

Your Kingdom Come. Your Will Be Done: Stewardship Discernment

For many unfortunate reasons, we equate stewardship with a request from the church for your money. You look at material sent from the church, listen to a request, and complete a pledge card. It is a task completed rather than a sharing celebrated.

While stewardship may take on a particular form and shape during the fall of the year, it is far more. It is a daily discipline involving the everyday self-offering of our lives. Discerning stewardship requires time and commitment. That is why this year, *prior to making any specific financial commitment*, you are being asked to read the brochure produced by the Stewardship Ministry Team entitled: *"Your Kingdom Come...Your Will be Done"*. The brochure outlines how to be faithful stewards at Avondale in 4 steps: 1) remain open to God's leading, 2) enter into intentional prayer, 3) make a commitment to read Scripture, and 4) share your faith.

Members of the congregation will also receive a 2016 narrative budget, which will provide every member with an overview of ministry program, expenses and projected costs for the coming year. The narrative budget will be distributed prior to worship on Sunday, October 11 and 18. You will find the 2016 pledge card enclosed in the booklet. Looking through the material you will see the enormous scope of ministry and the opportunity to be part of a church that is generous toward others. The narrative budget provides you with an opportunity to participate in the spirit of what Avondale is about. We are grateful to the Stewardship and Finance Ministry teams who have worked to make this material available.

On Sunday, November 1, we will gather for a single 11:00am service of worship in the sanctuary and dedicate our gifts given for Kingdom building. Please return your 2016 pledge cards during worship. Worship will conclude with a barbecue for the congregation on the church grounds.

Participating in Kingdom-building requires choices. As you consider difficult choices, take time to pray and seek God's guidance. Envision each choice and notice your feelings around it. Do you sense a generosity that flows from deep gratitude? Allow and welcome the Holy Spirit to guide and shape us into good stewards.

Important Stewardship Dates

Stewardship Brochures:
September 20

Narrative Budget Distributed:
October 11 and 18

Dedication Sunday/
Return Pledge Cards:
November 1, 11am

Congregational Barbecue:
November 1, 12pm

Avondale's Vision Work

The weekend retreat with Ruling Elders and our consultant (Kevin Ford of TAG Consulting Services) concluded on Sunday, September 13 with a joyful consensus that we are moving in the right direction and each step is bringing greater clarity to our overall church vision.

We ask the congregation to remain patient and anticipate the future as your leadership continues to clarify and shape a Kingdom dream. Our three consultant retreats have addressed difficult ministry questions:

- Where is God leading and how do we get there?
- How will Avondale be relevant in the future?
- What needs to be preserved and where does change need to occur?
- Do our present facilities reflect and align with our vision?

Only through asking these questions were we able to identify and affirm the core values of Avondale that have defined our ministry since 1944. Like every person, every church has a unique identity. As Emerson said, *"An institution is but the lengthened shadow of man."* Our leadership has claimed the following values, which will become the bedrock of any newly defined vision:

- Everyone matters
- Family First
- Where there is an immediate need, we meet it
- We welcome questions of faith
- Centered in the wonder and truth of God's creation

The process of defining our vision, and developing a strategy for the vision's implementation, continues to unfold. This Fall, your leadership will be working on five (5) specific strategic objectives which will provide a road map for Avondale's ministries and programs. The Session hopes to complete a project plan for each objective by the end of the year in order to communicate to the congregation thereafter.

JOURNEY GROUPS

Your response has been amazing and Journey Groups are off to a fabulous start! Ninety-four of you have formed 15 new groups and expanded 20 existing groups, ranging from Hiking to Dinner to Mystics to more traditional Sunday morning groups. Forty-two participants are new to the small group experience.

In addition, forty-one members are leading or co-leading groups, some of whom are taking their first leadership role here at Avondale! Journey Groups have begun meeting already, but many remain open to new folks. If you are interested in joining a Journey Group use this [link](#). Our next round of Journey Groups will be launched with January sign-ups. Groups will begin meeting in February.

