

## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Avondale Church Family,

Why Easter? This is a question I have been asking myself recently. Why Easter? I could say that this is the foundation of the Christian Faith; that Jesus died and was raised from the dead. That death did not hold him and He claimed victory over death. This would be true, but it does not answer why, it answers what? What did Jesus do? What makes Easter...well Easter? But it does not answer why? The reason why Jesus had to die and conquer death - that is the question. And the answer has everything to do with you and me - humankind.

Why Easter? Because we are sinful people and could not get right with God no matter what we did. There had to be a sacrificial lamb to take on the sins of the people, so that we might have a chance of right living. For years, our Jewish brothers and sisters offered sacrifices to God so that sins might be forgiven. And for years, people just kept on sinning, even unto the highest offices, kings, priests, noblemen and noblewomen. Sin pervaded every person, regardless of station or wealth. So after sending kings and prophets and priests to preach and teach, lead and guide, God finally said enough. I will go to the people I have created and I will sacrifice myself for their sins.

Why Easter? Because God desires so completely to be in relationship with us, because God loves so deeply those whom God created, because God will have nothing to do with sin, that God was willing to give God's life for us. God sacrificed God's life to wash us clean of sin so that we are able to enjoy life in the presence of the Holy forever. That is why Easter.

Now I ask you, why Easter? Why is God's sacrifice through Jesus important to you? Or more so, how are you living your life in thanksgiving and appreciation to God who saved you?

Everything that God accomplished was done so that we might be heirs to the King. He conquered death so that death could not hold us. That is what it means to have eternal life. We do not die, not really. We die to this life, but arise to eternal life. And we cannot get to life until we die. We cannot get to eternal life until we die to this

temporary life. We cannot live a spiritual life until we die to this carnal life. We have to give up something we value to gain all of what God values.

I struggle with this. Many of you do too if you are honest. But this is necessary in order to live the life God has laid before us. God provides a life filled with gratitude, love, peace and joy. But for many of us

who call ourselves Christian, we hold on tightly to our flesh driven lives. We like our creature comforts and value wealth and position more than we value that which God has for us. We put family before God, we put career before God, we put pleasure before God. Yet, God still puts us first. God put us before His family, His only Son.

And thankfully, Christ removed our sin from us so that we are no longer condemned by sin, but saved by faith.

I pray that we will all be moved to live more faithfully, more truthfully as children of Almighty God.

Why Easter? Because God wants to be in relationship with you. Because God loves YOU! Because God loves. Because God.

In Christ, Rev. Veronica Cannon



Why Easter?  
Why is  
God's sacrifice  
through Jesus  
important  
to you?

**ABC Tailgate & Knights Game**  
**Get your tickets by April 3!**  
[avondalepresbychurch.org/knightsgame](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/knightsgame)

AVONDALE & BETHLEHEM CENTER

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**AVONDALE  
 TAILGATE PICNIC &  
 KNIGHTS GAME**

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SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018  
 RSVP REQUESTED  
 PURCHASE TICKETS. SEATS LIMITED!

## Financial Information

2/28/2018	2018 Budget	2018 Actual YTD
Contributions	\$527,000	127,349
Rental/Other Income	27,000	1,168
Children's Ctr. Reimbursement	27,500	4,583
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	30,200	300
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$611,700</b>	<b>\$133,400</b>
Personnel	379,036	62,097
Property	132,990	26,716
Office Supplies/Technology/ Communications	22,263	3,525
Mission Gathering Group	42,660	114
Discipleship Gathering Group	32,500	4,073
Worship Gathering Group	10,060	847
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	16,900	1,180
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$636,409</b>	<b>\$98,552</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$24,709)</b>	<b>\$34,848</b>

### Bank Draft

You can put your pledge on bank draft! Like you may do with your utilities or other reoccurring expenses, you can do the same with Avondale. There are two methods to setup a bank draft: 1) members can have their bank draft and send a check to the Church or 2) complete a Church Draft

Form allowing the Church to draft quarterly, monthly, or weekly as you indicate. This is preferred for us. Keep in mind you can discontinue at any time. The auto-draft really helps Avondale budget with these "guaranteed" monthly receipts. Find a [Bank Draft Form](#) online.

