

AVONDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2017 Annual Report



*Called to love God
Love one another
Serve community*



Women's Retreat



Worship



Worship



Volunteer Sunday



ABC Volunteer



PWA Honorary
Life Member



Come To The Table



John & Nadja
Celebration



Solar Eclipse Party



Sunday School



Sunday School



Joyful Noise



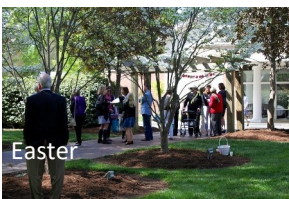
Easter



ABC Volunteer



Avondale Adventures



Easter



Elders Meeting

2017 Annual Report

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Session / Ruling Elders 2017

Class of 2017

Zach Chambers

Ann Patterson

Lisa Worf

Class of 2018

David Hall

Jennifer Patterson

Cindy McKenzie

Class of 2019

John Magee

Patti Oswald

Jessica Shanks

Clerk

D. J. Saleeby

Ministry Team Leaders 2017

Christian Nurture
Congregational Life

Linda Haigh
Alice Cuiello
Carolyn Wright
Fred Wilkerson
Betty Chambers
Kelly Platt

Finance
Member Care

Trish Boyd
Amanda Shanks
Bruce Vestal
Suzi Thornberry
Lynn Wilkerson
Harry Greyard

Mission
Outreach
Personnel
Property
Spiritual Growth

Stewardship

Chris Swart

2017 Gathering Groups

Worship Gathering
(Spiritual Growth)

Mission Gathering
(Mission and Outreach)

Discipleship Gathering
(Congregational Life, Christian Nurture,
Stewardship, and Member Care)

Management Gathering
(Finance, Personnel,
and Property)

<i>Class of 2017 Session</i>	<i>Class of 2018 Session</i>	<i>Class of 2019 Session</i>
Zach Chambers <i>Management Gathering</i>	David Hall <i>Discipleship Gathering</i>	John Magee <i>Worship Gathering</i>
Ann Patterson <i>Mission Gathering</i>	Jennifer Patterson <i>Worship Gathering</i>	Patti Oswald <i>Mission & ABC Team</i>
Lisa Worf <i>Discipleship Gathering</i>	Cindy McKenzie <i>Mission Gathering</i>	Jessica Shanks <i>Discipleship Gathering</i>

Ministry Team	Leaders 2017	Gathering Group
Christian Nurture	Linda Haigh	Discipleship
Congregational Life	Alice Cuvillo Carolyn Wright	Discipleship
Finance	Fred Wilkerson	Management
Member Care	Betty Chambers Kelly Platt	Discipleship
Mission	Trish Boyd	Mission
Outreach	Amanda Shanks	Mission
Personnel	Bruce Vestal	Management
Property	Suzi Thornberry	Management
Spiritual Growth	Lynn Wilkerson Harry Greyard	Worship
Stewardship	Chris Swart	Discipleship

Letter from the Interim Senior Pastor

Dear Avondale Family,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. It is 2018 and I am sure there are many exciting and wonderful things awaiting our future. However, I think it would be noteworthy to begin by taking a look back.



The year 2017 was certainly full of many blessings but also many changes for Avondale. And I believe it is fair to say, we are still reeling from some of the events of 2017. First of all, we have been worshipping in the Family Life Center and though I believe God can show up anywhere, for some of us, moving from the sanctuary was painful. With the change of location, there were other changes as well. The two previous services were combined into one blended service. This meant a change in music, worship style, and new surroundings. A loss of familiarity was felt by the entire membership. Change happened for everyone. And yet, we have managed to worship together, serving the Lord with joy. No one can say Avondale is not adaptable. And that is a great quality to have.

Not everyone is able to overcome challenges like these but God is seeing Avondale through this transition. Last year, we retired several ministries that were loved by many in our membership. Change is hard for nearly everyone, but change can also be necessary, important and even fun if we change our perspective. Retiring beloved ministries has made way for new ministries to take seed.

Avondale took note that change was happening in the surrounding neighborhood and wanted to address the need it saw to reach out and build positive relationships with those who lived nearby but were not a part of our church. This gave way to a ministry involving the Bethlehem Center that is now known as the Avondale - Bethlehem Center (ABC) Ministry. We now house the teen center in the Family Life Center. We

strive to continue to build bridges and deepen relationships with Brookhill Village and Southside Homes, our friends and neighbors.

If all that change were not enough, we said goodbye to a dear and beloved pastor of thirty years in Rev. Dr. John Earl. In the midst of so much change saying goodbye to a man of God who led this church was difficult and heartbreaking. But we praise God for what God has done in John Earl's life and ministry. We are thankful that he led this church with faith and joy for so long.

We hired Rev. Veronica E. Cannon as our transitional pastor to lead us through all this change as we begin the task of seeking a new pastor. With her addition to the staff, we have been able to stay on task and keep the church moving forward.

Now we are taking a look to the future and I believe it is as bright as ever. Are there challenges? Yes. But we will overcome them together. Later this year, we will be electing a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for our next pastor. And we will carry on with all of the active ministries in our church.

Pray for Avondale and its future, pray for each other, pray for the leadership who works hard on your behalf, and pray mostly that God's will be done.

We will face 2018 as we did 2017...United together with God!

In Christ,
Rev. Veronica Cannon
Interim Senior Pastor

[*For Avondale*]

"Pray for Avondale
and its future,
pray for each other,
pray for the leadership who
works hard on your behalf,
and pray mostly that
God's will be done."

Report from the Associate Pastor

“ODD” Youth Fellowship

“ODD” Youth Fellowship had an amazing 2017 and we look forward to where God is leading for 2018!

