

## Letter from the Pastor

*"God moving and creating something new in our midst...  
next steps in building bridges with our neighbors"*

Dear Avondalers,

In a changing world, you and I may wonder what remains constant? Those new to worshipping at Avondale have little knowledge or understanding of a heritage and history embedded in this faith community since 1944. Our DNA and core values define who we are. We are a faith community where people matter, family is first, we welcome questions of faith and it is our desire to respond to local and global needs. Turn the wheel on a kaleidoscope a thousand times and these values will remain who we are.

I have been deeply encouraged, within the midst of ongoing change, to see the value of God moving and creating something new in our midst. Whatever the direction, there is noble work yet to be done. Whatever our age, or our own assessment of our ability/inability to do anything, your response as a congregation is encouraging. Your pledges for 2017 are coming into the office. They are neces-

sary for ministry to occur. In the light of significant worship changes, worship attendance is strong and we are worshipping God to the best of our God-given talents. Members are asking 'What next?' as you anxiously await details and greater clarity to new mission and ministry.



**...respond to  
local and global  
needs....**

At the most recent meeting of the College of Elders, we shared the directives from the Session to the Implementation Team. This team is now meeting regularly - so also is the Prayer Team - taking the ideas from the Dream Team and defining a missional focus to the Bethlehem Center, Southside homes and Brookhill Village.

Make it a high priority to attend the Called Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, November 20 at 11:00 AM to hear a report and details on next steps in building bridges with our

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## Growing in Stewardship

### Stewardship in Finance and Mission 2017 Pledge to Avondale

As a congregation we are called to embrace opportunities of service that are a witness to Jesus Christ beyond our walls. As a congregation we are called to gather as God's people to glorify God at Table, font, and in daily life.

Avondale's 2017 proposed budget and program is shared online at <http://tinyurl.com/APC2017Pledge>. Your personal copy of this document - that you picked-up at Worship Service or was mailed to you - has a Pledge Card enclosed. Thank you to all who presented their 2017 Pledge Card during the Dedication Sunday Service or have turned into the church office. If you were unable to attend, please mail or drop off your 2017 Pledge Card to the church office this week. Additional Pledge Cards available online here <http://tinyurl.com/APC2017PledgeForms>.

During October, we are all afforded an opportunity to make an Annual Pledge to support the work of Avondale, and more importantly help grow the kingdom. Please send your 2017 Pledge Card to Avondale's church office if you haven't done so already.

***Please consider making Avondale your top giving priority.***

## Letter from Pastor cont.

neighbors. Many of you ask "What next and how can I become involved?" This meeting will share the information for which you have been waiting. Pray that when leadership shares the next definitive steps, you are spiritually open to grow and ready to participate.

**"What next?"**  
**"How can I get involved?"**

The months past have been nothing less than Avondale being schooled in applying the Gospel to daily life. All of us, including leadership, have been challenged and often our personal preferences have been set aside to ask what is best for the larger Kingdom of God. I believe deeply that what we learn and how we grow will be lessons on God and learnings in theology for future generations.

These things remain...we shall apply the grace of Almighty God in a manner that love and service will become visible. While often uncertain of the next specific step (still being defined), I am confident that God has blessed us to be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ, *John B. Earl*



### Daylight Saving Time

ends on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 AM. Turn your clocks back one hour to 1 AM. Many people change their clocks Saturday night, before they go to bed so the time is correct upon waking Sunday! DST is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## Join in for these important gatherings!

**Sunday, November 6**

**Congregational Meal at 12 Noon**

**"Rejoice! God Loves A Cheerful Giver Lunch"**

A meal of fellowship, fun, and faith. Members will celebrate giving to others and welcome the opportunity to respond to what God is calling us to become.

**Sunday, November 20**

**Congregational Meeting at 11 AM**

***All Congregational Called to Hear Next Steps in Building Bridges***

This meeting will share the information for which you have been waiting - "What next?" "How can I get involved?" Come hear our vision for moving forward and a detailed report on next steps in building bridges with our neighbors.

## Financial Update (9 months ending September 30)

	YTD 2015 Actual	YTD 2016 Budget	YTD 2016 Actual
Pledges/Contributions	\$382,038	\$349,321	\$345,932
All Other Income	44,528	47,456	41,985
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$426,566</b>	<b>\$396,777</b>	<b>\$387,917</b>
Administrative Expenses*	\$453,432	\$416,451	\$398,979
Ministry Related Expenses	78,356	83,601	\$64,159
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$531,788</b>	<b>\$500,052</b>	<b>\$463,138</b>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<b>(\$105,522)</b>	<b>(\$103,276)</b>	<b>(\$75,221)</b>

\*Administrative Expenses are Personnel, Property, Office, and Technology & Communication.