[avondalepresbychurch.org/donate](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/donate)

## Joys & Concerns

### Members:

Pam Braswell; Molly Carver; Rachel Darling; Rose Graham; Sue Haag; Delia and Bordie McCloskey; Debi Medlin; Martha Meunier; Betty Parrish; Ann and Ryan Patterson; David and Libby Phillips; Martha Rogers; Marsha Rose; Eric, Amanda and Taylor Shanks; and Peggy Simpson.

### Family and Friends:

Donna Allen; Caitlen Ainsworth; Blottman Family; Cynthia Campbell; Jeanne Engleby; Stuart Jernigan; Bill Thomas; and Tor Smith.

God of Mercy,  
Touch our deepest  
pain and free us  
from its grasp.  
Be a balm of  
love and fill us with  
your peace.  
Amen.

## HANDS & HEARTS

### Worship Setup

Sign-up on Sundays

### Member Care

Contact [Millie Norris](#) or [Rena Beall](#)

### Nursery or Sunday School

Contact [Dee Dee McDonald](#) or [Julie Caldwell](#)

### Serve on a Ministry Team

Contact [Rev. Veronica](#)

### ABC Ministry Volunteer

[ABC webpage](#)

### Redesign of ABC Teen Center

Call Covert Suydam mobile: 704-293-9924

### Avondale Sign Message on Park Road

[Details & Sign-up](#)

**NEW VIDEO! "How to Change our Avondale Sign"**

[www.avondalepresbychurch.org/handsandhearts](http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org/handsandhearts)

## RECENT COMMUNICATIONS

### Jan - Feb Newsletter

<https://tinyurl.com/AvonNewsJan2018>

### 2017 Annual Report

<https://tinyurl.com/AvonAnnualReport2017>

### Letter to Congregation re: Sacred Space

<https://tinyurl.com/AvonSacredSpace>

### Letter from Rev. Christopher Lee

<http://conta.cc/2sJobul>

### Avondale's 2018 Leadership

<https://tinyurl.com/AvondaleLeaders18>

### Next of Kin / Emergency Contact Form

<https://tinyurl.com/AvonNextOfKin>

### Member Directory Updated!

Password: member

[www.avondalepresbychurch.org](http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org)

### Bank Draft Form

[www.avondalepresbychurch.org/donate](http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org/donate)



## Birthdays in April

- |                      |                    |                           |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Brooks Mitchell    | 8 Chris Rolfe      | 17 Tiz Benson             |
| 2 David Thomson      | Jay Barron         | 18 Amanda Norris          |
| Kevin Watson         | 9 Leni Patterson   | GiGi Gibbs                |
| Sam Watson           | 10 Jamie Saleeby   | 22 Katherine Baloga       |
| 3 Lamar Hardegree    | 11 Bill Town       | Matthew Mitchell          |
| 4 Carley Yount       | Nic Presson        | Ruby Cathey               |
| Katelyn Yount        | Sharon McCarthy    | 23 Mary Katherine Darnell |
| Natalie Benson       | 12 Carter Hipps    | 24 Martha Hayes           |
| Zack Benson          | Graham McNeil      | Nathan Thomas             |
| 5 Eli Oswald         | 13 Karen Shannon   | 25 Abbie Vick             |
| 6 Fletcher Saleeby   | 15 Addison Harris  | 27 Leslie Thomas          |
| Pat Banks            | Chuck Hendrix      | Max Shanks                |
| Renee Miller         | Marc Chavaree      | Tinsley Lawson            |
| 7 Bruce Vestal       | Steve Passaly      | 29 Celeste Longshore      |
| Carey Cavanaugh      | 16 Caroline White  | Eric Hayes                |
| Sarah Cameron Wilson | Suzanne Baillie    | Katherine Annas           |
| Wendy Campbell       | Wesley Flowers     | Suzi Thornberry           |
| 8 Alan Wray          | 17 Rachel Matthews | 30 Chip Reed              |

## Wedding Anniversaries in April

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12 Scott and Brenda Coble 1968      | 20 Bob and Bonnie Howard 1996   |
| 13 David and Vicki Smith 2002       | 21 Wesley and Cheryl Yount 2001 |
| 18 John and Elizabeth Eyer 2005     | 29 Rena and Jim Beall 2017      |
| Elizabeth Thornberry 2014           | 30 Francis McNair 1960          |
| 19 Tom and Marian Stout 1997        | Lora and Caleb Toney 2016       |
| Michael and Marimatha Matthews 2003 |                                 |

## Member & Staff News

**New Members:** The Emory family, Bryan David, Jennilyn Schuster, and Griffin Reid Emory were received on January 28, 2018.

