

A group of children are walking across a brick-paved path in a garden. The path is flanked by lush green grass and large trees with vibrant purple and red foliage. The children are dressed in casual, colorful clothing. In the foreground on the left, a portion of a stone monument with several plaques is visible.

# Avondale Presbyterian Church 2013 Annual Report



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Charlotte, North Carolina 28209  
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704-333-6194

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

## 2013 Actual Results and Approved 2014 Budget

	Actual 2013 Results	Approved 2014 Budget
<b>REVENUE/INCOME</b>		
Member Contributions	516,203	579,000
Unpledged Member Contributions	58,394	45,000
Non-Member Contributions	18,597	16,000
Member Contributions (Prior & Future Yrs)	13,725	
ACC Utilities	12,000	12,600
Rental Income	11,390	6,000
Interest/Misc. Income	2,809	200
Restricted Account Transfer		
Basketball Acct		8,000
Summer Camps Acct		8,000
Visiting Work Camps		4,000
Total Transfer		20,000
Basketball/Work Camps, etc. Ministries		16,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE/INCOME</b>	<b>633,118</b>	<b>694,800</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel/Prop/Admin/Communications		
Personnel	390,069	434,300
Property	141,247	140,150
Office Supplies/Tech	20,919	20,500
Communications	1,365	2,500
Total Pers/Prop/Admin/Commun.	553,600	597,450
Denominational Support (Presby/Synod, etc.)	32,000	32,000
Mission	25,286	28,000
Christian Nurture	23,357	24,300
Spiritual Growth	9,147	12,500
Congregational Life	2,682	4,900
Outreach	634	2,000
Stewardship	625	1,000
Member Care	576	750
Total Other Expenses	94,307	105,450
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>647,907</b>	<b>702,900</b>
<b>TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>(14,789)</b>	<b>(8,100)</b>
<b>CHECKING/SAVINGS BALANCE</b> (as of Dec 31, 2013)	<b>\$468,525</b>	
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS/ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$215,725</b>	
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS/ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$259,327</b>	
<b>NET RECEIVABLES (ACC PAYROLL TAXES)</b>	<b>\$6,527</b>	

### Staff

John Earl, Senior Pastor  
 Jane Summey Mullennix, Parish Associate  
 Christopher Lee, Associate Pastor,  
 Youth, Family Life Center and Summer Ministries  
 Regina Love, Music Director and Organist  
 Rich Stanley, ARISE Worship Coordinator  
 Lynn Wilkerson, Children's Choir Director  
 Nadja Sefcik-Earl, Handbell Director  
 Ginny Mitchell, Administrative Coordinor  
 Renita Fowler, Financial Secretary

## **Baptisms in 2013**

Lillian Meng Stout Tom and Marian Stout, parents	May 12
Wyatt Christopher Swart Chris and Katie Swart, parents	June 23
Sara Lucille Carroll	September 15
Ella McIntyre Carroll Mike Carroll and Lauren Hinkel, parents	September 15
Alyssa Marie Cox	September 15
Elijah Shaylor Knight Shaylor and Natalie Knight, parents	September 15
Shaylor Roy Knight	September 15
Graham Andrew McNeil Kevin and Kristin McNeil, parents	September 15

## **In Memoriam**

Kathleen Pugh Allen	February 6
Sara Kathleen Marvin Bethune	March 3
Josephine Walker Magee	March 8
John Hampton Thrower	May 4
Pauline M. Vaughn	May 23
Jack L. Marvin	May 25
Calvin F. Hamilton	June 21
Louis Hunter Meacham, Elder	September 27
Helen Carswell Marple	October 24
Barbara Houtz Town	December 28
Harris Archie Morse, Elder	December 31

## **Session/Elders**

### **Class of 2013**

Shea Chambers  
John Magee  
Ted Todd

### **Class of 2014**

Harry Greyard  
Linda Haigh  
Paula Huffines

### **Class of 2015**

James Bowen  
Mary Comstock  
Lamar Hardegree

Jackie Shannon, Clerk

## **Ministry Team Leaders**

Kemper Boyd – 2012/2013 Property  
Betty Chambers – 2012/2013 Member Care  
Carolyn Fiala – 2013/2014 Outreach  
Bonnie Howard – 2012/2013 Christian Nurture  
Tony McKenzie – 2013/2014 Stewardship  
Kevin McNeil – 2013/2014 Finance  
Laura Meier – 2012/2013 Congregational Life  
Lisa Miller – 2013/2014 Communications  
Dollie Sitton – 2012/2013 Spiritual Growth  
Drew White – 2013/2014 Mission  
Rena White – 2013/2014 Personnel

## Membership

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### In Brief...