2015 Calendar

- Oct 3** Milot, Haiti Fundraiser-Meier Home, 6pm
 - Oct 4** Unity Sunday, Worship 10am, Meal 11:15am
 - Oct 11** Monthly Session Meeting, 7pm
 - Oct 17** Attic Sale, 7am until 2pm
 - Oct 18** Reception for Jane Summey Mullennix, 10am
 - Oct 30-Nov 2** Mission Trip-Milot, Haiti
 - Nov 1** Dedication Sunday, One Service 11am, BBQ lunch follows
 - Nov 7** Avondale's Got Talent, 5:30pm
Chili Meal and Talent Show
 - Nov 8** Monthly Session Meeting, 7pm
 - Nov 9** Room In The Inn Kick-Off Potluck Supper, 6pm
 - Nov 13-15** Youth Fall Retreat
 - Nov 20-22** Adult Work Camp, Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC
 - Dec 1** Room in the Inn begins
 - Dec 12** A Nativity Journey
 - Dec 13** Monthly Session Meeting, 7pm
 - Dec 20** Unity Sunday, Worship 10am, Meal 11:15am
 - Dec 27** One Worship Service, 10am
- Notes:**
Sep 30-Dec 9
Avondale Adventures Wednesdays, 5:30pm
Dec 1, 2015-Mar 29, 2016 Room In The Inn



Key Life Dates Shared

Beginning this issue of Avondale Avenues, we are trying something new. We would like to celebrate key dates in the lives of the membership each month. If your special day(s) is not shown on a list, please call or email the Church Office (704-333-6194 or ginny@avondalepresbychurch.org) with the information. If an incorrect date is shown, be sure to let the Office know the correct information too.

Happy Birthday to the following who celebrate October Birthdays:

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Natalie Thomas | 11 | Rose Graham | 22 | Ida Parnell |
| | Alyssa Cox Knight | | Jeff Meier | | Natalie Bookout |
| 2 | Emily Shannon | 12 | Libby Thompson | 25 | Callie Magee |
| 3 | Frances Robertson | 13 | Colin Thomson | 27 | Juanita Stallings |
| 4 | Jim Singer | 16 | Betsy Gustafson | 28 | Shea Barron |
| | Marsha Rose | | Katherine Anderson | | Jake Wardlaw, IV |
| | Jacy Grice | | Elizabeth Hayes | 29 | Reid Caldwell |
| 6 | Edwin Anderson | | Cate Vick | | Lynn Mathis |
| | Alevia Callaway | 17 | Jim McCarthy | | Cal Hamilton, Jr. |
| 7 | Tommy Gribble, III | | Kristin McNeil | | Mary Comstock |
| 8 | Maureen Hunter | 18 | Bob Rudisill | 30 | Kay Chelena |
| | Alice Fitchett CuvIELLO | 19 | Timothy Vestal | | |
| 9 | Tim Chambers | 21 | Fred Wilkerson | | |
| | Jerry Lawson | | Tova Gunter | | |

September Marriages:

- 19 Carolyn Fiala and Aaron Wright
- 26 Kendel Todd and Chad Parks

October Anniversaries:

- 3 Shawn and Regina Love
- John and Joy Callaway
- 4 Sarah-Kate and Joe Pease
- 5 Caroline and Roger White
- 6 Jay and Jessica Wardlaw
- 8 Rebeca and Nic Presson
- 10 Bill Berryhill
- 11 Kay DeArmon
- Stephen and Tracie Hummel
- 15 Doughton and Mallery Horton
- 21 Dave and Mary Comstock
- Tiz and Ben Benson
- 22 Chris and Connor Hipps
- Chris and Candace Williamson Steude
- 27 Bob and Cathy Watson
- 28 Bruce and Sarah Vestal

Birth:

Taylor Elizabeth Shanks on September 8, 2015 to proud parents Eric and Amanda; grandparents Rick and Betsy Shanks; aunt and uncle, Corey and Jessica Shanks and cousin, John Maxwell Shanks.



Deaths:

Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

Ryan, Ann, Millie and Dorothy Patterson. Ryan's father, James Mann Patterson, passed away on August 25, 2015 in Orlando, FL.

Anita Dorroh-Thomas, Steve, GraceMarie and Roseanne Thomas. Anita's mother, Mary Dorroh, who lived at Brighton Gardens, Charlotte, passed away on September 4, 2015.

D. J. and Leslie Saleeby. D. J.'s brother-in law, Dr. James A. Dunlap, Jr. passed away on September 1, 2015 in Greer, S.C.

May God give comfort to these families during their time of sorrow.