**Elder:** Zach Chambers was elected as Elder to serve on the Session for the term 2018 - 2020. He will be our 9th Elder, completing the 2020 Term of Elders.

**Church Triumphant:** We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of our member, [Anne Hamilton](#), who passed away on February 19 (1928 - 2018). A graveside service was held on February 23, 2018.

**Church Triumphant:** We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Carl McDonald for the loss of both his grandparents, Julius and Louella Inman, of Georgetown, SC, recently.

**Baptism:** Baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, was Griffin Reid Emory, son of Bryan and Jennilyn Emory, on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

**Baptism:** Baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, is Sage Frost Wright, daughter of Aaron and Carolyn Wright, on Sunday, March 11.

**Birth:** We welcome into the world, Hudson James Flowers, born February 12, 2018 at 7 lbs. 10 oz. The proud parents are Andrew and Kim Flowers and doting grandparents are Christie and Jimmy Flowers.



Hudson James Flowers



## Birthdays in May

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Clay Parler<br>Marin Blake<br>Mary Alice Bryson<br>Reese Hautop<br>Zackery McKenzie  | <b>9</b> Davis Hautop<br>Hanna Whitesides  | <b>21</b> Paula Huffines   |
| <b>2</b> Joe Moss   | <b>10</b> Anderson Cohen<br>Veronica Cannon  | <b>22</b> Connor Gibbs<br>Harry Whitesides<br>Terry Brodof                       |
| <b>3</b> Audrey Dougherty<br>Libby Phillips   | <b>11</b> Kay DeArmon  | <b>23</b> Bob Watson<br>Jack Hunter<br>Julie Caldwell                            |
| <b>4</b> Paige Hamilton   | <b>12</b> Edith Gardner  | <b>25</b> David T.A. Mitchell<br>Peyton Burgh<br>Sophie Barron                   |
| <b>5</b> Brandy Lee<br>Corey Shanks<br>Roberta Hayes  | <b>13</b> Jim Buchanan<br>Tommy Wray   | <b>27</b> Lucian Hayes   |
| <b>6</b> Jack Hogston<br>Jason Hayes<br>John Callaway<br>Joshua Wardlaw<br>Vince Chelena, III | <b>14</b> Laura Daniel<br>Meredith Rogers<br>Ronnie Holm   | <b>28</b> Emily Martin   |
| <b>7</b> Doughton Horton<br>Karen Annas<br>Susan Brandau                                      | <b>15</b> Ben Meier<br>Lora Toney  | <b>29</b> Betty Chambers<br>Drew Pavlin<br>Eleanor Ramey                         |
| <b>9</b> Andrew Pavlin<br>Daisy Alexander   | <b>16</b> Jackie Shannon<br><b>17</b> Mike Mitchell<br><b>18</b> Evie Wray<br><b>19</b> Lucas Ferguson | <b>30</b> Betty Boyd<br>Chip Burke<br>Jozsef Eyer<br>Molly Carver<br>Rick Parler |
|   | <b>20</b> Chris Mathis<br>Nancy Buchanan   | <b>31</b> Roseanne Thomas  |
|   | <b>21</b> Carl McDonald<br>David Hall  |  |

## Wedding Anniversaries in May

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Wesley and Caroline Flowers 2015                       | <b>18</b> Bill and Suzi Thornberry 1985  |
| <b>6</b> Edwin and Katherine Anderson 2000                      | <b>19</b> Millie Norris 1979<br>Andrew and Deidrea Pavlin 2007                           |
| <b>8</b> Douglas and Vickie Hautop 2004                         | <b>20</b> Bordie and Delia McCloskey 1972  |
| <b>11</b> Sabine Schwieman 1979<br>Mike and Ginny Mitchell 1985 | <b>30</b> David and Mary Hall 1987<br>Chris and Katie Swart 2013<br>Meredith Rogers 2010 |
| <b>12</b> Greg and Cindy McKenzie 1984                          |  |
| <b>14</b> Floyd and Doris McClung 1958                          |  |
| <b>15</b> Brian and Stephanie Tomey 1993                        |  |

### Member & Staff News cont.

**Joyful News:** Adam and Tracy Love have been approved to serve as Elders in Full Connection in The United Methodist Church. Their ordination service will be on June 23, 2018 during the annual conference at Lake Junaluska. In the formative years of his faith journey, Adam was baptized and confirmed at Avondale. Connie and Michael Love are their very proud parents.