Last year’s highlights:

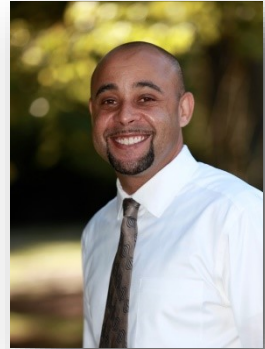
- Summer Trips!!!! Summer Trips!!!! Took large groups to Charleston, South Carolina for combined work camp, as well as larger group to Montreat (senior high) and Massanetta (middle school).
- Changed our small group program to include faith stories and sharing from members of the congregation on a monthly basis; this has been amazing! Each month, a church member attends our Sunday evening youth fellowship and shares their personal story of faith. This person is then “interviewed” by the youth and youth leaders. Then, in small groups, youth pull questions, interesting phrases, and powerful discussion points from the notes they took during the testimony. Youth leadership helps the youth to identify themes and lessons in Scripture that “fit” each faith story. The material is formed into a lesson plan that youth use as small group guides for the remainder of the month. This has been a wonderful addition in two ways: it has given an opportunity for church members to interact with and share faith stories with youth, and also, it has provided youth with a tremendous amount of ownership in their Sunday agenda.

What’s ahead in 2018:

This summer, we head back to Charleston, South Carolina for our combined middle/high school work camp. We will also attend Montreat (senior high conference) and Massanetta (middle school conference). We have a Confirmation Class of seven youth along with seven mentors from the congregation.

CONNECT Camps

Avondale is proud to host CONNECT Camps - youth groups visiting Charlotte for mission and work trips. We provide facilities and organize



mission projects of varying types serving the Charlotte community. We provide year-round and weekend opportunities for churches and student groups, both local and out of the Charlotte area, to stay in Charlotte and serve others.

CONNECT Camps in 2017:

- Roger Williams University...Bristol, Rhode Island
- Harvard University...Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Eastern Connecticut State University...Windham, Connecticut
- Northminster Presbyterian Church...Roswell, Georgia
(two groups/weeks)
- New Providence Presbyterian Church...Maryville, Tennessee
(two groups/weeks)
- First Presbyterian Church of Kingsport...Kingsport, Tennessee

What's ahead in 2018:

As in 2017, our continued focus in 2018 will be on two areas: member engagement and project differentiation. The CONNECT program has flourished but leadership feels that the next evolution of this ministry will take place when more members are able to get involved. Leadership sees this challenge as its primary focus moving forward.

CONNECT Camps in 2018 to date:

- Roger Williams University...Bristol, Rhode Island
- Ohio Northern University...Ada, Ohio
- Georgia Southern University...Statesboro, Georgia (March 11-17)

Avondale Basketball

Avondale participates in the Playbook for Life Ministries League.

Last year's highlights:

- After a strong first year, Mr. Zachary Barjona has "taken the reins" and is now in full command of Avondale basketball. He has continued to build strong relationships with players, coaches and visitors on game day. He has made himself available to players, parents and coaches in a variety of ways. He visits practices and encourages everyone to give their best effort and to be kind in all they do.
- We have 15 teams with over 120 players/coaches in total.

What's ahead in 2018:

Mr. Barjona is continuing to work on a more constructive and achievable way to integrate faith and theology into basketball ministry. We

will be working on a season-end mission project for all of Avondale's teams. In previous years, we have hosted a banquet for players, families and coaches at season's end. Leadership has decided that a large-scale and enthusiastic mission project involving all Avondale Basketball participants is a valuable innovation and much needed addition to the program.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Christopher Lee

Associate Pastor for Youth, Family Life Center and Summer Ministries

Discipleship

Discipleship Gathering Group

The Discipleship Gathering Group finds ways to grow our faith by encouraging people to grapple with God's call on our lives, strengthening relationships among those in and outside of our congregation, and preparing us to be good stewards of our time, talents, and resources. In 2017, we consisted of three elders, a member of clergy, and the team leaders of Member Care, Stewardship, Congregational Life, and Christian Nurture.

Helping to build a relationship between Avondale members and residents of the Southside and Brookhill neighborhoods was one of our areas of focus this year. Here are how our teams responded to that, as well as a look at achievements and challenges throughout the year:

Congregational Life

One of the year's most fun and meaningful fellowship activities was the outing to the Knights game in May and the tailgate beforehand. We had a good turnout and it was split evenly between Avondale members and those families with children attending the Bethlehem Center. The Avondale Fall Festival didn't draw many Avondale members, but did attract a substantial number of people from the surrounding neighborhoods. The Pentecost Picnic gathered the congregation together in the Sacred Garden for a tasty time of fellowship.

Team Leaders: Alice CuvIELLO, Carolyn Wright

Christian Nurture

Two Christian education classes decided to make moves that made for some meaningful growth and transformation. Joyful Noise, a class for mothers and their babies and toddlers, has flourished, so much so it needed a dedicated space. The Aitken and Vanguard Sunday school classes decided to combine, freeing up a room for them. Vacation Bible School attracted 43 children this summer and Avondale Adventures also had strong attendance. The 10-week program, which concluded with a Christmas musical, was a success with the help of several people who stepped up to lead, including the youth. The youth led the congregation in a meaningful worship service in the spring. The Youth Council organized mission trips and their weekly Sunday evening programs. Sunday school classes for all ages continue, although participation has continued to decrease. The team is looking for additional ways for members to nurture and explore their faith. One of them last year included bringing a series of speakers to Avondale to help prepare the congregation for its work with the Southside and Brookhill communities. Christian Nurture worked with the Come to the Table team on this. A good portion of the congregation attended the sessions which focused on matters involving race and poverty. They also attracted many from outside Avondale. [\[Read more CN Annual Report on p.33\]](#)
Team Leaders: Linda Haigh, Julie Caldwell (Children's Ministry), Kay DeArmon (Adult Ministry), Connie Love (Journey Groups)