Three weddings took place at Avondale.  
 Three baby boys and two baby girls were born.  
 The Sacrament of Baptism was administered  
     to seven children and one adult.

Active Membership 12/31/2012	451
Adults welcomed into membership in 2013	+ 9
Youth welcomed into membership in 2013	+ 5
Memberships Restored to Active	+ 2
Members Placed on the Inactive Role	- 1
Deaths	- 11
Memberships Transferred	- 3
Active Membership 12/31/2013	<u>452</u>

### Births in 2013

Graham Andrew McNeil	April 12
Kevin and Kristin McNeil, parents	
Jackson Wilder Hickman	May 16
David and Monica Hickman, parents	
Julia Ann Wardlaw	June 27
Jay and Jessica Wardlaw, parents	
Owen Patrick Dickson	Sept 20
Doug and Elaine Dickson, parents	
Alevia Taye Callaway	October 6
John and Joy Callaway, parents	

## **Personnel**

The work of the Personnel Ministry Team was a witness to God's grace as we celebrated the ordination and installation of Reverend Chris Lee. Also, we welcomed Rich Stanley to our staff this year as the Arise Worship Coordinator and thank God for his time, talent and enhancement to the Arise worship service. We also thanked God for five years of faithful service of two Avondale staff members, Jane Summey Mullennix and Renita Fowler. The Personnel Ministry Team is thankful to God for the caring and devoted staff of Avondale. Their efforts, love for our faith community and long hours do not go unnoticed. Here at Avondale the Kingdom of God is furthered through the support the Personnel Ministry team provides to our staff and through the spiritual guidance, leadership and talent that our staff provides to our community of faith.

Rena White, Leader

## **Avondale Presbyterian Church Children's Center**

The Children's Center is a happy, rocking kind of place. We currently have 75 children enrolled in six classes and some wonderful teachers. Our parents have been very supportive while Chris Tucker, Director, is recovering from surgery. Millie Norris, Assistant Director, continues to provide her leadership and knowledge to the Center.

We have many more families who would like to be part of the Children's Center. Our waiting list can be rather lengthy at times, a testament to God's grace in providing a special place for children.

Caroline White, Interim Director

## **Letter from the Senior Pastor**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Annual Report is the single most significant document of Avondale describing ministry of the past year. More than boasting of a ministry accomplished it is nothing less than defining a people who live within Kingdom community. While often times members are involved in only one small portion of ministry, the Annual Report presents the larger picture of all pieces and people working together to glorify God. Below I mention three aspects of ministry which interact upon all ministries of Avondale and have a bearing upon our future by God's grace.

The Christian Nurture of children, youth and adults is being challenged at every front in our present world. Avondale is both aware of the challenge that faces parents in nurturing their child(ren) in the ways of Christ and the necessity for adults to regularly re-acquaint themselves to Christ. Failure to do so makes of the Church a museum. Ministry teams continue to probe and ask questions about the most effective ways to open doors and opportunities to reach and teach our members and guests. It is both a strength and joy to realize the depth of ministry which Avondale provides to all children from birth to high school. The opportunities to grow in faith exist. Our church school, Children's Center, Avondale Adventures, basketball league and youth ministry is a partial fulfillment of the baptismal promise of the congregation "*to be the child's sponsor, to the end that each child may come to know Jesus Christ and to accept Him as Lord and Savior.*" I urge every parent at Avondale to become part of a community which regularly and religiously lives out their baptismal promise.