FUND BALANCES	September 30, 2015	September 30, 2016
Endowment*	\$506,690	\$739,668
Facilities Fund	\$40,032	\$53,048
Columbarium Fund	\$34,327	\$52,717

\* Includes \$59,285 in restricted accounts @ September 30, 2016.

## Avondale News

### 2017 Stewardship Pledge Update

The Ministry Team expresses gratitude for your participation in Dedication Sunday on October 16. As of Monday, October 23, 105 pledges totaling \$379,795 have been received. We are 61% towards our goal of a balanced budget. Additional pledge cards are available at Worship, in the office, and at <http://tinyurl.com/APC2017PledgeForms>.

### Unity Service on Wednesday, November 9

A Unity Service for Our Nation will be held on the day following our local and national elections. Come to Avondale on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 12 PM for a 30-40 minute worship and prayer service. All welcome.

### 4th Annual Bake Sale

**December 10 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Sale will be in our FLC Café. Open to all.**

Come one, come all and find fresh baked, delicious goodies! This is the fourth annual Bake Sale produced and hosted by The Presbyterian Women of Avondale.

### Youth Holiday Greenery Sale Going on Now!

The holidays are right around the corner and we will be decking the halls once again. The youth are selling holiday greenery and poinsettias. The products are high quality, lush and will make a beautiful addition to your holiday décor. Please place your order by November 6 for Greenery orders and by November 13 for Poinsettia orders. Order pick-ups will be Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4.

A link to the [order forms](#) on our Avondale website is: [www.avondalepresbychurch.org](http://www.avondalepresbychurch.org). We will also have a display table setup on Sundays prior to and following worship. We invite members to place an order then. This sale is open to the public and your friends, neighbors and family are invited to place an order.

### Youth Fall Mission Day

**Sunday, October 30 Lunch at 11:00 AM**

**Leave for a Day of Service Work at 12:00 PM**

The 'mission team' within Youth have decided that the fall mission opportunity will be visiting shut-in members and helping with any needs they may have in their yard. We plan to do this on Sunday, October 30. We will be breaking into small groups of 3-4 youth for these member visits.

RSVP your participation to [Jessica Shanks](#). Adult volunteers are needed also.

### 2017 Youth Mission Trip

Save June 11-17, 2017 on your calendar. Youth will head to Charleston, SC for the 2017 Youth Mission Trip staying at the James Island Presbyterian Mission House.

### Bibles for Third Graders

On October 9, personalized Bibles were presented to these third graders as a gift from God: Elizabeth Barron; Anna Blake; Keagan Cavanaugh; Reese Hautop; Ellory Norman; Allye Powell; Lilly Stout; Bruce Vestal; and Abbie Vick.



### Basketball Ministry League 2016-2017 Season

**Starting Soon in Our Family Life Center**

You'll see Zachary Barjona, aka Ziggy, our Basketball Program Coordinator around campus soon. Please say "hello!"

#### **Basketball Practices**

Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays

5:00 - 9:00 PM

Nov. 1 to March 1, 2017

#### **Basketball Games**

Saturdays

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Dec. 4 - 18 AND Jan. 7 to Feb. 26, 2017

#### **Christmas Basketball Camp**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

December 22-24, 2016

### Gifts of Service

#### **- Sedgefield M.S. Reading Buddies Needed**

Please contact Robert Rogers at [rogersrobt@hotmail.com](mailto:rogersrobt@hotmail.com).

#### **- Baked Goods for Bake Sale Needed**

Please contact Lyn Sweet (704-553-2728) or Brenda Coble (704-525-0787) to sign-up.

#### **- Avondale Sign Changers Needed**

Kids can help too! Sign-up for two weeks or two months, by contacting Robert Rogers at [rogersrobt@hotmail.com](mailto:rogersrobt@hotmail.com).

## Avondale Pictures

To see more 2016 Congregational Retreat photos, visit <http://tinyurl.com/APCCongRetreat2016PICTURES>





## Key Life Dates Shared

We would like to celebrate key dates in the lives of the membership. If your special day(s) is not shown or is incorrect, please contact the [Church Office](#) with the information.

