

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Members of Avondale,

Moving through the season of Lent, I think about the many ways in which the required sacrifice and reflection of the season educates all of us in rethinking ministry at Avondale.

The movement that is taking place at Avondale aligns with the Lenten season and the reality that change is not easy. It requires sacrifice, letting go of the comfortable, familiar and predictable. Change is painful. And here, up front, is precisely what it will require of us. If we are to focus on a ministry which seeks to reach out to those we are not now reaching, on reaching out to the Sedgefield Middle-school community, then our focus has to shift from providing worship, programming and pastoral priorities that are designed first and foremost to satisfy those of us who are already in the church. The focus must shift toward reaching those outside our walls. It must shift from the attitude that we are who we are now and will be forevermore; that if those outside

want to change to be like us, then they're welcome; that otherwise they can take it or leave it.



This is perhaps the very heart of a fundamental spiritual challenge to all of us. Can we be open, generous, generative enough to think first not of satisfying ourselves and meeting our own needs, but rather of making it our top priority to reach out to an adjacent neighborhood in ways that will speak to and meet their needs?

We do many things well at Avondale. We are presently involved in ministries which reach beyond our own concerns and wellbeing. Making our outward reach a priority in ministry is a response to the world which surrounds Avondale and a recognition that we are part of a tradition which itself calls us to be always changing.

Yours in Christ,

Session Update

The Session gathered on Sunday, March 13. Committed to moving forward with our vision and defining our relationship to the Sedgefield Middle School community, we welcomed three speakers involved in the Sedgefield community:

- Dr. James Thomas, retired Charlotte Presbyterian Executive and interim pastor of eight years of Clanton Presbyterian Church;
- Lt. Brian Trull, CMPD and Communications Officer of the Westover Division; and
- Mr. Steve Smith of Charlotte Housing.

These speakers addressed the Session about pressing needs and concerns of the Sedgefield Middle School community. They offered insights and recommendations on how best to address a specific ministry of involvement that will make a difference.

Your Session is presently in the process of forming a Prayer Team and a Dream Team;

continued next page



Growing in Stewardship: Stewardship 101

Real stewardship is an act of faith. It is our response to what God has done for us. It is the way we manage our life and all that God has given us. Stewardship is responding to God's grace. It does not calculate or measure the gift against a budget or against the gifts of others.

It is giving in life and trust, being willing to risk that our Elders and leaders will make wise decisions in budgeting, spending, and directing ministry as to where they believe God is leading. It is being willing to serve or lead when opportunities arise and being open to new chances for growth here at Avondale and outside of our walls.

Session Update cont.

both will support each other in defining the next specific action steps and necessary education and implementation.

The Prayer Team will meet regularly and consist of members meeting to pray with heart, hands, and feet for members, leaders, and those within the Sedgefield Middle School community we are seeking to serve.

The Dream Team will meet regularly to envision and receive ministry ideas and direct their decisions to the Mission Gathering group and to the Session for implementation. The Dream Team will consist of members, those living within the Sedgefield Middle School community, and key leaders within the community.

The Single Worship Task Force has also concluded their work and presented their recommendations to the Session. Those recommendations will be shared with the Worship Gathering group and the Discipleship Gathering group for input. Recommendations and additional input will be the central discussion at the April Session meeting.

Please Welcome

Avondale has hired a Custodian. James Higgs is his name and he has a long custodial career working in schools and churches. He is passionate about cleaning and considers himself a serious detail man. James came recommended by a church member who worked with him at a local school for many years. In his free time, James enjoys fishing, spending time with his best friends, and time with his family.



What is his role?

Basically, James' role as Custodian is to clean the facilities and where possible and as time allows, help do some basic maintenance. We believe Avondale will benefit from having an on-site person keeping an eye on the property and doing cleaning and basic maintenance. James works 20 hours a week, 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., Monday to Friday. Please say "Hello" when you see him.

Spring Work Day

"Many hands make light work."

- John Heywood (Dramatist)

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

- Vince Lombardi (Coach)



Thanks to many hands helping make our Spring Work Day a great day.