Our two worship services, while offering diversity of worship, continue to be the focus of the week for members. Here all members continue to mature in faith, gaining a wider horizon for Christian living and a deeper understanding of the faith community and of God. In the immediate future the church leadership will be sharing their vision for worship at Avondale and the Capital Campaign Task Force will be introducing very specific ways in which this vision

might be lived out. There is great hope in their work.

Avondale may be described in the words of Jesus, *“Come to me, all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* How do we at Avondale fulfill that promise? This becomes a descriptive way of saying that all members may expect to be present for each other and that our caring for each other pours out into the community and world in which we live. Defining and becoming involved in sharing that love is an essential reason for our existence. It is our ministry and our mission. We have done much this past year in this regard and the challenge to do more is part of our calling.

The unique power of God in the life and ministry of Jesus continues in greater or lesser degree in the community we call Avondale. We are the Body of Christ. There is no change of Source which empowers our ministry, only a change in the culture, persons and ways that we perform it. Jesus knew well that a person’s wholeness was directly tied to their desire to worship, their desire to grow in discipleship, and their desire to love one another, even as Christ has loved us. I rejoice in the faithful leadership and giving of all members of this past year and pray that in the coming year you will reacquaint yourself with the Christ who offers the spiritual power to transform people.

Yours in Christ,



## **Outreach**

A special thank you to the Outreach ministry team members who spent countless hours discerning over the future of Avondale and how to grow the kingdom. These members are: Harry Greyard, Nancy Bohrer, Greg McKenzie, Lamar Hardegree and Eldon Stout.

*The work of our Ministry Team was a witness of God's grace and furthered the Kingdom of God in the following manner:*

*Lots of great discussions took place in Outreach this year as we worked to find a way to best engage those outside of our church members.*

*A year full of discussions and planning has prepared us for the year ahead, where we have set a goal to begin training our members in visitor engagement.*

Carolyn Fiala, Leader

## **Communications**

The work of the Communications Ministry Team this year furthered the Kingdom of God by focusing on making it easier for Avondale members and those beyond our walls to tap into the many opportunities here to know God and understand how God Is working in our lives and the world around us. Avondale’s new website helps members keep track of church activities and look up members’ contact information. It also gives those unfamiliar with Avondale a feel for the work, reflection and study going on here. Avondale’s annual magazine *Faith Journey* focused on the ways people at Avondale approach prayer. The magazine strives to give a deeper understanding of the people who form this community and how they grapple with their faith. The Communications Team also worked on standardizing internal and external communications to make sure our message is relayed as effectively as possible.

Lisa Miller, Leader

## **Avondale Senior Adult Program (ASAP)**

The ASAP was established last year as a ministry opportunity for older adults. We seek to provide social activities, including meals and day trips; service activities such as our support for Sedgefield Middle School staff; learning situations like mission ministry topics and sharing opportunities for spiritual growth.

While our group of 40-50 participants are all Avondalers, the possibilities for outreach exist. We are active adults who have time and means to give to our community.

Our leadership team consists of John Earl, Stewart Farris, Susan Harrington, Rogers Magee, Sigrid Sacra, Connie Stout, Lyn Sweet, Leslie Saleeby and Caroline White.

## **Stewardship**

The Stewardship Ministry Team thanks God for the generosity of church membership in making financial commitments to the 2014 year. 198 family and individual members, or 92.5%, pledged \$598,825. The number of pledges and the amount pledged are up by 5.3% and 6.6%, respectively – a testament to the faithfulness of our members. These are gifts which are never taken for granted and are a response to God's grace being lived out within our faith community at Avondale. These gifts provide us with a strong financial base as we enter 2014 to further the Kingdom of God. They also allow us to expand and support the mission of the Church in the following ways: our mission trips to Haiti, to restore that country; the Room in the Inn program, so necessary over the recent cold snap; the increasing popularity of the ARISE service, showing visitors the energy and friendliness of Avondale; Avondale Adventures, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Faith and Sexuality workshop and our Youth programs, so important in helping our youngest members navigate an increasingly complex world; and so many other ways that I can't mention them here. My grateful thanks to all our membership.