**Rev. Christopher Lee** has accepted a call from Canyon Creek Presbyterian in Dallas, Texas to serve as Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Play. Rev. Lee indicated that he would like to dissolve his pastoral relationship on May 31, 2018. On behalf of the Personnel Ministry team,



it was shared that an Associate Pastor will not be called until a Senior Pastor is in place.

**Rich Stanley's** Avondale anniversary hits 5 years on April 1. We are grateful for the joyous music.

**Renita Fowler** has the new job title of Financial Coordinator.

**Sande Darby** has the new job title of Office & Property Coordinator

**Cynthia Campbell**, kitchen assistant for the Children's Center, had knee surgery on March 12. She'll be out approximately 6 weeks. Naomi Knox, a friend of Chef Ashley, will fill-in. (An ACC parent recently put a sidewalk in to assist Cynthia!)

AVONDALE &  
BETHLEHEM CENTER

AVONDALE  
TAILGATE PICNIC &  
KNIGHTS GAME 

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018  
RSVP REQUESTED  
PURCHASE TICKETS. SEATS LIMITED!



## Avondale Tailgate Picnic & Knights Game Info & Tickets



**Knights Tickets \$10**

**Purchase by April 3!**

Purchase online at 

[www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org/knightsgame](http://www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org/knightsgame)

1. Register Online

2. Pay Now



**Register for the Game**

[Register online](#) then return to this page to Pay via PayPal.

**Pay Now**

to finalize your ticket reservations  
**Please purchase by April 3!**

**Payment**

1 ticket \$10.00 USD ▼

Name

**Pay Now**

VISA   

## The Church at Work

### Basketball Ministry End-Of-Season Update

This was a season of peaks and valleys. Peaks were major improvements with kids improving their fundamentals and their spiritual maturity. We had a few teams win championships and saw teams greatly improve from last season. We saw kids picking themselves up when things got tough. Lack of sportsmanship from other teams was our valley. We continue to work through that without compromising our standards. God's grace prevailed. Kids and coaches learned so much! We had 15 teams with approximately 125 kids participating.

Instead of honoring our kids through a banquet, we wanted to teach our kids the importance of giving back and showing appreciation. We ended the season with a community service event. We had a great turnout of players, parents and coaches participating in service at Samaritan's Feet. Zachary "Ziggy" Barjona, our coordinator, kicked-off the event with a prayer and story about a past assistant coach who regularly shared scripture with her nephew whenever he had challenges. Her nephew is Stephen Curry. Next year, our Playbook for Life Basketball Ministry intends to hold the service project on the bye week to bring more unity and share the message earlier in the season.

### Bridge Team Update

Thank you for your generous contributions to South Tryon United Methodist Church's (STUMC) homeless shelter. Your contributions filled 3 cars and supplied dinners and snacks for 4 evenings. You donated at least 15 sets of sheets, blankets and towels. The shelter has closed for the year due to the warmer temperatures but our friends at South Tryon send their heartfelt thanks for Avondale's continued support.

On February 24, Avondale partnered with STUMC to host a blood drive and community health fair. Community Blood Drive of the Carolinas was on site at South Tryon to receive blood. Nurses were available to check blood pressure and screen for high blood sugar.

The Bridge Team continues to meet monthly. Our last meeting included members of Avondale, members from STUMC, past president and current president of the metro region of United Methodist Women and members of The Bethlehem Center, including COO Jared Keaton. One of the main goals of the Bridge Team is to revitalize the empty Bethlehem Center building on Baltimore Avenue. The team met on February 26 for a dinner and discussion around ways to leverage the empty building. The group agrees that the Bethlehem Center building should serve and "empower" the neighborhoods surrounding it. Electrical improvements and paint are necessary to make the building functional. Once renovations are complete, the building could house a clothing closet, food pantry, computer resource center and after school classroom space. Next month, we will focus on the scope of the project and the costs involved. If you would like to learn more or become involved building bridges to the Southside Homes and Brookhill neighborhoods, please contact Ann Patterson or Greg McKenzie.

### Avondale Children's Center

Congratulations are in order for Avondale Children's Center, which recently received a five-star child care center rating, the highest rating awarded in North Carolina! Every child care center in North Carolina goes through a star rating assessment every three years. The one- to five-star rating systems was created



Ziggy Baronja with referees



Pinecones are needed for a bird feeder project with the 3 year olds of the Children's Center. Call Brenda Coble or the office if you can contribute some.