Member Care

The team continued to reach out to members in need of care this year. Its volunteers visited shut-ins, provided meals to those who were recently hospitalized, families of new babies, and to families on the day of a funeral. We rejoiced in the births of three new babies born in 2017 (Joshua Finn Sutherland, Kellen James Pavlin and Sage Frost Wright). We mourn for the seven members who died this year (Al Weigle, Jim Rogers, Edna Hilton, Mike Cathey, Betty Marvin, Jim Singer and Bill Parrish). We celebrated when seven youth members joined our congregation in 2017.

Team Leader: Betty Chambers and co-chair, Kelly Platt

Stewardship

The team led a concerted push this year to inform the congregation of

the significance, value, and joy of pledging talents and resources to enable God's work at Avondale and beyond our walls. Stewardship kicked off the yearly pledge campaign by distributing Henri Nowen's "A Spirituality of Fundraising." The team followed this up by inviting the Presbytery of Charlotte's Bill Cockrill to preach on Stewardship and ended with a celebratory meal on Dedication Sunday. About 138 families pledged for 2018.

Team Leader: Chris Swart

We are a community of people eager to grow our faith...We recognize that close relationships can nudge and encourage faith, so we seek to know each other, not only by our names, but by the different gifts and talents behind them.

Discipleship Elders: Jessica Shanks, David Hall, Lisa Worf

Mission

Mission Gathering Group

Avondale's guiding vision of *creating personal relationships, building bridges with our neighbors, nurturing children and their families, reducing inequities and developing a sustaining faith* was lived out in many ways as we sought to reach out to those beyond our walls. For those faith-filled Avondale disciples who are about the work of healing the hurts in our world, there is much to be thankful for in reflecting upon this past year of ministry.

ABC Team

In a year that opened with the joyful relocation of the Bethlehem Center Out-of-School Time (OST) Teen Center to the Avondale campus and closed with the Christmas Dinner Angel Tree celebration and fellowship shared by Avondale and Bethlehem Center families, the partnership between our communities began to open doors for relationship building and the nurture of children and families. Volunteer and mentoring opportunities are blossoming as well as fellowship events like the Knights baseball game and picnic and the Fall Festival. Vision work continues with discussion of adding an elementary after-school

classroom and possibilities to partner in the Avondale Adventures program to grow faith in children. [*\[ABC Ministry full report on p. 35.\]*](#) Gratitude is expressed to Robert Suydam, Ann Sanders and Patti Oswald for their faithful leadership.

Bridge Team

Since its September 2017 inception, the Avondale members of the Bridge Team have been working with partners at South Tryon Community Church, residents in the Brookhill and Southside Homes neighborhoods, and Myers Park United Methodist Church. With the vision of developing bridge building activities between the communities, the team is engaging community leaders as partners in identifying community needs and what type of focused activities, events, and programs are most beneficial to the communities. Several ideas have already come to fruition including a Christmas dinner and gift exchange for some of our friends at South Tryon UMC, an Avondale Advent offering that supplied toiletries for their Winter Shelter, and preliminary plans for an upcoming Health Fair in the heart of Southside and Brookhill. Gratitude is expressed to Avondale members serving on the Bridge Team and to Chris Lee for his leadership in bringing community partners to the table.

Room In The Inn

As a community of faith, Avondale continues to meet immediate needs in our community by answering the call to provide shelter for 12 people on an unbearably frigid New Year's Eve. Over the course of eight more cold nights, we supported Urban Ministry's RITI program that houses neighbors experiencing homelessness by opening our doors and our hearts to 96 men, women and children. Transportation, three meals daily, clean beds, and a safe welcoming place to rest were our privilege to share with neighbors living on the margins. Gratitude is expressed to Jim McCarthy and Robert Suydam for their compassionate leadership in 2017 and willingness to lead 2018 along with Laura Meier.

Face to Face in Milot Haiti

Our connection to Milot, Haiti continues to deepen and evolve. We are grateful for the journey and for the leading of the Spirit that carried us

to Milot to feed the hungry. Vision work continues as to how best to partner with our Haitian friends with much promise found in supporting the building of a Mission House in that community. Corey Shanks, Ted Todd, Debby Sacra, and the Zuyus family traveled to Milot in October 2017 to explore how we might best work with our friends to fund and build a structure that can house mission workers, create an income stream and jobs, and lead to many possibilities as a community gathering place. Plans are in place to share their discoveries and stories of spiritual transformation with the Avondale congregation in early 2018.

OUTREACH Annual Report on p.34

CONNECT Camps

Thoughtful stewardship in the use of our facilities allows Avondale to host college students, youth and adults from around the country who come to Charlotte to build the Kingdom. Members prepared and served dinner to several visiting CONNECT Camps. Plans are moving forward to establish an advisory board to seek paths to enhance the faith experience for our guests while visiting our campus.

Giving Garden

Welcoming gardeners from beyond our walls, Avondale successfully launched a 17 plot community garden format on our campus in March 2017. A shared appreciation for the wonder and truth of God's creation fostered fellowship in a therapeutic natural setting. Four plots benefiting Friendship Trays enabled us to donate over 550 lbs. of fresh produce to homebound meals-on-wheels recipients.