Tony McKenzie, Leader

## **Spiritual Growth**

2013 was the year of movement for the ARISE service. After much preparation, we relocated the 9:00am service to the Family Life Center with the intention of adding new dimensions to our contemporary worship. 2013 was the year we purchased new hymn books, Glory To God, by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Many new hymns are included as well as older ones from previous books. 2013 was the year the Session focused its attention on Worship at Avondale. To that end, two prayer services are in place: Saturday mornings at Park Road Shopping Center's Caribou Coffee and Sunday mornings at SABBATHOUSE at Avondale. Both begin at 8:30am. It is our hope that Avondale continues to offer worship that is inspiring, reformed, and relevant to our congregation as well as to all who come through our doors.

The TEAM: Barbara Darling, Jackie Shannon, Karen Shannon, Tina Wilson, Mary Comstock, Regina Love, Rich Stanley, Amanda Shanks, Ginny Sloan, Joy Callaway, Dave Thomson, Brandy Lee, John Earl, Dollie Sitton

### **Arise Worship Service**

The work of the ARISE Band was a witness to God's grace and furthered the Kingdom of God by adding new music to the ARISE Service which praised God boldly and energetically. The Band worked with great joy and dedication to share the message of hope and love through music, not only with the congregation, but the community as well, by participating in the Meal Ministry picnic and ARISEFest.

Rich Stanley  
ARISE Worship Coordinator

### **Traditional Worship Service**

The music ministry of Avondale is varied and rich in talent. We are blessed to have a strong and committed foundation of volunteers who see their participation in worship as an acknowledgment of

God's grace. Our heritage of reformed worship was supported at the 11:00am service by the Sanctuary Choir. Their faithfulness was evident, singing every Sunday and offering service music that proclaimed the word. Instrumentalists likewise gave of their talents, handbells played and children sang out with joy.

Avondale was progressive this year in purchasing the new Presbyterian hymnal Glory to God – a hymnbook reflecting our times and our many generations. A new hymnal is published about every 20 years, and Avondale was wise in a purchase that keeps our congregation current with the denomination and visionary in its song. It was dedicated at a Sunday morning service of scripture and music, with complete representation of all our musical groups. This powerful collaboration proclaimed that the Kingdom of God indeed reigns. The music staff hopes the members of Avondale will continue to embrace our new hymnal as a resource for study and enriched congregational singing.

Regina G. Love  
Director of Music/Organist

## **Mission**

The work of Mission Ministry was a witness to God's grace in many, many ways. Thanks to the gifts of time, energy and resources, but mostly to the grace of God, many of God's children could see and feel his love. Thousands of meals were shared, shelter was provided and donations were collected and shared with those who needed them the most. Additionally, over 150 Avondale members participated in mission activities which is a testament to the Holy Spirit and the Grace of God.

Drew White, Leader

## **Member Care**

The work of Member Care watched so many acts of grace for the members of Avondale who were in need. Members have made meals for those with health problems, hospital stays or in crisis. Our Bereavement Meal Teams have provided meals and small receptions for families as we honor our Avondale member on the day of his/her funeral. Avondale's Shepherd's Staff visits our older members who can no longer join us during worship and fellowship. Our Prayer Team prayed for members, their friends and family, and our neighbors when they are in need. We also celebrated the members who have reached the wonderful age of 90 and older with a joint birthday party. In December, with a Christmas bag in hand, we visited our shut-ins with goodies made by talented cooks and artists. In 2014 we look forward to furthering God's Kingdom as we support our congregation in many ways.

Betty Chambers (Chair and Prayer List)  
Christie Flowers (Bereavement Meal Teams)  
Susan Brandau (Meal Ministry)  
Leslie Saleeby (Shepherd's Staff)  
Millie Mann, Mary and Emily Martin (90's Party)

## **Congregational Life**

The work of Congregational Life was a witness to God's grace as members of Avondale came together to fellowship, forging new friendships and strengthening old ones. We coordinated the congregation to gather for meals, as we began our first of four quarterly brunches, a Palm Sunday lunch and a Festival Sunday breakfast. By connecting with each other, we strengthen the body of the congregation, helping Avondale move forward and further the Kingdom of God.

Laura Meier, Leader