer

23. Do you know the significance of that number?

Really it is 23 x 2. Three weeks ago 23 high school youth and adults traveled to Peru to serve by helping to build a seminary in Quillabamba. This week 23 middle school youth and adults are traveling to Harrisburg, VA to serve that community as well.

That is 46 young people in our congregation serving outside of Charlotte this summer. Oh the ways we will grow, share, serve, learn and love. Our youth will not return the same as when they left. The stories will be epic and we want to share them. Stay tuned for an announcement of the date and time.



Stewardship in Discipleship: Work of Nominating Committee

At the most recent congregational meeting on June 24, members elected the following individuals to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee. They are Elders Rick Parler and Lisa Worf and Members Beth Suydam, Rogers Magee and Jim Flowers.

The task before them will be to return with recommendations for the positions of Ruling Elder and the positions of Ministry Team leaders. As members of the larger congregation, you will be asked to pray diligently for their work and to offer recommendations for these positions as you believe God is leading.

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Growing in Stewardship cont.

The position of Ruling Elder is the highest position of leadership within the P.C. (USA). The pages of Scripture remind us that God does not work alone and chooses to work on a team! (Exodus 18: 14, 18, 21, 22-23) God empowers and equips those who are called to serve. As Presbyterians, we ordain people to the ordered ministry of Ruling Elder. Elders are called to ministry. We lay hands on them. They take vows. Together, with a total of nine Elders serving on the Session, they are a team by God's design who make a commitment to discern, by prayer and study, God's will for Avondale and the larger church. It is a gift, treasure and high responsibility to be called to the office of Elder. Elders make a commitment to serve a three year term and the Nominating Committee will be receiving recommendations from the congregation for three positions.

Leaders are members who help further the building of the Kingdom of God by guiding and delegating others to participate in a specific ministry. They are essential in informing and involving the larger membership in living out a commitment to serve Christ. Leaders help clarify at a basic level what is expected of a member of Avondale. Leaders attend one of the three monthly Gathering Groups (lead by Elders) that shape and define vision and then moves out beyond the Group to implement the vision. Serving as a Leader usually requires a two-year commitment and can be a shared position.

This next year, the Nominating Committee will be looking for members to serve in the following leadership positions: Finance; Personnel; Congregational Life; Mission; and Outreach. The Nominating Committee asks that you give prayerful consideration to these vacancies for 2017 and use the Nominee Form which can be found as a bulletin insert or on the church office counter.



Find the **NOMINEE FORM**

for Elder and Leader

on our website:

avondalepresbychurch.org

Congregational Retreat

Save the Date! October 21-23

Every other year, we head to the Black Mountains for our Congregational Retreat for all ages.

Registration information is coming in August.

Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary Choir is on break. Rehearsal will resume on Thursday, August 25.

Welcome New Member

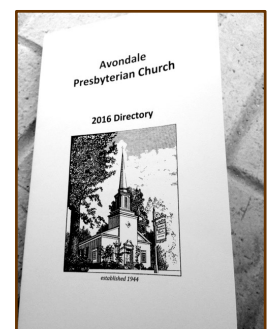
Please welcome into our Faith Community: Ann Sanders
A little about her: Ann is a retired lawyer who has three grown children and enjoys tennis, swimming and volunteering as a Guardian Ad Litem, representing children in the court system.

Pictures of recent new members:

The Major family (L to R) - Wilson, Brylie, Amy and Baden.
Ann Sanders

2016 Member Directory

It's here! Pick-up a copy of our 2016 Member Directory at worship or in the office.



More About Our Move to a Single, Unified Worship Service

About the Sunday Schedule and Service

Beginning Sunday, September 11, 2016
9:30 A.M. Worship in the FLC
10:40 A.M. Fellowship
11:00 A.M. Nurture and Fellowship (Church School, Journey Groups, and continued fellowship)

Our unified worship service will be a meaningful, welcoming service that continues to affirm our Reformed tradition. The new service will be a blend of ancient, traditional, and modern forms of music, prayer, and liturgy with scripture remaining at the center of the service. We hope you'll join us in this unified worship as we Glorify God. We also invite you to share your gifts. See "Share Your Gifts" following.

Questions about our move to a Single Worship Service?

Find Answers Online:

"Frequently Asked Questions about our move to a single service" Article: <http://tinyurl.com/j4qsm4c>

Come to a Conversation:

"Opportunities for Conversation about our Single Worship Service"

If questions exist in regards to "What next?" and

"What will change?", come to one or both of these sessions offered for open questions and conversation. Ruling Elders and representatives from the Single Worship Planning Task Force will conduct the classes. We'll meet in the sanctuary at 10:00 A.M. until 10:50 A.M. on Sundays, July 31 and August 28.