Special Offerings

In 2017, Avondale continued a strong connection to the Presbyterian Church USA and Church worldwide through generous giving. Financial support of the Denomination totaled \$13,560 in addition to the Special Offerings that totaled \$18,562. [See next page.]

Gratitude is expressed to Amanda Shanks and Trish Boyd for their faithful service in leading Mission and Outreach.

"Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace."

Denomination Support	\$13,560
Special Offerings 2017:	
Ten Cents a Meal	\$5,498
Harvey Relief Fund	\$3,960
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,802
Pentecost Offering	\$2,678
Joy Gift Offering	\$1,806
Peace and Global Witness Offering	\$1,157
Paper for Water Offering	\$502
Vacation Bible School Offering*	\$160

*with Operation Kid-to-Kid

TOTAL \$32,122

Worship

Worship Gathering Group

Your worship committee was busy in 2017. Worship is an integral part of Avondale and who we are. As you recall, Avondale moved to one 9:30 worship service in the Family Life Center (FLC) on September 11, 2016. Much of the first part of 2017 was spent working to optimize worship in the FLC, worship that truly brings the best elements from each former worship service and unites them in our new service.

Meshing two services into one has not been without some growing pains. Retaining Reformed worship as THE essential guide, we experimented with several possibilities and formats. You, the congregation were patient and provided formal and informal feedback to clergy and the Worship Team about what was working and what was not. Mid-year we settled into a liturgy that has basic elements that continue and flexibilities within an outline. Regina Love and Rich Stanley worked closely together to choose hymns, responses and anthems that fit the theme of each week's worship and to find ways to make diverse music styles combine in the service of our worship. We've added "Commitment to Community" and monthly faith stories.

Worshipping in the FLC requires many gifts and Avondale is truly blessed to have faithful and talented members who help, from those

who serve by setting up chairs, video and sound systems, to setting up coffee/juice and embellishments that help define and enhance our worship space. Then there are greeters, ushers, liturgists/scripture readers. And, of course, we are grateful for the many musicians and musical groups who help energize our worship. There is a place for you to assist in worship, no matter your skill set and gifts.

Avondale is truly
blessed to have
faithful and talented
members

Your Worship Team designed two Sunday music series that were held in the sanctuary this year, the first on the four Sundays of June and the second on two Sundays during Advent. We also used the sanctuary for services on Maundy Thursday and 11 PM Christmas Eve.

Your Worship Team encourages your regular attendance and participation in worship. We are better together.

Your 2017 Worship Committee:

John B. Earl	Veronica Cannon
Barbara Darling	Harry Greyard, Co-leader
Regina Love	Carl McDonald
John Magee, Elder	Olivia Magee
Jennifer Patterson, Elder	Rich Stanley
Joy Wilkerson	Lynn Wilkerson, Co-leader

Worship Embellishments Creative Team:

Cheryl Judd-Magee	Debby Sacra
Ted Todd	Stephanie Tomey

Management

Management Gathering Group

New in 2017, in order to create more avenues of support and communication, the Management Gathering group was formed. Bi-monthly, the Finance, Personnel and Property team leaders meet to share ideas and make sure we all are working towards the common goal as determined by the Session of the church.

Finance

The Finance Team had a busy year handling Avondale's day-to-day financial operations and navigating the evolving financial needs throughout 2017. Below are a few of the highlights for the year:

- Avondale began 2017 with a budget deficit and ended the year with a \$17,631 budget surplus. This favorable result stemmed from personnel expense savings attributable to John and Nadja's retirement, lower than projected expenses driven by responsible spending, and the dedicated support by Avondale's pledging members.
- Investment returns of 14% generated approximately \$15,000 on Avondale's operating reserves and \$108,000 for the Endowment. The Endowment targeted \$32,000 for 2017 and funded a \$1,500 room improvement for the Joyful Noise program and two new stoves for the Fellowship Hall. The Endowment has approximately \$32,000 available for distribution this year. Requests for distributions should be directed to the Finance Team.
- The 2017 Audit was completed affirming most of our procedures and recommended a number of improvements which are in the process of being communicated to the team leaders and implemented. The Avondale Children's Center also participated in this effort and will work with Avondale's leadership in the coming year to coordinate our common efforts.

Special thanks to Finance Team members Rogers McGee, Stewart Farris, Ryan Patterson, Jed Wilkerson, and Fred Wilkerson (Leader) for their dedication, to D. J. Saleeby and Tony McKenzie for managing the audit effort, and to Renita Fowler for being the backbone of Avondale's financial operations.

Personnel

This year was a busy year for the Personnel Team with many changes and milestones within the staff at Avondale. Here are a few highlights.

- Conducted staff annual reviews and adjusted job descriptions as needed.
- Celebrated the 5 year anniversary of Rev. Chris Lee joining our staff.
- Received the resignation of John Earl and Nadja Sefcik-Earl after over 30 years of service.

- Planned extensive celebrations to congratulate John and Nadja as they move on to different phases of their lives. We continue to say “Well done, good and faithful servants.”
- Welcomed Rev. Veronica Cannon to serve as our Interim Pastor.

Appreciation is extended to members of the team for their faithful service this year. Team members included: Kay Chelena, Debi Medlin, Lynn Daniel, Zach Chambers and Bruce Vestal (Leader).

Property

The age of our buildings, and the care they require, is always a large task. In addition to the standard maintenance projects, the Property Committee also completed these tasks:

- Removed the large tree from the center of the Sacred Garden which had become dangerous due to rotten roots.
- Installed bike racks around the property to keep up with increased demand.
- Furnished the office to support staffing changes.
- Created a property issues log system that helps with day-to-day maintenance, making it easier to share and track the care of our buildings and property.
- Lead two congregation wide workdays to spruce up our property.

