

Moving *toward* a single worship service

In a recent sermon, I shared Session's decision to move *toward* a single worship service. The operative, defining word within the motion is *toward*. At the November Session meeting, your leadership continued to pray and discuss a single worship service. They have requested that we form a task force to report back to the Session on the *who, what, when* and *where* of a single blended worship service. We expect the task force to report back in the next 2 months. In the meantime, no immediate changes will occur at either service.



Vision Statement and TAG work

During the same November meeting your leadership continued to develop the five strategic plans derived from our adopted Vision Statement:

- 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

Their initial work will be shared with the congregation as information and for ownership in early 2016.

2016 Budget and Outstanding Pledge Cards

The Session approved the 2016 budget at the recommendation of the Finance Ministry Team. Though we expect additional pledges will be received, 1/3 of those who pledged in 2015 have not yet done so in 2016. The Session can make necessary adjustments to the 2016 budget.

Advent

Our Advent season begins Sunday, November 29 with the theme "Christmas in the Home". The season will address the magical realism of the Biblical Christmas story. Our goal is extending the teachings of the season into a life-long faith commitment. More information on Advent is provided within this newsletter.

We Give Thanks to God

We take a breath prior to entering Advent and thank God. As we think back on the year, may we all remain certain and realize that *always* "in Him we live and move and have our being". The entire Avondale staff wishes you a meaningful Thanksgiving Day.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Earl". The signature is written in a cursive style.

"Called to love God, love one another and serve community."

Haiti Update

Jay Meier, Miller Boyd, Covert Suydam, Suzi Thornberry, Kemper Boyd, Sharon McCarthy and Zach Chambers returned from Milot Haiti on Monday, November 2. With the help of a team in Milot, Avondale pays for 30 elderly or disabled people to receive a monthly supply of beans and rice. Twice a year, a team from Avondale goes to meet the people we serve, strengthen our relationships with our Milot partners and distribute food. The annual cost to feed the 30 people is \$12,400. The Mission Ministry Team's budget funds 70% of this cost. The remainder is funded through special offerings and fundraisers.

The next trip will take place May 2016. Please contact Jim Bowen if you are interested in serving. On November 7, the Mission Ministry team hosted a low country boil and concert to raise money for the Milot mission. The evening generated approximately \$6,500.



2015 Year-to Date Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter)	\$ 2,765
Haiti Special Offering (May)	2,119
Pentecost (May)	686
(40% sent to Urban Ministry Center)	
Peacemaking (October)	1,227
Flood Relief (esp. Columbia, S.C.)	2,279
Ten Cents a Meal (year-round)	<u>5,604</u>
Total YTD	<u>\$14,680</u>

Over the past five years, Avondale has generously given an average of \$22,700 in annual special offerings.

Avondale Session & Leaders



David Hall, Cindy McKenzie, Jennifer Patterson and Carol Bowen

Class of 2018

Jennifer Patterson – Jennifer has been a member of Avondale since 2002. She is a children's Sunday School teacher and former Leader of the Communications Ministry Team. Jennifer and her husband Andrew have two children, Mac (age 12) and Leni (age 9).

Cindy McKenzie – Cindy has been an Avondale member since 1991 and is a third generation Avondaler. Cindy is a prior serving Elder and is wife to Greg and mother to Jack (age 20).

David Hall – David has been an Avondale member for 20 years. He is married to Mary and has daughter Katherine and son Andrew. He is returning to Session for the third time. He has happily served on the Property Ministry Team since joining. David is excited and intimidated by the chance to serve on the Session.

Carol Bowen – Carol is an Elder and has been involved in Music Ministry, Mission and Christian Nurture. Carol is married to Jim and they are parents to two grown sons, Kyle and Andrew. Carol is serving as Clerk of the Session.

Class of 2017

Zach Chambers – Zach has been an Avondale member since birth and is a third generation Avondaler currently raising two 4th generationers. He is a prior serving Elder and is husband to Shea and father to Ainsley (age 12) and Gram (age 10).