Share Your Gifts

Your gifts are needed to Glorify God. As we move toward a single worship service, beginning September 11, would you consider serving in one of these six ways?



- singing, ringing or playing in one of the choirs or band
 - assist in setting up chairs for worship
 - setup the morning beverage bar
 - usher or serve as a greeter to newcomers
 - drive the church bus to pick-up those who desire to attend worship
 - share computer skills in projecting visuals for worship
- Contact any of our Worship Team Leaders – Harry Greyard, Amanda Shanks and Lynn Wilkerson.

Member Survey

Congregation Input Requested! For Ministry and Programs Evaluation

As you know, the Session has adopted a new vision and strategic objectives for Avondale. We have been asked to design a method to survey and assess our existing ministries - evaluating costs, benefits and how well the ministry fits our new vision statement and supports our strategic objectives. The overall goal is to determine whether a ministry continues essentially unchanged (Retain), continues with substantial changes to its mission, focus and process (Retool), or is discontinued, with thanks given (Retire).

Here's how we need your input. We have written a short survey providing you the opportunity to give feedback on how you believe each of our ministries align with the new vision and objectives. You may evaluate all the ministries if you like (70!), or evaluate the ministries you are familiar with. For most of the congregation, each ministry survey will take just a few minutes. If you are the primary organizer for a ministry (Leader), it will take a little longer.

Your input is critical **to giving input** to the Session. Please take the time to complete the survey for as many ministries as you like. The survey is easy and quicker than you may expect. You can find a link to the survey on our Church's homepage at www.avondalepresbychurch.org. The survey will close August 7.

Thank you for your valued input.

The Ministry Evaluation Team, Jim Bowen, Ginny Mitchell, and Chris Swart



Avondale News

Giving Garden

Our Giving Garden is producing healthy, alive food for those in need. In the first two weeks of July, our garden produced 82.75 pounds of fresh produce! We harvested purple onions, potatoes, tomatoes, yellow squash and zucchini, cucumbers, and green beans for Friendship Trays. Pictured: Stacey Longshore harvesting our inaugural crop of potatoes - 29.5 pounds!



Stacey Longshore

CONNECT Camps

A few pictures of our visiting camps:

1. June 19-25 - Mt. Vernon Baptist Church; Hurricane, W.V.
2. July 10-15 - First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, M.I.
3. July 18-24 - First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, P.A.
4. Connect Camp in the Youth Garden

Youth Update

Avondale youth, both senior high and middle school, have returned safely from mission trips and conferences in Peru and Harrisonburg, Virginia. Both trips were filled with powerful spiritual experiences, fellowship and, of course, fun! The youth group will be working on a special presentation to share their experiences with the larger congregation at a date and time to be determined. The youth are grateful for the church's prayers and support.

Massanetta Trip

These are the adults and 20 youth who went to Massanetta Springs for the Middle School Conference and service work:

Youth (grade): Katherine Baloga (7); Marin Blake (8); Ainsley Chambers (7); Jacy Grice (6); Emma Harrison (7); Evan Harrison (6); Jack Hogston (6); Celeste Longshore (6); Brylie Major (8); Wilson Major (6); Ben Meier (8); Mac Patterson (7); Millie Patterson (6); Mia Platt (6); Owen Shumate (7); Caroline White (8); Grace White (8); Garrett Whitesides (7); Sarah Wilson (6); and Ava Zuyus (8).

Adults: Christopher Lee, Heather Hogston, and Rena White.

Peru Trip

We share here a few pictures from Quillabamba, Cusco, Peru. Group photo (see on page 2 under Stewardship): Avondale youth and adults with Rusty (Presbyterian Mission Agency partnership coordinator in Peru), Trish and Marilyn (First Presbyterian in Bryan, TX), Manuel (our translator), Jessica (cook's assistant) and her daughter Juana, Saul (Jessica's husband and the construction manager for the seminary), and one of the men volunteering from the surrounding churches and his two daughters.

The first day: When we arrived and were getting our orders, there were already about 30+ volunteers from the surrounding

1.



2.



3.



Massanetta



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Peru Trip cont.

churches hard at work. You can see that they had begun laying the block walls and there were no doors, or any electrical work. By the last day, you can see in the group picture that the block walls were complete with parging on the first floor. There are also lights, outlets and doors.

This is just some of the work that was done that week in partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, T.X. and the local Presbyterian church of the IEP (Iglesia Evangelica Peruana).