Appreciation is extended to members of the team for their faithful service this year. Team members included: Kemper Boyd, Tim Chambers, Zach Chambers, Mahlon Thomas, Jerry Lawson, Stacey Longshore, Todd Oswald, Corey Shanks and Suzi Thornberry (Leader).

“Well done,
good and faithful
servants.”

Music

Avondale Music

It has been almost a year and a half since the congregation converged to one service in our temporary space. Sunday morning worship has evolved into components that are representative of who we are and

indicative of mainstream denominational trends. We rejoice in the sharing of diverse talents and energy to praise God and enact Spirit-lead decisions.

The Worship Choir and Worship Band have been cohesive in their collaboration, offering a variety of styles and sounds and music for congregational singing. Both groups are seeking new participation. Membership in our groups has fluctuated, and we're always asking for those who may want to become a part of this integral worship component. Preparing music for worship can be invigorating and inspirational in the Christian life, especially as Avondale continues to move forward during a time of transition. We have warmly welcomed Veronica Cannon who is giving us fresh approaches and vision to work upon.

The Avonbellers are in session under their new director, Rich Stanley and participate in worship regularly. The Adventure Choir continues to thrive under the leadership of Lynn Wilkerson and Eleanor Ramey. (See a report following for Avondale Children's Choirs.) Instrumental and Youth Choir offerings are scheduled throughout the year.

Music was intricately planned from the lectionary readings, and we had the joy of using our wealth of talent to bring these texts to life innovatively in the Family Life Center (FLC). John Earl prepared a special sermon series leading up to his retirement. Several "Music in the Sanctuary" performances were held in the summer, and we had Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve in the memorable venue.

The Music Staff and Worship Gathering members were asked by Session to create a vision for the music program. We, first of all, documented the long history of musical excellence at Avondale. We acknowledged our current musicians and their successful efforts in creating meaningful music for worship as converged. We looked ahead to see what an expanded youth and outreach program may entail. We recognized that permanent worship space that is acoustically sound and self reliant is imperative for the coming years. We look forward to the journey.

I am reminded every Sunday of the resources Avondale has as a family and the fact that we have made the past year successful in our

endeavors to further the Kingdom.

Regina G. Love, Director of Music; Director of Worship Choir, Instrumentalists and Youth Choir

Rich Stanley, Worship Coordinator; Director of Worship Band and Handbells

Lynn Wilkerson, Director of Children's Choirs

Avondale Children's Choirs

It is such a great joy to sing songs praising our God with our children! We learned songs and hymns that reflected the Lenten season in the spring and we were able to sing some of these in worship with the Worship Choir and the Worship Band.

- Four of our Youth attended the Montreat Worship and Music Conference in June with me, John Earl and Regina Love.
- Tons of energy, fun, singing and jumping summarized our week of Vacation Bible School with lots of Avondalers and children from our community.
- Our children and youth joined together to sing the beautiful "Go Now In Peace", by Natalie Sleeth, for John's and Nadja's Retirement Party.
- Many of our children and families may say that the highlight of the year was learning and performing the musical, "All About That Baby"! It was one of our all-time favorite musicals!

Eleanor Ramey and I want to thank everyone who encourage and support our children as they sing. It is our huge joy to be with the children each week! Thank you, Avondale, for allowing us this privilege.

We especially want to give a big "thank you" to the dedicated youth who support/sing with the children in Avondale Adventures.

Looking forward, our next Avondale Adventures begins February 2018. All children K-5th grade are welcome to sing with us!

- Lynn Wilkerson, Director of Children's Choirs

...reminded every Sunday of the resources Avondale has as a family.... we have made the past year successful in our endeavors to further the Kingdom...

Interim Pastor Search

Pastor Search

After John Earl gave notice to the Session of his impending retirement, one of the first orders of business for our Church was the formation of an Interim Pastor Search Committee. Dr. Earl's hope was that an interim minister would be in place by the time of his September 3rd departure. The Session approved a committee consisting of John Magee, Barbara Darling, Betty Boyd, Rich Worf, Lynn Wilkerson, and Bill Caldwell. This was uncharted territory for this committee, as Avondale had not had an interim search committee in 30 years and the process had changed significantly during the past three decades.

As Avondale geared up to celebrate Dr. Earl's 30 years at Avondale, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry appointed a liaison to the Avondale Interim Search Committee. The Committee spent two meetings with the liaison, learning the in's and out's of the orderly Presbyterian process that governs this search. The liaison continued as a consultant to our committee as we developed and edited interview questions and then began the work of finding individuals trained as interim pastors who were available. Unlike searching for a permanent minister, there is no single repository for those ministers who have completed the interim pastor training and who are seeking an interim position.

After reading packets from a number of individuals and interviewing three others, the Committee was led to Rev. Veronica Cannon. When the interview with Rev. Cannon was completed, the committee immediately knew that she was the right person for Avondale. The Committee was of one mind, an unusual occurrence for this collegial group.

Rev. Cannon joined us in late October 2017. During the time between when Dr. Earl left and Rev. Cannon began, Avondale was ably served by Rev. Chris Lee and a guest minister.
- John Magee

After 30 years with Avondale, John Earl notified our Session that he would be retiring. On April 23, 2017, John shared a letter with our congregation telling all that the time had come to retire from full-time ministry, effective September 3, 2017.

Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA)



The purpose of Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA) is to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the missions of the church, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive and caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom. During the calendar year 2017, with monetary support from our annual cookie sale and work, care, and prayers of Avondale women, PWA accomplished the following:

- Nurtured and encouraged Circles and women's gatherings in Avondale
- Supported the teachers of Sedgefield Middle School by providing luncheons, breakfasts, and monthly teacher incentives
- Provided scholarships for children and youth to attend Bible Camp, Massanetta, and Montreat
- Supported the international missions of Presbyterian Women (USA) by raising over \$1,000 in special offerings
- Honored Edna Hilton for 100 years of life and discipleship

PWA will continue these works in 2018. In addition, we look forward to helping with our church-wide ABC Mission and with Joyful Noise.

Avondale Senior Adult Program (ASAP)



Avondale Senior Adult Program (ASAP) is a ministry opportunity for older adults. We provide social activities as well as service and learning activities for all who attend. We meet for lunch on the fourth Monday of each month to share delicious food, fun, and wonderful fellowship. Meals are prepared for our Avondale shut-ins and delivered by ASAP members.

This year we have enjoyed the music of John Tosco, Elizabeth Bridges, and Molly James and a sing-along with Regina Love. Joy Callaway

gave a wonderful program on writing a novel and Sally Brewster shared a great list of books for summer reading. Woody Williams came twice from the Red Cross and helped us with CPR and to be Red Cross Ready for emergencies. We supported the students and staff at Sedgely Middle School with school supplies and provided filled eggs for the annual Egg Hunt at Avondale.

Many trips were taken: Charlotte Museum of History, Childress Vineyards, Brattonsville, Christmas Spectacular at Flat Rock Playhouse, and plays at CPCC.

Our leadership team consists of: Mary Alice Bryson, Ruby Cathey, Betty Chambers, Tim Chambers, Brenda Coble, Stewart Farris, Mike Love, and Lyn Sweet. We are so very grateful to Caroline White for her years of dedication to ASAP.

Avondale Presbyterian Church Children's Center (ACC)



Greetings Avondale Community!

Avondale Children's Center has had a very productive and active schedule this past year! We are excited about what 2018 will bring, and we want to share with the church community a few highlights from 2017. We had our second year of the Vacation Bible School (VBS) preschool curriculum we started in 2016. We enjoyed exploring the theme "Built for a Purpose", in which the children explored how God created us all individually and for a specific purpose on this earth. Children were encouraged to build things with various "loose parts", clay and other materials to create individual works of art. Our classrooms were transformed for VBS and each classroom had a "Maker Fun Factory Laboratory" where children could freely create. We had a wonderful chapel service each morning of VBS. The children were visited by "Ian the mad scientist" - Pastor John Earl in a lavish disguise! The children were enthralled by his crazy antics and wacky inventions. We will miss Dr. Earl. Our church and school community had an excellent opportunity to come together in VBS!

Each year we are growing our connection to the church through shared activities, events, and projects. In 2016, we did activities with the Avondale Senior Adult Group (ASAP). In 2017, we partnered with the Avondale Mom's Ministry for several events, including the "Trunk or Treat" Halloween event and the Scholastic Book Fair. We will extend an invitation to the Mom's Ministry for our Spring Art Walk, an annual ACC event that occurs in mid-May.

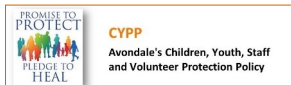
To continue to build bridges between church and school in 2018, Session member, Jennifer Patterson, has been appointed as the liaison to the ACC. Jennifer attended the first 2018 Board meeting and is passionate about ACC, as her children came up through the preschool years ago. We look forward to building a relationship with Jennifer and working to find other common ground opportunities to build on. Potential church/school projects that have been discussed for 2018 include intergenerational reading days with Bethlehem Center teens and the ACC children and combining the church and school Fall Festivals.

There was much change and growth in 2017. We, like the church, had staffing changes. We also made improvements to our programs and grounds. We have been working on improving our playground spaces to make them an extension of the classroom, with inviting equipment and materials that foster "inquiry-based" learning. On the Infant, Toddler and Two's playground, we added new climbing structures and storage bins for toys and have plans to build a "sound/music making area" with hanging pots and pans and a Bamboo Xylaphone! On the pre-school playground, we built a multi-purpose house, which we use for gross motor toys, pretend play, and a stage for performing. We were sad to see the oak taken down in the Sacred Garden, but we are keeping it's memory with us with several pieces of the tree on our playground. We plan to make a balancing area with some of the stumps!

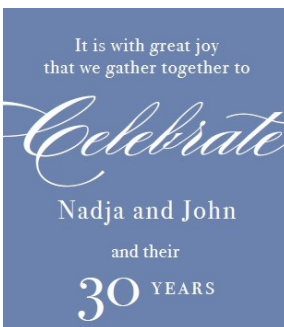
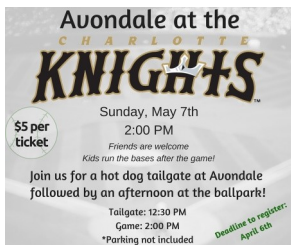
In November, Ms. Ashley Nightengale came aboard as our new Chef and we added three teachers to our team: Jordan Meadows (Threes); Ilesha Thomas (Fours); and Gretchen Hurd (Toddlers). We have an excellent staff and are fortunate for our wonderful new additions! We are very excited for what is in store for 2018.

