



Avondale Presbyterian Church 2010 Annual Report

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

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The story is told of a professor of history who was seated next to a woman he had never met before. Not wanting to talk shop he tried all avenues of conversation to no avail. Finally, he asked, "Are you interested in the study of history?" "On no", she responded, "I believe in letting bygones be bygones."



A dominant reason for our Annual Report is to remember, thankfully, where we have been during the past year, and to celebrate in print, the numerous opportunities to advance the Kingdom of God. I cannot let the year merely be forgotten. Since 1944, the compiling of one year upon another is the long history of God's leading. It stands as an invitation offered to all to find a place of shared hospitality. The year has been enormously full, but several moments I will remember.

Reflections of giving.....

- Thank you to the many who faithfully continued to financially support the work of your church. We enter a new year with the financial commitments necessary to move forward.
- Early in March, ground was broken for the Common Grounds Garden to benefit Urban Ministry Center.
- Another home was built in Harlan, Kentucky.
- There was the Dedication of the Wind Chime Tower in our Sacred Garden at Pentecost.
- We worshipped and thanked God for the completion of our debt to the Family Life Center.

Opportunities for growing.....

- During the past year there have been numerous opportunities for personal and communal growth. Our continued unfolding of hospitality presents a challenge to move beyond our comfort zones, extending the love of Christ.
- Sunday School, Wonderful Wednesdays, Avondale Adventures, Thursday morning Bible study and Taize continue as avenues for spiritual renewal.
- Our fall church retreat brought new insights to the practice of hospitality and the joy of being together as the people of God.
- Our youth traveled to Purdue University for Triennium, while also spending time at Montreat and Massanetta.
- Church boundaries were removed with our fall Celebration Weekend - the BBQ, breakfast and one large welcome to our surrounding community - which will be repeated this year.

Always reforming.....

- Perhaps the most radical move of the year past was our re-organization of the governing body. The congregation approved the reduction of the size of the Session and the redesign concerning the role of Elder. Spiritual Leaders would, and continue to, provide direction and leadership involving the congregation in the work of the church.

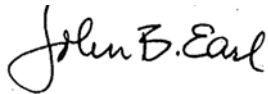
- Spiritual Discerners, while also serving on Ministry Teams would, and continue to, meet regularly to focus on spiritual growth and to seek God's purpose and will.

Sincere thanksgiving.....

- Gratitude was expressed to Ann Gregory for her thirty-three years of faithful service and Ginny Mitchell was hired as our new Administrative Assistant.
- Fourth Thursday shared their final meal and trip with appreciation to all who gave willingly of their efforts in creating community for older adults with a deep note of appreciation expressed to Harris Morse.

The pages which follow are a witness to the truth that the church is not only an inspiring fellowship in which your spirit discovers new life, but it is also an opportunity to invest in giving of yourself to the highest cause. I thank God for the loyalty of Avondalers who carry Christ far beyond our space on Park Road, and faithfully pray that the Church will continue to transform lives.

Sincerely, in Christ,



Parish Associate

What a blessing to be serving God with you here at Avondale! It is my honor to work with outstanding elders, devoted leaders, committed laypersons and a dedicated and capable team of staff members. Through classes, small groups, pastoral care and various events, we continue to seek ways to help you deepen your relationships with God and with each other in following Jesus Christ. It is my deepest prayer that in the next year, the Holy Spirit will fan the flames of our faith so Avondale may shine even more brightly as a beacon of hope and salvation to the world!!

Jane Summey Mullennix

Staff

John B. Earl, Jr., Senior Pastor

S. Bradley Clayton, Associate Pastor

Jane Summey Mullennix, Parish Associate

Regina G. Love, Music Director and Organist

Lynn B. Wilkerson, Children's Choir Director

Nadja Sefcik-Earl, Handbell Director

Eleanor Ramey, Children's Choir Accompanist

Virginia G. Mitchell, Administrative Coordinator

Renita C. Fowler, Financial Secretary

Associate Pastor

2010 brought many thrills and opportunities for my own growth as a pastor at Avondale. I am continually learning how to manage many different areas of ministry, from youth fellowship to rental contracts, from work camps to summer camps. Our youth group has continued to grow and I continue to feel called to work and serve God in new and exciting ways.

Brad Clayton

Youth Ministry

Our youth group became much younger in 2010. We graduated five seniors who grew up at Avondale and who were very strong leaders of our youth group for many years. We also gained another large class of sixth- graders, giving us a very large middle school group. The year began with our annual winter retreat to West Virginia with our theme, “Wonderfully Made”. During the summer we spent our annual work camp in Georgetown, Kentucky at QuestFarm. It was a wonderful opportunity for our youth to serve adults with special needs and help them with their work on the farm. For the first time in several years, our youth attended both the Massanetta Middle School Conference and Montreat Youth Conference. Through Biblical stories and personal experiences the youth grew closer together and learned more about dealing with temptations and pressures.



The spirit of volunteerism continued this summer, as 14 youth volunteered in one of our many ministries, from summer camps and Bible School, to Freedom School and Work Camps. The youth were vital to these ministries because of their countless volunteer hours and devotion to God. Without their work most of these ministries would not be possible.

Our Sunday Night Youth Fellowship has continued to be strong. Our new youth council was formed with a representative from each small group and the members of the council actively work to plan the programs for each evening. We changed our three small groups this year—with two middle school small groups, one for males and one for females, with one high school small group. The small groups give each of our youth the opportunity to create bonds and express themselves in ways that can be difficult in a large group. We continued to volunteer by feeding the homeless and participating in the CROP Walk.

Finally, the Avondale Youth group would not be possible at all without the continued support of our leaders. This year John and Joy Callaway joined Zach and Shea Chambers as mentors and small group leaders. I am also very grateful for Cindy McKenzie and Tony McKenzie for their tireless fund-raising on behalf of the youth group. It is because of their work that we are able to continue our favorite trips and programs even in the midst of a struggling economy. And most of all I would like to thank the parents for their continued support of their youth and of me as we search for who God is calling us to be.