Ann Patterson – Ann has been a member of Avondale for 10 years and is a prior serving Elder. She is wife to Ryan and mother to Millie (age 11) and Dorothy (age 9).

Lisa Miller Worf – Lisa has been a member of Avondale for 7 years and hails from Michigan. She married Rich Worf in September.

Class of 2016

Sharon McCarthy – Sharon McCarthy and her husband Jim became members of Avondale in 1989 and raised their three children here. Sharon is serving her first term as an Elder but has been involved with several ministry teams, most notably Mission and Christian Nurture.

Rick Parler – Rick has been a member of Avondale for approximately 30 years. He and his wife Jan raised three boys at Avondale: Sam, Clay, and Reid. He derives his inspiration for his work at Avondale from all the Saints of Avondale who have gone before.

Sigrid Sacra – Sigrid followed her grandchildren to Avondale and has been a member for more than 25 years. Sigrid was drawn to the family-oriented nature of Avondale and has been blessed to be able to participate in ministry from the youngest to the oldest.

Class of 2015

Jim Bowen – Known to many as Flo's son, Jim has been active in various choirs since 2000. He and his wife, Carol, have two 20-something sons (Kyle and Andrew) that either live in or go to school in Nashville, TN.

Lamar Hardegree – Lamar has been a member of Avondale for 8 years. He married his wife Marge at Avondale and his daughter Cindy and son-in-law Greg married at Avondale. In addition, Lamar's grandson Jack was baptized and has grown up at Avondale.

Mary Comstock – Mary was welcomed into the Avondale family in 1987 by Vickie Rolfe to attend her Sunday School class. Mary says that the relationships developed in this faith community have enriched her family (husband Dave and children Matt and Hannah) and sustained her in her faith.

Jackie Shannon – Jackie has been a member for 25 years and served in many capacities. He, wife, Karen, and daughters, Kathleen, Emily and Mary share their beautiful instrumental and vocal gifts.

We thank these 3 elders and Jackie Shannon, Clerk of Session, for their 3 years of service on the Session; and the following leaders for their 2 years of service leading Ministry Teams: Todd Oswald (Property), Susan Brandau (Member Care), Connie Love (Christian Nurture), and Catherine Mitchell (Spiritual Growth)

New Leaders 2016 - 2017

Property:

Suzi Thornberry – Suzi is a native Charlottean and has been a member of Avondale since 1988. She and Bill have 4 grown children, Elizabeth, David, Margaret and stepson Will, and 2 granddaughters, Ava and Caroline.

Member Care:

Suzanne Baillie – Suzanne hails from Charlotte and has been a member of Avondale for several years. She is married to George and active in Member Care, Feeding the Homeless, and Room in the Inn.

Christian Nurture:

Linda Haigh – Linda Haigh is an Elder and has been a member of Avondale since the late 1990's serving in many capacities.

Spiritual Growth:

Harry Greyard – One of Harry's earliest worship memories is playing the piano at age 10 in the church where he grew up. Some of his favorite spiritual activities have involved white-water rafting with fellow Avondale members, splashing and soaking in God's creation.

Lynn Wilkerson – Lynn has lived in Charlotte and been a member of Avondale for 27 years. Her children, Joy and Jed, were brought up by Avondale. Lynn is thankful that her grandchildren, Alevia and John, will be nurtured in faith by the Avondale family.

Amanda Shanks – Amanda joined the church in January 2013 and is married to Eric. Amanda has been active in the ARISE band and in Spiritual Growth. Amanda and Eric are parents to 2 month old daughter, Taylor.

Congregational Life Co-Chairs:

Louise Lawson – Louise joined Avondale in 2000 and is a native of South Carolina. She and husband Jerry have twin daughters Sarah and Elizabeth (15). Louise is one half of the dynamic duo who provide hospitality through congregational meals.

Marian Stout – Marian is a Charlotte native and has been a member of Avondale for 18 years. She is married to Tom, and mother to Sarah Jane (15) and Lilly (8). Marian is the other half of the dynamic duo providing Sunday meals for Avondale.