Peace and Blessings to all,
Jessica McQuillen and Millie Norris, ACC Administrative Team

Faith & Fellowship & Mission



Bible 101
Sundays at 11:00 AM / begins July 9, 2017
Avondale Presbyterian Church



Financial Information

Financial

	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
Contributions	\$525,867	\$527,000
Rental/Other Income	28,493	27,000
Children's Ctr. Reimbursement	27,092	27,500
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	25,299	30,200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$606,751	\$611,700
Personnel	\$389,830	379,036
Property	130,462	132,990
Office Supplies/Technology/ Communications	22,773	22,263
Mission Gathering Group	34,667	42,660
Discipleship Gathering Group	28,582	32,500
Worship Gathering Group	8,136	10,060
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	12,141	16,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$626,591	\$636,409
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)		
(see Notes next page)	(\$19,840)	(\$24,709)

***Always Avondale* Endowment Report**

Beyond what was reported in the Finance Team's Annual Report the following is a financial summary of the accounts within the Endowment:

January 1st	December 31st	Return %
<i>Golden Anniversary Endowment Account:</i>		
\$741,889	\$877,290	14.7 %
<i>SBM Maintenance Fund Account:</i>		
10,044	10,201	1.6 %
<i>Local Ministries Fund Account:</i>		
12,222	13,920	13.9 %
Totals:		
\$764,155	\$901,411	14.6 %

Notes to Financial Information

Accounting Change: Adding a Prepaid Pledge Liability

Avondale follows commonly accepted accounting rules to accurately record revenue and expenses. This report on the opposite page records revenue when received and expenses when paid. This is known as cash basis accounting. Avondale's expenses exceeded our revenue by \$19,840 from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 resulting in a loss for the year. However, the Finance Team's Annual Report highlights state that 2017 ended in a gain of \$17,631.

Why is there a discrepancy?

In 2016, Avondale received Prepaid Pledges of \$37,471 from members intended to be applied in 2017. Using cash basis accounting we recorded these Prepaid Pledges as Member Pledges (i.e. included in Contributions figure) in that year which overstated the Member Pledges intending to support the 2016 budget. To eliminate confusion and to allocate Member Pledges to the year they will be applied, we are going to change the way we record Prepaid Pledges. Instead of adding the prepaid pledges to the revenue in the year received, we will create a liability account on Avondale's balance sheet titled Prepaid Pledge Liability. This will reallocate the Prepaid Pledges to the year the funds will be used. On January 1st, Prepaid Pledges will be removed from the balance sheet and added to Member Pledges. This change will more accurately portray the flow of Avondale's revenue and expenses. If we reallocate the 2016 Prepaid Pledges of \$37,471 to the 2017 Member Pledges the \$19,840 loss becomes a \$17,631 gain (i.e. \$37,471 - \$19,840).

In 2018, the Finance Team will make this accounting change. In December 2017, Avondale received Prepaid Pledges of \$53,361 which were recorded as Prepaid Pledge Liability. On January 1, 2018, the Prepaid Pledges were added to the Member Pledge total supporting the 2018 budget.

Membership Overview 2017

Membership

Membership In Brief 2017

Two weddings took place at Avondale.

One baby girl and two baby boys were born.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to 11 children and one adult.

Active Membership	12/31/2016	432
Adults welcomed into membership in 2017		6
Youth welcomed into membership in 2017		7
Membership Restored to Active		0
Membership Transferred		0
Deaths		7
Other		1
Active Membership	12/31/2017	437

Births 2017

Joshua Finn Sutherland March 6, 2017

Son of Wynanda and Adrian Sutherland

Kellen James Pavlin June 27, 2017

Son of Deidrea and Andrew Pavlin

Sage Frost Wright July 17, 2017

Daughter of Carolyn and Aaron Wright

Baptisms 2017

Jordyn Michelle Lee February 12, 2017

Parents: Christopher and Brandy Lee

Owen Shumate May 7, 2017

Parents: Charlie and Jane Shumate



Stella Rose Beall and Lacey Anne Beall	June 25, 2017
Parents: Jim Beall and Rena White Beall	
Wade Mitchell and Brooks Mitchell	July 23, 2017
Parents: Matt and Stefanie Mitchell	
Stefanie Mitchell (adult)	July 23, 2017
Spouse: Matt Mitchell	
Joshua Finn Sutherland	July 30, 2017
Parents: Adrian and Wynanda Sutherland	
Oscar Miller and Soren Miller	August 13, 2017
Parents: Benjamin and Renee Miller	
Alevia Callaway and John Callaway	August 27, 2017
Parents: John and Joy Calloway	
Kellen James Pavlin	November 12, 2017
Parents: Andrew and Deidrea Pavlin	

Marriages 2017

March 25, 2017

Jennifer Oglesby
and Tim Dewyer

April 29, 2017

Rena White and Jim Beall



Thy word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Psalms 119:105

In Memoriam 2017

Al Weigle	January 1, 2017
Jim Rogers	March 19, 2017
Edna Hilton	May 3, 2017
Mike Cathey	July 19, 2017
Betty Marvin	August 18, 2017
Jim Singer	November 12, 2017
Bill Parrish	December 25, 2017

Avondale Objectives

As a congregation, God calls us to:

- *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*

Staff 2017

Rev. Veronica Cannon - Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Christopher Lee - Associate Pastor, Youth, Family Life Center and Summer Ministries

Regina Love - Director of Music/Choir, Instrumentalists, Youth

Rich Stanley - Worship Coordinator/Band, Handbells

Lynn Wilkerson - Children's Choir Director

Renita Fowler - Financial Coordinator

Sande Darby - Clerical Receptionist

Caroline Starnes - Administrative Communications Coordinator

James Higgs - Custodian

Marcia Halsey and Cynthia Rupert - Nursery Staff

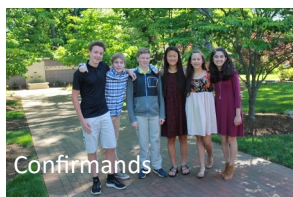
Zachary Barjona - Basketball Coordinator