Summer Camps

Avondale hosted five camps in 2010 that offered a variety of opportunities for children in our community to grow. This year our church hosted two Cheerleading and Basic Gymnastics camps, directed by Avondale's own Karey Martin. We also hosted a KidzArt Camp directed by Linda Shaw, and we introduced two basketball camps, one during the summer and one during Christmas. As we move forward I continue to search for ways that our attendance and income can grow through summer camps, and I believe that offering a wide variety of activities from experienced leaders will be a key in making our summer camp program one the best in Charlotte.

Work Camps

Avondale hosted five work camps in 2010 from as far away as Houston, Texas and as close as Sanford, North Carolina. Our work camps provided a variety of services and worked with many wonderful non-profit organizations throughout the city, so that Avondale Presbyterian has become a well-known name among many agencies in Charlotte. I am committed to providing service opportunities for a variety of ages, especially children, because there are many agencies that will not allow children to serve. My hope is that our work camps program will continue to grow in the future, allowing visitors to meet God face to face here in the city of Charlotte.

Work Camps At a Glance

5 Camps

4 Presbyterian

1 College Group

Closest to Us

First Presbyterian

Sanford, NC

Farthest from Us

Alternative Spring Break

Rice University

Houston, Texas

48 Campers

8 Avondale Volunteers

Summer Camps At a Glance

5 Camps

22 Cheerleaders

58 Basketball Players

8 artists

*Net Income \$3,500
to Annual Budget*

Agencies served—Avondale Freedom School, Avondale Meal Ministry, Samaritan House, Charlotte Emergency Housing, Loaves and Fishes, Friendship Trays, Love INC., Crisis Assistance, Nevins Center for Adults with Special Needs, Haven at Highland Creek (Alzheimer's Support)



Rental Contracts

In an effort to be good stewards of our facilities, Avondale continued to maintain rental agreements throughout 2010. The rental contracts generate income that supports ministry at Avondale. This continues to be an area of important discernment for our church as we attempt to balance our need for more income, and our expanding need to use our facility to support ministry. Avondale received \$22,090 in rental income in 2010, which was an increase of 9% from 2009 (\$20,254). As we continue to be good stewards of our facilities in 2011, we will examine more closely the use of our building during the summer, and also the under use of our kitchen facilities throughout the year.

Administrative Coordinator

The work of the church administrative staff and volunteers continues— bi-weekly newsletters, weekly bulletins, directory, assistance with the Mission/Birthday Calendar, support to the ministerial staff, elders, leaders and the congregation. I express gratitude to Ann Gregory for her help with my transition into this role and for the work of Olivia Magee, Marsha Rose, Virginia Short and Ann as they faithfully share their time and talent each week in the Church Office.

Ginny Mitchell

Spiritual Growth

Our mission this past year has been to “plan and implement worship services that inspire, encourage and transform people in their relationship with God and His Kingdom”.

With the help of our faithful committee members: Janet Harrison, Tina Wilson, Ted Todd, Hannah Stockwell, Jackie Shannon, Dave Comstock, Regina Love and Nadja Sefcik-Earl, we have tried to be faithful to that statement. Many other volunteers have helped throughout the seasons and we are always grateful that they are willing to share their time and talents.



We tried to be more multigenerational, using all ages to assist with worship. We improved awareness of the Sacred Garden and the Labyrinth during the Celebration Weekend. Both services were able to help flower a cross on Easter Day this year and Advent was once again a journey of faith and waiting while still being active in the life of the Church.

We tried to be faithful stewards of the monies entrusted to us by the congregation, keeping things simple but meaningful throughout the year.

Our vision for the coming year is to continue to implement our mission of Spiritual growth for the members of Avondale. To be led by the Holy Spirit while also extending hospitality in all aspects of worship.

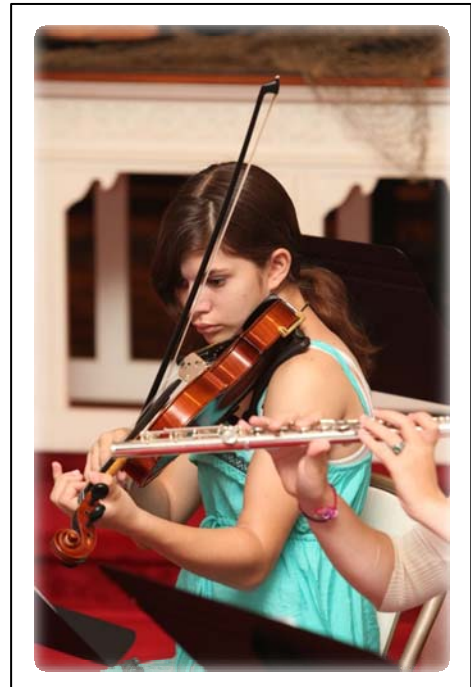
Barbara Darling and Janet Harrison

Music

The music staff extends thanks to all of the volunteers who shared their time, gifts, talents and spirit in providing music for worship in 2010. There are about 100 musicians involved collectively in Avondale Adventures Children's Choirs, Avonbellers, Youth Bells, Instrumentalists, Worship Choir and Sanctuary Choir. Lynn Wilkerson, Nadja Sefcik-Earl, Eleanor Ramey and I are blessed to be able perform our jobs because of the many who participate in these programs.

In 2010, we worked closely with clergy and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team in coordinating themes and texts of the lectionary year and were successful in offering a variety of music. Last year's kickoff to fall Celebration Sunday brought to light who we are in a new brochure, fresh website material and representative collaboration in the service. Additionally, choir members were featured in newsletters stating what choir means to them and encouraging others to be a part of the program. We are fortunate that we have superb in-house talent, but the staff emphasizes that new members are vital in continuing our rich tradition.