Financial Update (6 months ending June 30)

	YTD 2015 Actual	YTD 2016 Budget	YTD 2016 Actual
Pledges/Contributions	\$271,643	237,886	243,331
All Other Income	23,410	25,754	23,739
TOTAL REVENUE	\$295,053	\$263,60	\$267,070
Administrative Expenses*	\$298,731	\$279,464	\$262,876
Ministry Related Expenses	48,675	55,339	\$51,981
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$347,403	\$334,803	\$314,857
OPERATING LOSS	(\$52,350)	(\$71,163)	(\$47,787)

*Administrative Expenses are Personnel, Property, Office, and Technology & Communication.

FUND BALANCES	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2016
Endowment*	\$528,097	\$602,494
Facilities Fund	\$34,709	\$50,743
Columbarium Fund	\$32,602	\$41,392

* Includes \$58,020 in restricted accounts @ June 30, 2016.

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.

August Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Mallery Horton | 8 | Elizabeth Lawson | 18 | Lucy Carroll |
| 2 | Alex Hegenbart | | Sarah Lawson | 19 | Inez Rudisill |
| | Bruce Vestal, Jr. | 9 | John Magee | 21 | Maddie Howard |
| | Dennis Brandau | | Willette McLeod | | Michael Love |
| | Tina Gaddy | 10 | Eliza Ely | 22 | Andrew Bowen |
| 3 | Carol Bowen | | Susan Harrington | | Ann Sanders |
| | Douglas Hautop | 11 | Zoe Reed | 23 | Mike Carroll |
| | Ginny Sloan | 12 | Amy Major | 24 | Elizabeth T. Moore |
| | Will Vick | 13 | Chris Lee | 25 | David Caudle |
| 5 | Donna McKenzie | | Shawn Matthews | 26 | Frances McNair |
| | Ryan Vestal | 14 | Benjamin Darnell | | George Baillie |
| 6 | Katie Moss | | Kevin McNeil | 28 | Drew White |
| | Michael Gibbs | 15 | Ginny Moss | 29 | Emma Harrison |
| 7 | Ashley Halsey Corbin | 16 | Michael Matthews | 30 | Bill Rose |
| | Delia McCloskey | | Susan Thomas | | GraceMarie Thomas |
| | Jack Gustafson | | Tracie Hayes | | Jennifer Patterson |
| | Vicki Hautop | 17 | Mary Shannon | | Pam Blake |
| | | | | | Rogers Magee |

August Anniversaries

- 3 Chuck Hendrix 1957
- 4 Betty Boyd 1951
- 5 Jeff and Laura Meier 1995
- 6 Jackie and Karen Shannon 1983
- Andrew and Kim Flowers 2011
- 7 Fred and Lynn Wilkerson 1982
- 14 Betty Marshall 1948
- Joe and Beth Moss
- 21 David and Jenny Mitchell 1993
- 23 Nell McRae 1952
- 24 Lamar and Marge Hardegree 1957

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; Rose Graham; Bob Howard; Betty McBrayer; Amanda Mullennix; Betty Patterson; David Phillips; Eleanor Ramey; Beth Suydam; and Libby Thompson.

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

Family
For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.
Luke 12:34

GOD
cares
about everything
that concerns you.
So feel free
to talk to him about
anything
-Joyce Meyer

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE,
We will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15



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 August 15. Publication date is August 22.
 Send your submissions to Caroline@AvondalePresbyChurch.org.

Avondale Calendar

- July 31** - Conversation on Single Worship Service
- August 1 - 5** - Vacation Bible School summer camp
- August 7** - Last day of Congregational Survey
Please participate!
- August 7** - Last day for submitting Nominations/ Recommendations for Elders and Leaders
- August 26 - 28** - Session and TAG Consulting Retreat
- August 28** - Conversation on Single Worship Service
- August 29** - First day of school for CMS
- September 11** - Worship and Nurture and Fellowship
Time Changes to 9:30 and 11:00 A.M. respectively
- October 21 - 23** - Avondale Congregational Retreat

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 Find us at:
www.facebook.com/AvondalePresbyterian

In PCUSA News

New stated clerk seeks to strengthen church's role in social justice issues



Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, the new Stated Clerk, "said it will be important for congressional leadership to embrace ministries that meet the contextual realities of the communities in which they exist.

"This will require being open to the Spirit through prayer and submission," he said. "Presbyterians must come to grips with the fact that the Church does not belong to us, it belongs to God. Our desires must address God's will."

"While speaking at General Assembly, Nelson said we must take our minds off of the church as an institution and begin putting our minds on the Kingdom of God."

Excerpts from: ["J. Herbert Nelson looks back at six years in the Office of Public Witness"](#) www.presbyterianmission.org
 Advocacy & Social Justice, July 20, 2016