Spring Musical

The Adventure Choir's Spring Musical, "The Easter Pageant at Mr. Pigg's Barbeque Emporium", was a tasty treat for all!

Following, the Avondale Adventures children shared a fascinating and creative "Journey to Jerusalem".



Enjoy more pictures on Children's page and [Facebook](#).

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.

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2 David Thomson
Kevin Watson
Sam Watson | 8 Jay Barron | 17 Betty Marvin
Rachel Matthews |
| 3 Lamar Hardegree | 9 Leni Patterson | Tiz Benson |
| 4 Carley Yount
Katelyn Yount
Natalie Benson
Patty Crawford Strandberg
Zack Benson | 10 Ashley Montiel
Jamie Saleeby | 18 Amanda Norris |
| 5 Eli Oswald | 11 Bill Town
Nic Presson
Sharon McCarthy | 22 GiGi Gibbs
Matthew Mitchell
Ruby Cathey |
| 6 Fletcher Saleeby
Pat Banks
Renee Miller | 12 Carter Hipps
Graham McNeil | 23 Mary Katherine Darnell |
| 7 Bruce Vestal
Carey Cavanaugh
Sarah Cameron Wilson
Wendy Campbell | 13 Al Weigle
Karen Shannon | 24 Martha Hayes
Nathan Thomas |
| 8 Alan Wray
Chris Rolfe | 15 Addison Harris
Chuck Hendrix
Marc Chavaree
Steve Passaly | 25 Abbie Vick
27 Leslie Thomas
Max Shanks |
| | 16 Caroline White
Suzanne Baillie
Wesley Flowers | 28 Alexandra Crawford
29 Celeste Longshore
Eric Hayes
Katherine Annas
Suzi Thornberry |
| | | 30 Chip Reed |

April Anniversaries

- 12** Scott and Brenda Coble 1968
13 David and Vicki Smith 2002
 Corey and Jessica Shanks 2013
18 John and Elizabeth Eyer 2014
 Elizabeth Thornberry & Shep Moore 2014
19 Tom and Marian Stout 1997
 Michael and Marimarta Matthews 2003
20 Bob and Bonnie Howard 1996
21 Wesley and Cheryl Yount 2001
30 Francis McNair 1960

Joys and Concerns

Members: Betty McBrayer, Mary LaRoach, Wyatt Fowler (Renita's husband), Family and Friends of Sally Brigden (Lorin Bookout's mother), Family and Friends of Cliff Norris (Millie Norris' father-in-law), Family and Friends of Marilyn Benson (Tiz Benson's mother-in-law), and Family and Friends of Fred Otten (Debi Medlin's father).

Ongoing Concerns: Cynthia Campbell, Betty Marshall, Sam Favor, Dot Burke, Mike Cathey, Molly Carver, Rachel Darling, Anne Hamilton, Sharon McGinn, David Phillips, and Joanne Sahlie.

Memorials:

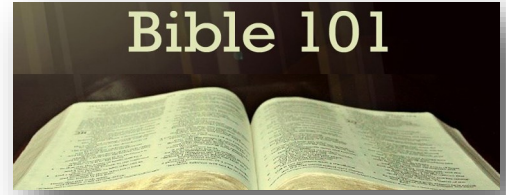
In Memory of: Juanita Stallings
 - Mary Simpson
 - Leslie and D.J. Saleeby
 - Susan and Thomas Stallings

In Memory of: Linda Willis
 - Steve Wallace

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. - Romans 8:18

Bible 101

*Join Bible 101 in April
as Dr. Ron Crossley leads the discussion
on Karl Barth's Theology of the Word.*



Barth was a 20th century Swiss theologian who fought the Nazi's attempt to create "a German Christian" church. "The gospel is not a truth among other truths. Rather, it sets a question mark against all truths," said Barth. As *Christianity Today* put it, "he spent his life setting question marks, in the name of Christ, against all manner of 'truths.' In the process, he did nothing less than alter the course of modern theology."