This tradition was especially evident during the five Sundays of Lent, the return to a Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary, duplicate services on Easter Sunday with bells, brass celebrating the risen Christ, Pentecost Sunday and moving of spirit, summer with combined choirs, Fall Celebration Sunday, and Advent music entwined with the theme of "Hope." We brought our musical gifts together on a Sunday morning this year, fitting within the reformed service to reflect the ongoing theme. Congregation, children, adult choirs, instrumentalists and bells made joyful music in anticipation of Christmas Day.



The music of Avondale does not solely belong to the choirs. The music of Avondale inherently belongs to the congregation, and we rejoice when you sing out! Upcoming, look for an 8:30 service designed by members and an 11:00 service continuing our reformed strength. We welcome all to join us at any time, even for just a season. Try us out and become a part of our fellowship and devotionals. A trained musical background is not required.

For 20 years I have found great joy in working with our members and staff. Evident is faithfulness, positivity, joy in giving, cycling of talent, creativity – all along with concern for the future and how we perpetuate music making. The year is full of opportunities to enrich spiritual life and sharing through music. There is a place and a need for anyone who would like to join us.

Regina G. Love, Director of Music/Organist

Handbell Choirs

Our church has two five octave sets of Malmark bells and a three octave set of Malmark chimes. We have two active bell choirs that enrich our worship services. New ringers are always welcomed!

The Avonbellers practice on Wednesday nights, September through May. The choir plays at least monthly in church services. There is not a requirement to read music or have prior experience to play in a handbell choir. Most of the adults in this group have learned “on the job”. Each person in the choir is responsible for a certain group of bells (notes). This requires a strong commitment from each ringer to be at all rehearsals and performances so there are no “holes” in the sound. Because of this, we are a close group, supportive of each other, even outside of ringing. The dedication of time and energy of this choir is much appreciated by the director and church.

Do you know how busy our youth are these days? It is hard to find students that have the time and commitment to play bells. But there are some, and we are thankful for their time and energy. The Youth Ringers practice on Sunday night before youth fellowship. The ringers commit to a semester of playing (September-December / January-April). Again, no prior experience in music or ringing is required. Each semester group usually plays twice in church and has a special fellowship event.



Flute Ensemble

Taking advantage of the many flutists in the church, a flute ensemble plays for special church events. Practice times vary according to the schedules of those involved.

If you play the flute, you are invited to join the fun in making music together!

Nadja Sefcik-Earl, Handbell Choir Director

Children's Choir

It is a blessing to be a Children's Choir Director here at Avondale, where it is a priority to have our children participating in worship! I am thankful for the support of our music staff and for the enthusiastic commitment of our families who encourage their children to learn songs of faith.

About 43 choristers (kindergarten-5th grade) met each Wednesday during two 10 week sessions of Avondale Adventures! During the spring session we learned songs for worship and especially worked on music for Palm Sunday. The fall session of Avondale Adventures found us singing Christmas music in September as we prepared for the glorious musical, “Miracle on Main Street”. For many years our children have presented a musical during advent and we are so thankful for the many Avondalers who come to see and hear us! We ended our choir season by singing “Walk in the Light” with the combined adult choirs!

The words to songs stay with us for most of our lives. We would love to have your child join us to learn words of faith - set to music – that will become part of their faith journey. We begin singing again on February 2, 2011 and hope to see your smiling faces then!

Lynn Wilkerson and Eleanor Ramey



Fellowship

The Fellowship Ministry Team started the year out by defining their purpose to foster relationships that enrich our faith and bring us closer to Jesus Christ. We assisted Christian Nurture for ten weeks in the spring with Wonderful Wednesdays by coordinating the meals and clean up. We hosted a well-attended Palm Sunday luncheon, which was preceded by the annual egg hunt for the children. We coordinated the Confirmation Luncheon in May and co-hosted with the Member Care Ministry Team the 90's Birthday Covered-Dish Luncheon in July.

We launched The Fellowship Idea Box, which enabled members to put forth their suggestions for fellowship events. This generated a committed Bunko group that meets one Friday night every month and the ever-speedy Avondale Running Club (A.R.C.).



Fellowship organized the BBQ portion of Celebration Weekend. There were over 300 pounds of delicious BBQ sold by 2pm on Saturday. The funds were used to help pay for the Congregational Retreat in October.

The Congregational Retreat in Black Mountain, North Carolina was attended by over 100 Avondale members and friends. Fellowship organized the marketing and registration of the event. We also planned the fellowship activities over the weekend. In addition to an

inspiring program on hospitality by our ministers, the attendees had fun with smores by a campfire, hiking together, a friendly kickball game, football, dressing in Halloween costumes and trick or treating, and lastly, an evening game show "Minute to Win It."

Fellowship ended its year with an intimate gathering of Avondalers in the Fellowship Hall before attending the Magic of Christmas. We shared hors d'oeuvres and desserts prior to attending the Charlotte Symphony's Magic of Christmas performance. It was a great start for the Advent season.

Fellowship would like to thank the countless smiling volunteers for helping with the serving of meals, cleaning of the kitchens, and cooking of the BBQ. A big thank you is expressed to Tiz Benson of the famous Tizzerts, Inc. for her generous donations of beautiful and delicious desserts for our events. We would like to thank the Fellowship Ministry Team (Ruby Cathey, Christie Flowers, Cheryl Yount, Trish Boyd, Lisa Miller, Marian Stout, Brad Clayton, & Kay Chelena) for their dedication during the year. A special thanks to Marc Charvaree for organizing the successful BBQ.