Suzanne Baillie, Linda Haigh, Amanda Shanks and Harry Greyard (Lynn Wilkerson and Suzi Thornberry not pictured)

Returning Leaders 2015 - 2016

Communications Co-chairs:

Shea Barron – This Charlotte native attended Avondale with her mother, Sandy Brodof, for 20 years before joining with husband, Jay, and daughters, Sophia and Libby, 7 years ago.

Will Vick – Will has been a member of Avondale for 9 years. He is married to Jennifer and has 2 daughters, Abby and Cate.

Finance:

Mike Mitchell – Mike has been a member of Avondale for 23 years. He is married to Ginny and father to grown sons, Michael and Marcus.

Mission Co-chairs:

Janet Harrison – This Laurinburg native and Elder is the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister. She is married to Michael, and has 2 daughters, Emma and Evan Michael.

Chris Gardner – Chris joined Avondale in 2008 and works as a Media Specialist at Old Statesville Road Elementary School.

Personnel:

Kay Chelena – This Virginia native and Elder has been a member of Avondale for 18 years. She is married to Vince and mother to two teenagers, Sara and Vince.

Stewardship:

John Callaway – John has been a member of Avondale for 6 years and is married to Joy, and father to Alevia and John.

Outreach:

Nancy Bohrer – Nancy relocated to Charlotte to be closer to her grandchildren. She is mother to 3 grown sons and has been a member of Avondale for 2 years.

Personnel Ministry Team

Updates

As previously announced, Ginny Mitchell, Administrative Coordinator, will leave her position at year end to join her husband, Mike, in retirement. We are grateful for her five years of service to Avondale on staff. She will continue to worship with us and be involved in ministry as a member of the church.

Plan to join us for the December 20 UNITY Sunday service and the meal following, at which time we will celebrate Ginny Mitchell's years of service to Avondale and her upcoming retirement.



Caroline Starnes
**Administrative
Communications
Coordinator**

The Personnel Ministry Team is pleased to welcome Caroline Starnes to Avondale as the Administrative Communications Coordinator. Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Caroline grew up in Atlanta and has been in Charlotte since 2004. She worked with Charlotte Country Club for close to nine years in Communications and Human Resources management. She has also owned her own businesses, a specialty food company and a tourism magazine. In Atlanta, she worked in non-profit with AIDS education and services for those affected. In her free time, Caroline loves to cook, read, play tennis, volunteer, travel, and spend time with family and friends. Caroline is married to Mark Starnes of Monroe, North Carolina and they live in the Cotswold area. She looks forward to meeting the Avondale congregation at an upcoming worship service (details forthcoming).

Soon the Personnel Ministry Team hopes to announce a second new staff member to fill the Clerical Receptionist position.

Memorials

Lynn Robertson:	Edward McGuirt, Jr. Bertha & Edward McGuirt, Sr.
Diane Gunter:	Lisa & Rich Worf
Eldon Stout:	Kent Gardner Mary Ruth & Glenn Price Mickey Nash John & Lucile Westney Scott & Brenda Coble Pam Braswell Daisy & Robert Carr, III Barbara Witzel Linda Haigh Sigrid Sacra Lois Payne Vanguard S. S. Class Judy Davis Lisa & Rich Worf Barbara Hill Chancel Choir - Genesis Methodist Church Susan Hains Peggy Simpson Dennis & Susan Brandau Jake & Amy Barnhardt, Jr. Benson Family Foundation Shirley McDowell Ann Brookshire Thomas & Jane Olson Raymond & Eugenia Weeks Susan Harrington Todd & Patti Oswald Libby Thompson D. J. & Leslie Saleeby Peggy Gandy Stewart Farris Tommy & Pat Gribble Gisele Crawford Louise Chambers William Reinke Charlotte Metro Credit Union
Linda Willis:	Mickey Nash