The sessions are: (Sundays at 10:00 A.M. in Fellowship Hall)

I. Introduction and Personal Reflection
III. The Word of God and the Bible

II. The Eternal Word of God Incarnate
IV. The Word of God as Proclamation

Haiti Mission



*We are planning two 4-day trips to Milot, Haiti this year.
Are you interested in going?
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. We plan to make trips over the Memorial Day weekend (May 27-30) and in late October.

If you are interested in either of these trips, but particularly the May trip, please speak with Jim Bowen, Zach Chambers, Sharon McCarthy, or Joe Zuyus, or email Jim at jdbowenncc@mac.com.

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

Engage

So what's the big deal about Jesus?

We Presbyterians know.

But we aren't always able to explain it.

We'd like to offer a class that helps you tell your story. We call it "Engage," named after the curriculum that we use. It would last 6-7 weeks with hour sessions. Interested?

Contact Harry Greyard for more information or keep your eye on the announcements. We'll set up a meeting for members who want to explore.

Women's Retreat



Fall Congregational Retreat

Join together with church membership as we travel out of town for the **CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT!**

Save **October 21-23** on your calendar. These weekends are always a really special time of faith and fellowship.

Youth Dates

March 21	First Deposit due for Massanetta Trip
April 7	Final Payment due for Massanetta Trip*
April 10 at 7:00 P.M.	Youth Confirmation Class: Session Examination for Confirmands
May 1	Youth Sunday
May 1 at 10:00 A.M.	Presentation of Confirmands in Worship: during Youth Sunday
June 19 - July 4	Senior High Peru Mission Trip
July 10 - 15	Middle School Massanetta Mission & Conference

*Youth *and* parents/guardians, please be sure to sign and submit your Massanetta Registration Form. Find a copy online: <http://tinyurl.com/MassRegForm>

Youth Thank You

*Thank you to all who helped with the BBQ Sale and Spring Flower & Plant Sale Youth Fundraisers.
Thank you to all who helped support the fundraisers with your purchases!*

Community Events of Interest

Milford Dialogue Series at Park Road Baptist Church

*Looking for "Mercy" in a world
that usually ends with "Me"*

In relation to moving forward with our vision and defining our relationship to the Sedgefield Middle School community, these community events may be of interest.

- April 6** - Exploring the biblical and theological dimensions of Mercy
- April 13** - Mercy in education policy
- April 20** - The place of Mercy in our nation's economic practices, tax policy, housing, welfare & healthcare
- April 27** - An opportunity for dialogue

<http://www.parkroadbaptist.org/milford-dialogues/>

The Charlotte Art Collective Spring Show

Save the Date!

Once again, Avondale will host this art show of local talent and welcome the community to our Family Life Center. More info: www.charlotteartcollective.org

Saturday, April 9

10:00 A.M.
to 4:00 P.M.



Avondale on the Adventure Map

*"Clean out cerebral carbon
by meditating at
the Avondale Labyrinth..."*

- from article "Reach for the Charlotte Adventure Map" in *North State Journal* on Sunday, February 28, 2016 on page 21

Charlotte Adventure Map, a new map created by EDIA Maps company, and Avondale's garden and labyrinth is on it!

More information:

Article: <http://tinyurl.com/APSinNews>

Charlotte Adventure Map:

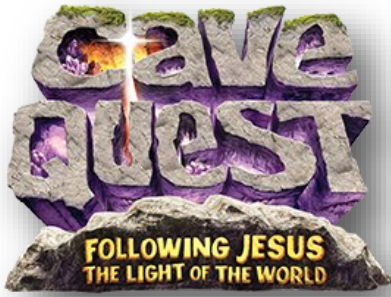
<http://tinyurl.com/CAMbyEDIA>



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 now for 'early bird' discount!

<http://tinyurl.com/APCVBS2016>

Programs for Children

Spread the word about these programs!

Joyful Noise

Make a JOYFUL NOISE with us! Parents and children, birth through pre-school, join us for an energetic weekday class held in our Children's Sunday School room. Journey with your child, helping them learn about the excitement and love of Christ through music, dance, story time, and fellowship. This program is open to the public.

Wednesdays at 11:15 A.M. (follows CMS School Schedule)

Registration is not required, but welcomed. See events on [NextDoor](#).