Emily Zuyus and Susan Brandau

Member Care

First and foremost we would like to express our sincere gratitude to ALL who have answered God's call to love God, love one another and serve community by caring for the congregation at Avondale. The love and concern that you, the members of Avondale, have for one another is a true blessing. The Member Care Ministry Team is responsible for coordinating those ministries that directly serve the members of Avondale. The Shepherd's Staff volunteers visited our homebound members multiple times throughout the year. For some of our members this ministry may be the only direct contact they have with Avondale. In addition, homebound members were given a "goody bag", filled with homemade goodies and crafts, at Christmas as a token of our love and concern.

We also provided many meals to members recovering from a recent hospitalization or celebrating the arrival of a new member to the family. Our team of meal preparers and hostesses provided and served bereavement meals to family members attending the memorial services of loved ones. We would like to express a special thank you to the women's circles of Avondale who prepare and serve bereavement meals for family of circle members or their spouses. Our team of volunteers also served lemonade from May through September after the worship service. This fun and refreshing ministry encourages members to socialize with one another as they build community with fellow Christians.

Our team is also responsible for outreach ministries. We collect information gathered in the black books every Sunday and also participate in the inquirer's classes for prospective members. In addition, we identified and worked toward implementing ministry opportunities for making Avondale a more welcoming community for guests in keeping with our mission statement to love others. We are very excited about the future of outreach ministries in the upcoming year. Outreach ministry has developed into a separate and new ministry team at Avondale in 2011 with a focus on reaching out to the community. Be on the lookout for new opportunities to reach out to others through this new and exciting ministry!

Early in the year, we created and developed a prayer ministry at Avondale called the Prayer Tree. A team of prayer partners have made a commitment to pray daily for the needs, concerns and thanksgivings of our church family. Updates and new concerns, as well as ongoing prayer concerns, are distributed weekly to the prayer partners. The Prayer Tree emphasizes the importance and power of prayer in our daily lives and has been instrumental in helping Avondale become more intentional about praying for the needs of our congregation.

Without you, the loving congregation of Avondale, none of these ministries would exist. The individuals who served on our "team" are too many to mention. We are excited about the year ahead and are eagerly seeking new ministry opportunities to reach out to the members of our church. Thank you, again, to everyone who supported our ministry and for answering your call to love one another.

Rena White and Greg McKenzie

Mission

We would like to express our thanks for the dedicated service of our ministry team members, including Page Woods, John Callaway, Chris Gardner, Fran McCoy, Marc Chavaree, Suzi Thornberry, Olivia Magee and Brad Clayton. It has been a joyous year of serving others because of the hundreds of Avondalers that have joined together to do so in the name of Jesus. Our missions have included...

- Room in the Inn- from early December through the end of March, we housed, fed and shared the love of Christ with over 215 homeless men, women and children. At the end of the season, the Presbyterian Women bought 14 new over-sized cots for our guests.
- Advent Offerings for the Urban Ministry Center (hats, socks and gloves), Living Waters for the World (clean drinking water for Third World countries), Barium Springs Homes for Children (movie boxes) and Joy Gift (supporting retired ministers and educational support for diverse racial and ethnic students)
- Common Grounds Garden began as a response to a need for fresh, locally grown produce for the Common Grounds Farm Stand. All proceeds from the farm stand go directly to the Urban Ministry Center. Our first year was successful beyond our imaginations! We will have a garden expansion this spring.
- Freedom School students (55 in all) were with us for six weeks this summer. Most of the children are our neighbors from the Sedgefield area. The emphasis on reading helps develop important life skills and leadership and self-esteem soars as a result of the nurturing through Freedom School programs.
- Visiting Works Camps came to Avondale during the summer to experience serving others in an urban setting. We welcomed 5 groups in 2010.

Did You Know?

*More than \$21, 000
was given to Special
Offerings in 2010*

Highlights:

*Five Cents a Meal
\$5,987*

*One Great Hour of
Sharing
\$2,387*

*Haiti
\$6,913*

*Moore Place
\$250*

*Pentecost
\$560*

*Heifer International
VBS Offering
\$619*

*Peacemaking Offering
\$885*

*Living Water
\$1,212*

*Joy Gift
\$2,636*



- Avondale Adult and Youth Work Camps both traveled to Kentucky. The Youth worked side by side with eighteen developmentally challenged adults on a farm. The Adults built their twentieth house with COAP in Harlan, Kentucky.
- Uptown Meal Ministry served over 6, 200 meals in our eighth year of bringing food and friendship to locations in uptown

Charlotte. Our friends at Sharon Towers continue to partner with this ministry by making 60 meals each Thursday. Our annual Christmas party was held at the K&S Restaurant.

- Salvation Army Women's Shelter guests stayed with us for a week in late September. We were able to get to spend time getting to know these guests as they stayed with us in a safe and nurturing place.
- Special Offerings are collected by Presbyterians four times a year. You have helped through your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking and Joy Gift Offerings.
- 5 Cents a Meal is collected on the last Sunday of each month. Our Charlotte Presbytery started this program to help support agencies that feed the hungry in our area.
- Avondale Mission and Birthday Calendar was produced to inform, highlight and encourage all Avondale members to take part in serving others.
- Support for Local, Regional and International Missions this year included gifts totaling \$8,000 to Jacob's Ladder, Barium Springs, Grandfather Homes for Children, Urban Ministry Center, Shelter Health Services, Friendship Trays, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Massanetta Springs, Samaritan House, Crisis Assistance, A Child's Place , R.A.I.N and Presbyterian Counseling Center.
- Charlotte Presbytery was given \$39,000 to support the larger church in local, regional, national and international concerns.

Lynn Wilkerson and Jim McCarthy

Christian Nurture

The Christian Nurture Ministry Team (CNMT) exists to provide disciples of all ages on-going opportunities for Christian growth and learning. Lyn Sweet, Libby Thompson and Jane Summey Mullennix have coordinated meetings of CNMT, while sub-committees led by Kay DeArmon (Adult Ministry Team), Brad Clayton (Youth) and Bonnie Howard (Children's Ministry Team), planned and carried out numerous ministries.