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 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 December Birthdays:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|-------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Doris Flowers
Lilly Stout | 11 | Mac Drozd
Wilson Reed | 25 | Caroline White
Grace White |
| 2 | Jay Meier | 12 | Nell McRae | 27 | Robert Suydam |
| 3 | Jim Bowen
Evelyn Hautop | 13 | Caroline Reed | 28 | Alison Norris |
| 4 | Logan Harris
Walker Hipps
Steven Phillips | 14 | Miller Boyd | 29 | Christie Flowers
Greg McKenzie |
| 5 | David Finison | 16 | Meredith Smith | 30 | Trish Boyd
Chris Gardner
Lilly McDonald |
| 7 | Kathleen Shannon | 17 | Elizabeth Eyer
Wyatt Swart | | Abigail Smith
Chris Steude
Chris Swart |
| 8 | Brian Drozd
Margaret Thornberry | 18 | Mackenzie Earl
Shep Moore | | |
| 9 | Regina Love
Elizabeth Sloan | 19 | Sara Chelena | | |
| 10 | Kyle Bowen
Megan Hunter | 20 | Marimatha Matthews | 31 | Kemper Boyd
Polly Hollingworth |
| | | 21 | Jason Mathis | | |
| | | 22 | Natalie Thomas | | |
| | | 25 | Scott Coble | | |

December Anniversaries:

- 12 Harriete Thomas
Bill Loftin
Ted and Belinda Camp
- 16 Lynn and Chris Mathis
Jason and Elizabeth Hayes
- 18 David And Holly Thomson
Edna Hilton
- 21 Jim and Martha Rogers
- 27 John Earl and Nadja Sefcik-Earl
- 29 Karey and Brad Marren

November Retirement:

On Thursday, November 19, Ruby Cathey retired after 46 years as a Dental Hygienist. She worked in the dental office of Dr. John D. Kiser, and later Dr. Barrett G. Moore from March 3, 1973 until her retirement. Lots of brushing and flossing over the years! Congratulations, Ruby.

Deaths:

Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

Connie Stout and her children, Sarah Haw, Tom Stout, (Marian, Sarah Jane and Lilly Stout), Dan Stout and their families. Eldon Stout passed away on Friday, October 30, 2015 at Presbyterian Hospital.

Bill, Suzi, David, and Margaret Thornberry, and Elizabeth and Shep Moore. Bill's mother, Helen Elizabeth Burnside Thornberry passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 in Greensboro.

The family and friends of Linda Willis, a member of Avondale for 60 years. Linda passed away on Monday, November 16, 2015 at Presbyterian Hospital.

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



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Joys and Concerns

Ministry of Caring to Members of Our Church:

Alice Balfe, Anne Hamilton, Dot Burke, Edna Hilton, Eleanor Ramey, Eldon Stout, Evan Wood, Frances Robertson, the Gunter family, Ida Parnell, Jim Neely, Joanne Sahlie, Libby Phillips, Mike Cathey, Molly Carver, Rachel Darling, Sharon McGinn, Susan Harrington, and the Vestal Family

Ministry of Caring to Friends of Our Church Family:

Barbara Aylor (friend of Heather Hogston)
Bill Thornberry, Sr.
(father of Bill Thornberry)
Chuck Johnson (father of Marian Stout)
David Boyd (brother of Louise Lawson)
Fred Otten (father of Debi Medlin)
Gayle Hackney (sister of Suzanne Baillie)

Ministry of Caring to Friends of Our Church Family (cont.):

Hunter Stubbs (friend of Branden family)
Jeanne Deese (sister of Barbara Hill)
Larry Hensinger
(brother-in-law of Nadja Sefcik-Earl)
Lucille "Lucy" Parker Clawson
(grandmother of Lauren Hinkel)
Mary Cerena (sister-in-law of Barbara Witzel)
Mary Jo Alley (mother of Martha Branden)
Michael Morales (nephew of Debi Medlin)
Sean Nolan (son of Marilyn Nolan)
Mike Page (friend of Becky Chavaree)
Ron Schaffield (brother of Nancy Bohrer)
Sandy Black (cousin of Linda Haigh)
Susan Crocker McClure
(friend of Jane Summey Mullennix)