## The Church at Work

### Children's Center cont.

by the N.C. Division of Child Development & Early Education to evaluate child care centers on components of quality, staff education and program standards. A one-star rating means the program meets North Carolina's minimum child care requirements. A five-star rating means the program meets the voluntary enhanced standards required for the highest star level.

The staff at Avondale Children's Center have spent the past several months preparing for its assessment visits, which occurred in March. On two different days, assessors spent several hours observing classroom interactions, activities and materials. In addition, assessors interviewed the lead teachers in those classrooms selected for observation. According to Director Jessica McQuillen, the staff was well prepared for the assessments thanks to their hard work.

Avondale Children's Center's five-star rating indicates that the Center provides children with a wide range of enriching experiences that are vital for growth and development.



Avondale's Giving Garden Invites the community in



### Giving Garden

Friendship Gardens recognized Avondale again for being part of the 2017 "100+ Pound Club"! Sharing our abundance of 507 lbs of fresh produce enhanced meals that Friendship Trays delivers to the elderly and infirm in our community. Recently, we welcomed 17 gardeners to our campus including Avondale members and community partners as we prepared our Community Giving Garden for spring planting. This year we hope to create a place for all to relax and reflect with the addition of a table and benches down by the garden. Please contact Robert Suydam or Cindy McKenzie with interest or questions.

and benches down by the garden. Please contact Robert Suydam or Cindy McKenzie with interest or questions.

## YOUTH & CHILDREN

### Youth Winter Retreat

Our theme was "Amazing Grace". Small group time was centered on seniors sharing their stories of faith and how God's grace has been present with them over the years.

### Youth Confirmands & Mentors

We have a Confirmation Class of seven youth and mentors going on now. The confirmands will be examined at the Session meeting on April 8.

### Camp Grier Sustaining Congregation

Camp Grier is an outdoor ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to making outdoor experiences and the gift of the natural world available to all. Avondale is a Camp Grier "sustaining congregation", which means that each of our children/youth and their friends will receive a \$100 discount for camp this summer. Use code 272018 when registering. [www.campgrier.org](http://www.campgrier.org)



### Youth Dates

- May 6** - Youth Sunday
- June 3** - Youth Year-End Cookout
- June 17-23** - Combined Mission Trip (Middle/High school)
- July 10-13** - Massanetta Middle School Conference
- July 22-28** - Montreat Senior High Conference

A **Children's Sunday School** class moved. Our pre-K to 3 class is now in the Children's Sunday School wing.

**Avondale Adventures** program continues with over 25 children participating and digging in to "The Bible In One Year" program.

A "**Faith and Sexuality**" Workshop was recently offered for 5th and 6th graders.

Our **Vacation Bible School** needs a leader. If you are interested to learn about this, contact Tony McKenzie, Christian Nurture leader, at [tony.mckenzie1117@gmail.com](mailto:tony.mckenzie1117@gmail.com) or 704-641-9264.

# The Church at Work

## Haiti Ministry Update

The Haiti mission team presented an update to the congregation on Sunday, March 18, 2018. GoJourney Church in Florida has taken over funding the meal ministry for the elderly in Milot and we are turning our focus to financial assistance to build a mission house there. Ultimately this building will house up to 30 people who travel to Milot for various mission projects. There are already community connections for visiting medical missionaries and other groups. The mission house is the vision of our local partners. It will employ local labor for construction and ongoing operation, and income generated will fund the meal ministry and other needs. We believe the house will serve for generations for the community of Milot and for Avondalers.

We shared photos of the architectural concept and a video of construction progress so far. Haitian culture is to build whatever is practical as funds become available rather than waiting for an entire project to be funded, so the first floor exterior and interior walls are in place. Final preparation and pouring of the ceiling slab is estimated to cost about \$20,000 and the Avondale mission team has taken on funding this vital line item. Once the ceiling slab is poured, the first floor can be completed to begin housing visitors. Our Milot friends will complete the second floor as funds continue to come in.

Mission has approximately half the funds already in hand and plans to raise the remainder through the Lenten offerings, one other special offering in the coming months, and one or two additional fundraisers (probably off-campus). All individual donations are welcome too.

Mission is creating a confidential travel scholarship fund to assist any Avondaler who wants to travel to Haiti so that there are no financial barriers. We believe that our partnership with our Milot friends offers life transformation and is God leading us. We appreciate so much the support of the congregation in this ministry thus far and invite you to join us as the journey continues.