During 2010, Sunday school classes focused on the Bible, being a Presbyterian, other religions, and best selling books. Our wonderful teachers were honored in May with a breakfast, thank you's during both services, and a donation given to Freedom School. In August, all teachers were provided in-service for the following year. We completed our first year of Worship Readiness with new curriculum when we acknowledged rising second graders during our church service in May. Joint Sunday school classes ended the year with fellowship and caroling.

Wonderful Wednesdays (for adults) began in February for eight weeks and was held during the same time as Avondale Adventures (for children ages K-5). Also, both were held during the fall. These



hospitable programs reached out and encouraged community participation in topics such as the labyrinth, a Christian look at various movies, and prayer.

Avondale Bible Camp (ABC), held in July, included rising K-6 children who were involved in various activities related to Baobab Blast. The participants raised enough money to buy needed animals for families in Africa.

Celebration Weekend in conjunction with Rally Day provided a weekend of community outreach for the entire congregation Barbecue, candle light labyrinth walk, breakfast, fellowship, class promotion.

Other opportunities for Christian growth and learning were the Advent Workshop, support of new mothers, and Faith and Sexuality Workshop for fifth graders and their parents.

During 2011, CNMT will continue providing these opportunities. We plan to encourage youth opportunities during AA and WW and small group faith gatherings.

Lyn Sweet and Libby Thompson

Long Range Planning

We want to thank our diligent Long Range Planning “LRP” committee members, including Ann Patterson, Ginny Mitchell, John Earl, Zach Chambers, Mary Hall and Jennifer Patterson. 2010 was a year of change and transition. Our responsibilities continued to evolve to include a greater emphasis on communications. We introduced and provided oversight for a new leadership model in which Ministry Teams included both a spiritual discerner and a leader responsible for the daily administration of the Ministry Team.

Long Range Planning sought to hear and heed where God is leading Avondale. We introduced a motion, endorsed by the Session and approved by the congregation, which changes the number and role of elders.

Long Range Planning’s 2010 actions and responsibilities included the following:

- New Discernment Model and reduced Session size. The congregation passed the following motion:
“To reduce the number of elders, from 18 in 2010 to 9 in 2013 (a reduction of 3 elders each year). Session will consist of 15 elders in 2011, 12 elders in 2012 and 9 elders in 2013. This structure will allow elders to pray, discern and focus on where God is leading Avondale. Members of the congregation will lead Ministry Teams, serving two-year terms.”
- Documentation of roles for Ministry Team leader and roles for Discerner.
- Planning and oversight of annual Session retreat.

We would like to thank the Hall family for providing food for the event and the many, many years they have allowed us to use their lake house for the retreat.
- Coordination of new Ministry boards flanking the hallways leading to the sanctuary. We want to thank David Finison for volunteering his carpentry skills to build the boards.
- Managing the messaging on Avondale’s front lawn marquee.

We would like to thank the following families and individuals for their help with the sign ministry: Eric and Martha Hayes family, Mary Hall, Lisa Morgan, Richard Gay and DJ Saleeby.

The Long Range Planning Committee will not exist in 2011. The group’s responsibilities will now fall to the Elder discerners and the newly-formed Communication Team, led by Jennifer Patterson.

Ann Patterson

Leadership

Class of 2011

*Susan Brandau
Barbara Darling
Janet Harrison
Todd Oswald
Lyn Sweet
Rena White*

Class of 2012

*Jeff Meier
Bob Rudisill
D.J. Saleeby
Libby Thompson
Lynn Wilkerson
Emily Zuyus*

Class of 2013

*Shea Chambers
John Magee
Ted Todd*

2011 Leaders

*Zach Chambers
Charles Favor
Marilyn Nolan
Jennifer Patterson
Caroline White*

Property

The Property Committee continues to face the challenge of an aging facility. Significant activities in 2010 included replacement of the ceilings in two of the children's rooms following a ceiling collapse, a detailed inspection with an engineering report on the remaining ceilings, and sorting and scanning of over 450 construction drawings from the original 1945 vision for construction of the Sanctuary through the 2000 vision for construction of the Family Life Center. Other activities include the annual spring and fall workdays. As the cost of services (gas, water and electricity) continues to rise, the committee faces the challenge of meeting the budget without impacting the day to day operation of the church.

The Property Committee would like to thank all of the church members for support of the workdays this year.

Our thanks to the commitment of the 2010 Property Committee members;

Jim Boyd, Tim Chambers, David Finison, Ann Gregory, David Hall, Chuck Hendrix, Jerry Lawson, Tony McKenzie, Ginny Mitchell, Todd Oswald, Rick Parler, Andrew Patterson

Thanks to others not on the property committee for their continued vigilance in keeping up with our facilities. The committee is dedicated to the continued maintenance of the facilities that God has blessed us with here on Park Road.

David Hall and Todd Oswald

Personnel

In July of 2010, after more than 33 years of dedicated to service to Avondale, Ann Gregory retired from her post as Church Administrative Assistant. We also hired long time church member Ginny Mitchell to fill this position in June of 2010.

The Personnel Committee continues to provide support to the staff of Avondale. We continue to provide annual evaluations of staff using the format previously established.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to Patti Oswald, Caroline White and Ginny Mitchell, who served on the Personnel Committee until being hired by Avondale. Their knowledge, experience and energy we could not do without.

Jeff Meier



Stewardship

In 2010, members of the Stewardship Ministry Team worked very hard to expand our concept of stewardship here at Avondale. Our focus was on three areas:

- The Biblical aspects of tithing (use of our money)
- Our gifts (use of our God given talents and abilities)
- Our time (spending more of our time engaged in Christian activities)

Next year, we will have additional members on our ministry team. However, we represent only a core group for stewardship activities. Our entire congregation must be conscious of how we spend our money, use our gifts to serve others, and allocate our time wisely.