Camp Grier

Avondale is classified as a "Sustaining Congregation" for Camp Grier, our Presbyterian summer camp. That means each of our children/youth and their friends will receive a \$100 discount for camp this summer. If you have any questions about the camp, feel free to ask Zach, Shea, Ainsley or Gram Chambers. Use code 322016 when registering. <http://www.campgrier.org>



Avondale Adventures

Avondale Adventures will begin again in September. This program for grades K-5th is open to the public and is 10-weeks of learning, fun and creativity.



Easter Offerings

A listing of memorial gifts and those honored will be printed as part of the Easter bulletin available at worship services.

The Sacred Garden

The Sacred Garden funds received are used in a manner to maintain and improve the Garden. The Garden continues to be a place of remembrance and a sanctuary for feeding the soul within our city.



Good Pasture Fund

Good Pasture Fund is a scholarship fund at Avondale intended for young people interested in participating in the camp/conference opportunities of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

The cost of one week at a Presbyterian camp or conference is approximately \$500. A financial contribution to the Good Pasture Fund trims the cost enabling more to participate.



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the traditional Easter Offering of our denomination. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Donating can be done by going online at [One Great Hour of Sharing \(PCUSA\)](http://OneGreatHourofSharing.org) or by using envelopes available at Avondale.



2016 Easter Gifts Contribution Form

As we look forward to the promise of Easter, it is time to make Easter gifts. If you would like to participate by honoring or remembering your loved ones or special friends, there are three opportunities:

You may make a contribution to help:

The Sacred Garden fund: \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

The Good Pasture Fund: \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please complete this form; make checks payable to Avondale Presbyterian Church and indicate "Easter Gifts" in the memo line. Please put in the collection plate or turn in to Church Office.

Given By / Name (Please print)

Membership Contacts Online

Phone numbers and emails at your fingertips!
The Member Directory is on the website.

How to access:

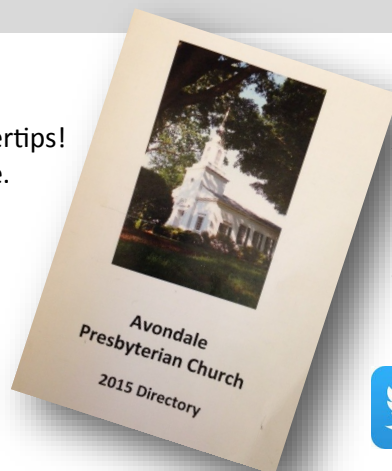
www.avondalepresbychurch.org

Click on Member Directory on right

Login with -

User Name: avondale

Password: member



New Member Directory in April

In April, we will print a 2016 Membership Directory and update the Member Directory on the website.

Watch the eNews and bulletin announcements for news of when the directories are printed and ready for pick-up.



Do you tweet? Find us [@AvondalePresby](https://twitter.com/AvondalePresby)



Avondale Presbyterian Church
 2821 Park Road
 Charlotte, NC 28209

Avondale Avenues is published monthly on the fourth Tuesday.
Deadline for next newsletter is April 19 – publication date April 26.
 Phone: 704-333-6194 Text: 704-996-4970 E-mail: caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org

Easter Egg Hunt



View more pictures on [Avondale’s Facebook](#) page.

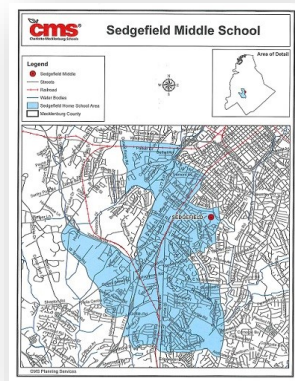


Thank you to Laura Meier for sharing your pictures.

Avondale Vision Statement

As a congregation, God calls us to:

- Create close relationships to support a dynamic faith
- Not only serve our neighbors but know them personally
- Prepare the hearts of children and families to abide in Christ
- Reduce economic inequities by breaking down barriers to education
- Develop and demonstrate a sustaining faith



Sedgefield Middle School District

View map online:

<http://tinyurl.com/SedgfieldDistrict>