For more information about our Haiti ministry, visit Avondale's website. Read about the history of our ministry in Milot, Haiti, and stay tuned for updates on the mission house: [avondalepresbychurch.org/f2fspirit](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/f2fspirit) or [avondalepresbychurch.org/f2fupdates](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/f2fupdates)

## PWA Ministry is Souper

On February 21, the Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA) treated teachers and staff of Sedgewood Middle School to a "Souper Luncheon For Super Teachers". Many Thanks to Lyn Sweet, Nancy Bohrer, Nell McRae, Leslie Saleeby, Billie Coates, Brenda Coble, Cindy McKenzie, Sigrid Sacra and Mary Alice Bryson for making crockpots of delicious soup. One of the missions of PWA is showing appreciation for the hard work done daily by the staff of Sedgewood Middle.

## Property Update

- Had a workday on March 24, preparing our campus for Holy Week and Easter. Our Fall Work Day will be September 8.
- ACC parent placed a concrete walkway at FLC kitchen back door.
- Men's Room ceiling repaired in Sanctuary building (confirmed no asbestos).
- New vanity sink was installed in the Aitken room to accommodate Joyful Noise ministry.





## The Church at Work

- New ice machine was installed in the FLC kitchen.
- New range was installed in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.
- Microwave was replaced in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

More work on campus is in progress.

### Women's Retreat

Avondale women gathered in Montreat recently for a wonderful retreat on "Navigating Through Change with GRACE". Our leaders were Jessica Patchett, of Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Veronica Cannon, who led morning worship. The retreat mission was "Purses with a Purpose". Purses were collected, stocked with essential and glam items, and then given to Safe Alliance, a non-profit assisting victims of domestic violence.

### Worship Breakfast

The Worship Committee thanked Avondale members who help make Sunday mornings meaningful. More than 60 members volunteer to setup for worship, sing in the choirs, play instruments, ring bells, read scripture, hand out bulletins, project images, and in general have smiling faces on Sunday mornings to help us all worship God. The committee offered breakfast to those volunteers on March 18.

### Congregational Meeting

A Called Meeting of the Congregation was approved by consensus for April 8, 2018 prior to the worship service to act on Rev. Chris Lee's request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with Avondale on May 31, 2018.

### Town Hall Meetings

We will be hosting four town hall meetings at Avondale for the purpose of sharing a tentative timeline for Rev. Veronica's time with Avondale as well as a tentative timeline for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) once it is in place. We desire for every one to walk away fully informed about the ministry and mission of Avondale. Dates: April 15, April 25, May 16, and June 3. Find more details online: [avondalepresbychurch.org](http://avondalepresbychurch.org) (See Events & News)



### Avondale Retreat '18

Save the date for our  
Congregational Retreat!  
October 12-14  
Blue Ridge Assembly  
Black Mountain, NC



## ABC Ministry Update

The Avondale Bethlehem Center (ABC) Ministry was formed in 2017 – the result of three years of spirit-guided work done by the Session, the Dream Team and the Implementation Team.

### The Vision

As a reminder, leadership established a clear vision to connect with the Southside/Brookhill neighborhood, build bridges to our neighbors in these communities, and work toward fulfilling our strategic objectives. These objectives include serving our neighbors and knowing them personally, preparing the hearts of children and families to abide in Christ, and reducing economic inequities by breaking down barriers to education. This vision culminated in a partnership agreement between Avondale and the Bethlehem Center (BC) of Charlotte.

Bethlehem Center Out of School Time and Summer Camp Enrichment Program:

School Year: M – F 2:00 - 6:30 PM;  
Summer Camp: M – F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The Out of School Time program is in full swing in Avondale's Family Life Center. We currently host 8 to 10 students, and we project this number will increase to 18 middle-schoolers and teens when the Out of School Time program transitions to Summer Camp in June. The program features educational projects, tutoring, homework help, field trips and college tours for the youth enrolled.

### Getting to Know Our Neighbors through Shared Activities and Volunteering

You may have participated in last year's Knights game and Tailgate lunch, Fall Festival, or the ABC Angel Tree and Christmas party. At all of these events we gathered with our BC friends to celebrate special seasons and growing relationships.

The Avondale Basketball program also

expanded its reach this season to include more BC children, youth, and coaches.

We recently hosted several classes of BC elementary school children on our campus, while their classrooms at Southside Recreational Center were being renovated.