Members of the 2010 Stewardship Ministry Team were: Mary Martin, Jennifer Matz, Cindy McKenzie, Kristin McNeil, Laura Meier, Inez Rudisill and Bill Thornberry. Carol Bowen was our Discerning Elder.

Bob Rudisill and Carol Bowen

Finance

Purpose: The Finance Ministry Team exists to provide financial oversight and accountability to Session, to provide annual budget preparation, to support the Stewardship Ministry Team with the campaign and to support the Endowment Committee by bringing it under the purview of the Finance Ministry Team.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to the following groups for their faithful service in 2010:

Finance Ministry Team: Renita Fowler, Financial Secretary, Jane Summey Mullennix, Clergy Representative, Fred Wilkerson, D. J. Saleeby, Charlie Shumate and Stewart Farris, Chair

Sunday Counting Teams: Susan Brandau and Edd DeArmon, Audrey Dougherty and Ann Hensley, Sara Erexson and Kevin McNeil, Charles Favor, Nancy Favor, Helen Marple and Ruth Marple. Substitutes: Betty McBrayer and Kay DeArmon

Monday Counting Teams: Charles Favor and Rogers Magee, Libby Thompson and Stewart Farris

Audit Team: Tony McKenzie, D. J. Saleeby and Betty Chambers

Highlights for the year include:

- The Family Life Center debt was paid in full! The mortgage was burned and Avondale Presbyterian Church is now debt-free.
- Established accounts at New Dominion Bank as required by our Line of Credit loan agreements. Monitored and moved some funds to RBC Centura later in the year to make certain all monies on deposit with New Dominion are FDIC insured.
- Tested and implemented Remote Deposit Capture that enables us to scan checks directly into our bank accounts without our having to visit the bank

- Split the offering counting task into Sunday counters and Monday counters to reduce the length of time that was formerly required for Sunday counters to complete the weekly deposit. Documented and trained all team members in the new procedures
- Established a new fund to replace the Capital Campaign Fund called the Facilities Fund to address the ongoing need to maintain our aging facilities. Ordered new green Facilities Fund envelopes that can be found in the pew or in the church office.
- Monitored the monthly financial status of the church and reported to Session. Endowment Funds reporting was added to the financial statements.
- The Avondale financial records as well as those of Fourth Thursday and Presbyterian Women were audited and found to be accurate and in order.
- Returned to providing members quarterly contribution statements instead of only three per year.
- Provided to the congregation information and opportunities for alternative methods of payment for their contributions including automatic draft, online banking, stock gifts, etc. Also published a monthly snapshot in *Avondale Avenues* of the church's current financial status.
- Organized data from ministry teams and other sources necessary for the preparation of the 2011 Operating Budget. Member Contributions for 2011 are down 1.22% from 2010 and total projected revenue is down 1.37% primarily because there is no plan for an Attic Sale in 2011. The Finance Ministry Team is recommending to Session for adoption at the January 2011 meeting the Budget that is enclosed in this report.

We concluded 2010 with a total General Fund balance of \$312,041.62 and of that number, \$250,446.89 is in unrestricted funds/investments; the remainder, \$61,594.73 is being held in a restricted status. December giving and the fact that ministry teams managed expenses well enabled us to end 2010 with a \$46,002.71 Surplus. The Facilities Fund ended 2010 with a balance of \$97,080.84 with no debt secured against it. The Line of Credit continues to carry a zero balance. Balances for the Endowment (New Covenant Funds) as of December 31, 2010 are: Golden Anniversary Endowment Fund – \$145,221, Local Ministries Fund – \$19,340, SBM Maintenance Fund - \$9,619 for a total of \$174,180.

We are grateful for your financial giving to the glory of God and for the work of Avondale Presbyterian Church.

Stewart Farris

Avondale Presbyterian Church

2011 Budget

| REVENUE | 2010 | 2011 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Member Contributions (Pledges) | \$ 520,994 | \$ 514,645 |
| Interest Income (Estimate) | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 |
| ACC Utilities | \$ 8,400 | \$ 12,000 |
| Rental Income (Estimate) | \$ 20,000 | \$ 20,000 |
| Other Contributions (Estimate) | \$ 12,500 | \$ 11,000 |
| Summer Camp Revenue | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| Attic Sale Revenue | \$ 7,500 | \$ 0 |
| Restricted Accounts Revenue | \$ 0 | \$ 3,855 |
| | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 576,394 | \$ 568,500 |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Christian Nurture | | |
| Education Committee | \$ 1,850 | \$ 2,450 |
| Children's Ministry | \$ 4,300 | \$ 5,400 |
| Youth Ministry | \$ 3,900 | \$ 3,900 |
| Adult Ministry | \$ 2,450 | \$ 3,500 |
| Nursery Workers & Supplies | \$ 6,400 | \$ 6,400 |
| Family Ministry | \$ 1,150 | \$ 0 |
| Christian Nurture Total | \$ 20,050 | \$ 21,650 |
| | | |
| Member Care | | |
| Congregational Care | \$ 620 | \$ 750 |
| Member Care Total | \$ 620 | \$ 750 |
| | | |
| Outreach | | |
| Outreach | \$ 240 | \$ 1,000 |
| Outreach Total | \$ 240 | \$ 1,000 |
| | | |
| Fellowship | | |
| Fellowship Committee | \$ 3,950 | \$ 3,750 |
| Fellowship Total | \$ 3,950 | \$ 3,750 |
| | | |
| Spiritual Growth | | |
| Sanctuary Appointments | \$ 1,540 | \$ 1,450 |
| Music Supplies (Adult) | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| Music Supplies (Handbells) | \$ 900 | \$ 900 |
| Music Supplies (Children) | \$ 250 | \$ 450 |
| Music Supplies (Instrumental) | \$ 200 | \$ 250 |
| Piano Maintenance | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| Soloists/Instrumentalists | \$ 200 | \$ 300 |
| W/C Music Director | \$ 850 | \$ 850 |
| W/C Handbell Director | \$ 70 | \$ 70 |
| W/C Handbell (Partial/40) | \$ 800 | \$ 800 |
| W/C Children's Music Director | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Organist Supply | \$ 1,220 | \$ 1,220 |