## November Birthdays

1	Anna Blake	8	Michael Harrison	17	Tom Stout
	Hunter Presson		Ryan Patterson	19	Andrew Hall
2	Charlie Shumate	9	Janet Harrison	20	Lamar Gunter
4	Eleanor Sloan	10	Wesley Hayes	21	Jennifer Vick
	Vince Chelena, IV	11	Cole Hickman		Joe Pease
5	Matthew Hogston	13	Betty Myers	22	Rachel Darling
6	Bill Halsey		Mahlon Thomas	27	David Mitchell
	Lisa Worf		Mary Hall	28	Hadlea Presson
	Marge Hardegree	15	Anders Gustafson		Sue Gibbs
7	Erin Lee		Connor Hipps	29	Barbara Darling
8	Beth Suydam	16	Matt Comstock		Jenny Mitchell
	Dawn Parrish		Tina Wilson		Viola Clontz
	Emma Ely	17	Jim Rogers	30	Arthur Baum

## November Anniversaries

4 Carl and DeeDee McDonald 2000  
8 George and Suzanne Baillie 1997  
15 Alice Fitchett and Chris Cuviello  
17 Tony and Donna McKenzie 1990  
29 Viola Clontz 1944

## Memorials

### In memory of: Bill Loftin

Given by: Paula Huffines  
Stewart Farris  
Eleanor Ramey  
Dottie Sitton  
Susan Brandau  
Tim & Betty Chambers  
D.J. & Leslie Saleeby

### In memory of: Bill Berryhill

Given by: Stewart Farris  
Lena Martin  
Susan Brandau  
Parks Berryhill, Jr.

### In memory of: Ida Parnell

Given by: Eleanor Ramey  
Connie Stout

## Joys and Concerns

*May God give comfort to these individuals and their families and friends.*

**Members:** Suzanne Baillie; Pam Blake; Becky Chavaree; Mike Cathey; Rachel Darling; Doris Flowers; Jacy Grice; Betty McBrayer; Megan McCarthy; Bordie McCloskey; Martha Meunier; David Phillips; Henry Stockwell; and Ellen Watson.

**Family and Friends:** Barbara Aylor; Lee Ballard; Ann Boyd-Moore; Scott Braswell; Sally Bridgen; Mary Cerena; Audrey Dougherty; Evelyn Earl; Sam Favor; Larry Hensinger; Ray Moss; Sean Nolan; Mike Page; Claire Refaey; Warren Snider; Hunter Stubbs; Clifton Taylor; Larry Williams; and Nora Kate Williams.

**Entering into the Church Triumphant:** Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of these church members:

Nickie Bateman  
October 11, 1928 - October 5, 2016  
Bill Berryhill  
June 9, 1929 - September 28, 2016  
Bill Loftin  
January 10, 1920 - September 18, 2016

**Marriage:** Margaret Elaine Thornberry, the youngest daughter of Bill and Suzi Thornberry, married Mark Wilson McGinn on October 15. The marriage ceremony and reception were held at the McGinn family farm in Lancaster, SC.





Avondale Presbyterian Church  
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### Avondale's Newsletter Publish Schedule

*Avondale Avenues* is published monthly on the fourth Tuesday. Deadline for submitting content for next newsletter is November 15 . Publication date is November 22. Send submissions to [Caroline@AvondalePresbyChurch.org](mailto:Caroline@AvondalePresbyChurch.org).



### Unity Service of Healing for Our Nation / Wednesday after Election

We invite all to come Avondale, the day after the end of elections, to unite in spirit with others around our nation. Take a few minutes to replenish your mind and heart. Come for a UNITY SERVICE at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 9 for 40 minutes. We invite you to bring your lunch and enjoy it in our Sacred Garden.

### Avondale Calendar

Select dates from Avondale and beyond. See all events on our [Church Calendar online](#).

#### October Recap

Narrative Budget 2017 distributed  
Avondale Adventures began  
3rd Graders Bible Presentation  
Journey Groups  
Ruling Elder Nominees  
Sedgefield Middle School Reading Buddies began  
Basketball League Registration  
Walk for Peace held at Avondale  
Dedication Sunday  
College of Elders Meeting  
Bi-Annual Congregational Retreat in Black Mountain  
Youth Holiday Greenery Sale began  
**Oct 30** - Youth Fall Mission Day  
**November and December**  
**Nov 2** - Joyful Noise expands to two sessions!  
**Nov 5** - The Charlotte Art Collective Holiday Art Show

**Nov 6** - Daylight Savings Time "Fall Back"

**Nov 6** - Congregational Lunch - Dedication Meal

**Nov 8** - General Election. Polls open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Avondale is a polling site.

**Nov 9** - Unity Service at 12 PM (30-40 minutes only)

**Nov 11-13** - Youth Fall Retreat at Camp Grier

**Nov 13** - Core Gathering/Session Meeting

**Nov 20** - Congregational Meeting - Next Steps

**Nov 24** - Thanksgiving / Church Office closed for National Holiday

**Nov 27** - Advent Begins (through Dec 24)

**Dec 1** - Room in the Inn program begins

**Dec 10** - 4th Annual Bake Sale by The Presbyterian Women of Avondale from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Dec 11** - Christmas Musical at 3:30 PM

**Dec 11** - Monthly Session Meeting

**Dec 14** - Christmas Adventure Party