Avondalers have enjoyed opportunities to volunteer as mentors to Teen Center youth, accompanying youth and adults on field trips, serving and enjoying dinner and games with youth during Kids Café birthday celebrations, assembling holiday Blessing Baskets, and helping with administrative work.

### Moving Forward

We will have another opportunity to join with our BC friends on April 29, 2018 – again to attend a Knights game after a Tailgate lunch of hot dogs and fixins! Thanks to Congregational Life for this great event! (Purchase your baseball tickets soon - and by April 3!)

Upcoming opportunities include:

- \* a vision to redesign the Teen Center space from Classroom to Coffee House style;
- \* the possibility of hosting a BC classroom of 15 elementary school children at Avondale, perhaps in 2019; and
- \* establishing connections with the Avondale Children's Center during the Summer Camp program, with BC teens helping children at the Avondale Children's Center with summer craft projects and games.

### Consider Becoming a Volunteer

ABC Volunteer information is on the Avondale website and volunteer applications are available during worship and on the website. You can get involved with mentoring, helping with homework, sharing special skills, helping with events, chaperoning field trips and many other opportunities now and during the upcoming summer camp program.

## ABC Ministry Team

Ask any member for more information: Ann Sanders, Robert Suydam, Covert Suydam, Carl McDonald, Kay Chelena, Linda Haigh, Rev. Chris Lee, Patti Oswald, Georgett Johnson (BC Program Director), Donnell Washington (BC Teen Center Coordinator).

### ABC Out of School Time Enrichment Program

#### Spring Break

The program will go to full-days over CMS Spring Break. The theme is college-related with visits to local colleges, a guest speaker, and more.

#### Summer Camp

**June 8** - ABC After School Enrichment program ends (in FLC)

**before June 18** - Teen Program moves to Fellowship Hall for summer

**June 18** - ABC Teen Summer Camp begins (in Fellowship Hall)

**August 10** - ABC Teen Summer Camp program ends

**August 11** – ABC Summer Program End of the Year Celebration



### Get Involved with ABC

Help with Homework  
Mentor  
Share Special Skills  
Help with Events  
Chaperone Field Trips  
and many other opportunities  
*now and during the  
summer camp program*

[avondalepresbychurch.org/  
abcministry](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/abcministry)



**Avondale Presbyterian Church**  
**2821 Park Road**  
**Charlotte, NC 28209**

**Newsletter Publishing Schedule**

*Avondale Avenues* is published every other month on the last Tuesday of the month. Content deadline for the next newsletter is a week prior to publication. Send submissions to [caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org](mailto:caroline@avondalepresbychurch.org).

**Worship at Avondale**

**Holy Week Worship Services**

**Palm Sunday**

March 25 / Easter Egg Hunt

**Maundy Thursday**

March 29 / 7 PM in the Sanctuary

**Good Friday**

March 30 / 7 PM in the Sanctuary

**Great Vigil of Easter**

March 31 / 7 PM in the Sanctuary

**Easter**

April 1 / 6:30 AM in the Sacred Garden  
 and 9:30 AM in the FLC\*

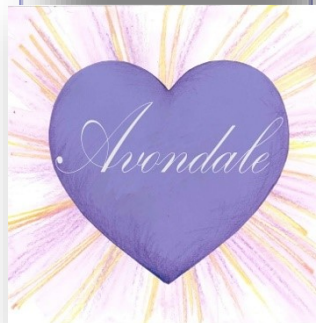
\*We will be Flowering the Cross. We invite you to bring flowers from home.

**Youth Sunday**

May 6 / Youth Confirmation

**Pentecost**

May 20 / Celebrate Children



**Select Avondale Dates**

**Church Office Closed**

April 2

**Knights Tickets Deadline\***

April 3

**Bunco Night**

April 6

**Congregational Meeting**

April 8 @ 9:30 AM

**Town Hall Meetings begin**

April 15, April 25, May 16, & June 3

**ABC Tailgate Picnic & Knights Game**

April 29

**Presbyterian Women of**

**Avondale Luncheon**

June 3

**Congregational Retreat**

October 12-14

**\*Knights Tickets**

[avondalepresbychurch.org/knightsgame](http://avondalepresbychurch.org/knightsgame)

**\*Town Hall Meetings**

[avondalepresbychurch.org](http://avondalepresbychurch.org)

Read our newsletter online: [www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org](http://www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org)