| EXPENSES | 2010 | 2011 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Pulpit Supply | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Section Leaders | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Taize Service | \$ 0 | \$ 250 |
| 8:30 Service Innovations | \$ 520 | \$ 620 |
| Spiritual Growth Total | \$ 8,350 | \$ 9,160 |
| | | |
| Long Range Planning | | |
| Session Retreats | \$ 565 | \$ 0 |
| Long Range Planning Total | \$ 565 | \$ 0 |
| | | |
| Mission | | |
| Service to Society | \$ 29,300 | \$ 29,300 |
| Minister's Discretionary Fund | \$ 800 | \$ 800 |
| Presbytery | \$ 32,000 | \$ 32,000 |
| Mission Total | \$ 62,100 | \$ 62,100 |
| | | |
| Stewardship | | |
| Postage | \$ 125 | \$ 215 |
| Contribution Envelopes | \$ 700 | \$ 665 |
| Gifts & Talents Booklets | \$ 0 | \$ 75 |
| Stewardship Total | \$ 825 | \$ 955 |
| | | |
| Administration-Personnel | | |
| Minister | \$ 88,700 | \$ 91,361 |
| Minister-Continuing Education | \$ 2,350 | \$ 2,350 |
| Parish Assoc-Family Ministry/CE | \$ 47,366 | \$ 48,787 |
| Associate-Continuing Education | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Associate-Youth/FLC | \$ 45,859 | \$ 47,235 |
| Associate-Continuing Education | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Administrative Assistant | \$ 37,990 | \$ 40,600 |
| Music Director | \$ 33,720 | \$ 34,732 |
| Handbell Director | \$ 7,050 | \$ 7,262 |
| Financial Secretary | \$ 15,000 | \$ 17,510 |
| Children's Music Director | \$ 3,750 | \$ 3,863 |
| Ramey | \$ 1,250 | \$ 1,288 |
| Mileage Reimbursement | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,000 |
| Staff Activities | \$ 835 | \$ 925 |
| FICA/SECA | \$ 7,555 | \$ 8,052 |
| Board of Pensions | \$ 70,814 | \$ 60,611 |
| Personnel Total | \$ 367,239 | \$ 369,576 |
| | | |
| Administration-Property | | |
| General Maintenance | \$ 13,000 | \$ 12,900 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 32,000 | \$ 38,499 |
| Property Insurance | \$ 12,200 | \$ 12,680 |
| Telephone Expense | \$ 7,000 | \$ 6,575 |
| Water Expense | \$ 7,000 | \$ 9,600 |
| Electricity Expense | \$ 30,000 | \$ 27,000 |
| Natural Gas Expense | \$ 18,000 | \$ 18,000 |
| Administrative Supplies | \$ 14,000 | \$ 14,000 |

| EXPENSES | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Office Technology | \$ 3,600 | \$ 5,000 |
| Church Bus | \$ 900 | \$ 0 |
| Property Total | \$ 137,700 | \$ 144,254 |
| | | |
| Administration - Communications (Formerly Marketing) | | |
| Celebration Weekend | \$ 0 | \$ 350 |
| Newspaper, Magazine | \$ 0 | \$ 200 |
| Direct Mail | \$ 1,460 | \$ 1,500 |
| Attic Sale Marketing | \$ 100 | \$ 0 |
| Mission Statement Boards Upkeep | \$ 200 | \$ 300 |
| Communications Total | \$ 1,760 | \$ 2,350 |
| | | |
| Administration Total* | \$ 505,764 | \$ 516,180 |
| | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 603,399 | \$ 615,545 |

Projected Revenue Minus Expenses

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenue | \$ 576,394 | \$ 568,500 |
| Expenses | \$ 603,399 | \$ 615,545 |
| Deficit | \$ (27,005) | \$ (47,045) |

**In 2010 Administration was made up of Personnel/Property/Stewardship/Finance*

**In 2011 Administration will be Personnel/Property/Communications/Finance*

2010 Year End Results

| | Budgeted | Actual | Variance |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Member Contributions | 520,994 | 566,934 | 45,940 |
| Non-Member Contributions | 12,500 | 11,100 | (1,400) |
| Interest Income | 2,000 | 1,573 | (427) |
| Rental Income | 20,000 | 22,090 | 2,090 |
| Summer Camp Revenue | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 |
| Attic Sale Revenue | 7,500 | 7,500 | 0 |
| Avondale Children's Center Utilities | 8,400 | 10,000 | 1,600 |
| Other | | 20,945 | 20,945 |
| Total Income | 576,394 | 645,142 | 68,748 |
| Administration Total | \$ 505,764 | \$ 508,850 | 3,086 |
| Christian Nurture | 20,050 | 19,140 | (910) |
| Member Care | 4,810 | 3,447 | (1,363) |
| Spiritual Growth | 8,350 | 6,439 | (1,911) |
| Mission | 62,100 | 59,772 | (2,328) |
| Marketing/Long Range Planning | 2,325 | 1,491 | (834) |
| Total Operating Budget (Expenses) | 603,399 | 599,139 | (4,260) |
| 2010 Budget (Deficit)/Surplus | (27,005) | 46,003 | \$73,008 |

Avondale Children's Center

Avondale Children's Center has offered quality care and education for young children and their families since 1988. We are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and have earned a four star rating issued by the state of North Carolina.

The Center serves 68 children; 9 representing church families, and the staff is made up of 18, talented, and dedicated professionals.

Chapel time with Dr. Earl continues to be a very special time for the children. The Center supports various missions of the Church- such as Room in the Inn, Homeless Ministry, Shut In Ministry and other opportunities to help where needed. We appreciate the contributions of time and talents by members of the Church family and ask for your continued support and prayers.

Presbyterian Women

PWA has a total of fifty-nine members in a total of five circles/groups. These circles/groups provide mutual support, Bible study, and encouragement to members. Circle #1 has expanded membership to five men to join with their wives enabling these women to continue to participate in a circle. Four circles are using the Horizon's Bible Study: *"Journeys Through Revelation."*

2010 Activities:

- PWA Self Evaluation was performed using our purpose, newsletter publications, and Coordinating Team minutes. Two circles and one group dropped from PWA during 2010.
- PWA Bylaws were written and approved by the membership on 11/14/10.
- Participated in Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project again this year. The proceeds aid African women and children health programs. \$925.00
- PWA purchased a dozen cots for Avondale Presbyterian Church to use for Room in the Inn and other onsite missions. \$846.73
- PWA pledge contributions support World-wide Mission Fund at Presbytery, Synod, and Presbyterian Women Church-wide. \$400.00
- Provide funds to Battered Women in Transition, Dr. Earl's Discretionary Fund, used medicine bottles for the Humane Society, toiletries, socks, undergarments for homeless, Christmas cards to military services, scholarships to the Women's Retreat, Angel Tree at Sharon Towers and Fellowship of Least Coin.
- PWA was represented at the Presbytery Leadership Training (8/22) and the Presbytery Fall Gathering (9/11).
- Prepared the 2010 PWA Directory; listing all members by Circle/group and the 2010 PWA Brochure: providing a description of our circles and groups.

- PWA had two annual meetings where all women and young ladies may attend with their mothers. Circle #1 gentlemen joined us at the Fall Gathering. Three pastors were invited.
 1. Spring Gathering, May 2, 2010 in FLC. Program included a presentation by the Director of Freedom School. Installation Service officers for 2010-2011, collected the Birthday Offering \$502.24 sent to the Presbytery. The Honorary Life Membership Award presentation to Betty Eudy. Door prizes and a great meal were enjoyed. We applauded Caroline White HLM Award granted by Myers Park Presbyterian Church on April 19,2010.
 2. Fall Gathering, November 14, 2010 in FLC. Program included membership vote PWA Bylaws, collected the Thank Offering \$567.00. Ginny Mitchell gave a slide presentation. The new Circle #1 gentleman members were welcomed by the membership. Door prizes and a great meal were enjoyed.

PWA participates and encourages participation in the Avondale Women's Retreat.

The Coordinating Team for 2010 was as follows:

Moderator: Barbara Hill, Vice-Moderator: Sigrid Sacra, Secretary: Brenda Coble, Treasurer: Sara Erexson, Spiritual Nurturer & Historian: Shea Chambers, Mission/Issues: Ginny Mitchell, Past Moderator: Lue Singer. The Circle/Group Chairs: Ruby Cathey & Olivia Magee, Betty Eudy, Acting Chair for Lue Singer, Sharon McGinn, Virginia Short & Milli Mann, Carey Cavanaugh, Sarah Vestal.

Fourth Thursday

Fourth Thursday is a program that is directed primarily to the older adults of the church and to the community. There are no age restrictions and usually more than fifty percent of those attending are not members of Avondale.

Day trips to nearby entertainment venues, such as a matinee play in Blowing Rock, or a two to three night trip to the beach, may also be scheduled throughout the year. The cost of the trips is determined by the total expense, which may include lodging, meals, entertainment and transportation.

Fourth Thursday is a self-sustaining program that has offered fellowship to older adults for an extended period of time. Volunteers, in many capacities, help with the monthly meetings. Harris Morse has been the long-time leader for the monthly meeting, as well as being responsible for planning, scheduling and keeping watch over the attendees on the bus trips.

All good things must come to an end. Attendance at Fourth Thursday continued to grow smaller and smaller, for many reasons. I saw it coming that we would be too small to continue, plus I had no idea how much Roddye Caudle did in handling the money for Fourth Thursday and trips.

I would like to thank all the hundreds of men and women who have helped make this program such a success – helping serve food, set up tables, decorating tables and much more. It would have been impossible without your help. Thank you again.

Harris Morse

Membership in Brief

Four weddings took place at Avondale.

Six babies were born – three girls and three boys.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to six children and one adult.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Active Membership 12/31/2009 | 464 |
| Adults welcomed into membership in 2010 | +15 |
| Confirmands welcomed into membership in 2010 | +6 |
| Deaths | <u>-11</u> |
| Active Membership 12/31/2010 | 475 |

Endowment

Avondale's endowment received two outright gifts in 2010, and endowment team members continued conversations within the congregation about the various techniques of making contributions. You can expect to see and hear more about those techniques in 2011.

Money within the endowment is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation. We invest in three mutual funds, which are diversified among three styles. Returns for those funds in 2010 were:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Growth | 14.08% |
| Balanced growth | 11.19% |
| Income | 6.37% |

The Minister's Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund was used during the 2010 year to assist those within and outside our faith community facing difficult times. Most were small amounts given to assist with phone, food, heating, and gas bills. Several were assisted with overnight lodging. Several members within our faith community were given financial gifts to assist with an immediate crisis. Appreciation is expressed to Circle #5 for helping with the Fund and to several key families who have responded to need.



Having fun at Boabab Blast Bible Camp.

Preparing beds for Common Grounds Garden.



Gathering for BBQ with friends at our fall Celebration Weekend.

Enjoying the afternoon at the Congregational Retreat.



Sharing fellowship with others at a church luncheon.

Middle school youth confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.





2821 Park Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28209
www.avondalepresbychurch.org
704-333-6194