Retired in 2017

Rev. Dr. John Earl - Senior Pastor

Nadja Sefcik-Earl - Handbell Director





Confirmands



ASAP Trip



ABC Knights Picnic



Vacation Bible School



Pentecost Picnic



Youth Retreat



John & Nadja Celebration



ABC Teen Summer Camp



Sunday School



CONNECT Camp



Community Garden Kick-Off



Fall Festival

[More Reports]

Additional Annual Reports
available online:

**Christian Nurture
Outreach
Avondale-Bethlehem
Center (ABC) Ministry**

[LINK](https://tinyurl.com/APCAnnualReportPart2) or

[https://tinyurl.com/
APCAnnualReportPart2](https://tinyurl.com/APCAnnualReportPart2)



Hands & Hearts

Avondale is truly blessed to have faithful and talented members, growing our faith together, sharing our unique gifts, building the Kingdom of God.

Avondale
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Original artwork above by Cheryl Judd-Magee

Annual Report 2017

Ministry Teams

Additional Reports from Ministry Teams

Table of Contents:

- **Christian Nurture**
- **Avondale Outreach**
- **Member Care**
- **Avondale Bethlehem Center (ABC) Ministry**

Annual Report 2017 - Christian Nurture

It has been a busy year for Christian Nurture. Sunday school classes for all ages continue. Our youngest children were also provided care and nurturing during worship hour by Marcia Halsey, Cynthia Rupert, and Dee Dee McDonald and volunteers.

“Water” was the theme for the elementary children’s summer Sunday School which was created by Caroline White and Linda Haigh. The congregation donated almost three hundred dollars to “Paper to Water”, an organization created by two children to provide water in areas around the world. There were 43 children (24 families) who attended Vacation Bible School under the leadership of Kelly Platt, Lynn Wilkerson, and

numerous volunteers. Bibles were presented to two third graders in the fall. Avondale Adventures’ theme was about the wilderness. Kelly Platt, Lynn Wilkerson, Chris Lee, the parents, and youth provided wonderful leadership to a successful 10 weeks concluding with a Christmas musical. New Mom’s Ministry under the leadership of Amanda Shanks, Jessica Shanks, Mindy Ferguson, and Joy Callaway continues to provide nurturing for mothers and their children (infants and toddlers. Youth Council organized the program for the year. The young people lead the congregation in very meaningful worship in the spring. Youth mission trips, Sunday evening programming, and other activities with much planning were done by the youth and their advisors. Adult Ministry had several new opportunities. Teaming with Come to the Table to provide learning opportunities for our new ministry with Bethlehem Center was successful. A new Sunday School class, New Beginnings, was formed. The adults of the Aitken and the Vanguard classes combined. Journey Groups also continue. The Vocational Fair with all ministry groups

provided an opportunity to generate interest and service for the congregation to indicate their interest in participating in ministry groups for the year.

Much appreciation to Julie Caldwell (Children's Ministry), Connie Love (Journey Groups), John Earl/Veronica Cannon (Ministers), Kay DeArmon (Adult Ministry), Lisa Worf (Elder), Jessica Shanks (Elder and New Mom's Ministry) for your dedication.

Annual Report 2017 - Avondale Outreach

Description of Outreach:

The Outreach Team exists to foster discussion about and initiate ways in which Avondale might share the Gospel with those outside of our faith community, invite others into a relationship with Christ, and draw individuals and families deeper in to a faith community. By working collaboratively and supporting each ministry of Avondale, the Outreach Team will create a culture of ministry at Avondale that desires to reach beyond the Avondale walls and minister to those in our immediate community.

Accomplishments:

The Outreach Ministry Team coor-

minated with the Worship Gathering Team to share stories of faith in worship once monthly. Many thanks to those who boldly and powerfully shared their stories: Rena White, Greg McKenzie, Tom Stout, Zach Chambers, Emily Shannon, Harry Greyard, Jessica Shanks, Joy Callaway, and Sharon McCarthy. We hope to continue the sharing of faith stories in 2018 in worship and throughout other ministries at Avondale.

The Outreach Ministry Team took several months to reflect on the definition and vision for Outreach at Avondale. A proposal has been approved to have two "Outreach Representatives" sit on each Gathering Team in 2018. These representatives will help to facilitate discussion and provide support to each Gathering team regarding opportunities for faith sharing, engaging people not immediately involved in the Avondale community, and drawing guests and members who are currently on the periphery deeper into the faith community.

Annual Report 2017 - Member Care

Member Care team reaches out to members in need of care. We visit shut-ins, provide meals to those recently hospitalized and to fami-

lies of new babies, and meals for families on the day of a funeral. We rejoiced in the three new babies born in 2017 (Joshua Finn Sutherland, Kellen James Pavlin and Sage Frost Wright). We mourn for the seven members who died this year (Al Weigle, Jim Rogers, Edna Hilton, Mike Cathey, Betty Marvin, Jim Singer and Bill Parish). We celebrated when seven youth members joined our congregation in 2017. Member Care coordinated “A Day of Service” with the Youth program where the youth helped seniors with needed home work. Our Prayer Team fulfills prayer requests throughout the year. If you would like to join us, please contact a member of Member Care.

Annual Report 2017 - Avondale Bethlehem Center (ABC) Ministry

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 2017 year brought many shared joys and opportunities.

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 (OST) Enrichment Program:

School Year: M -- F 2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Summer Camp: M – F 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

In April this program relocated from cramped quarters in the BC main campus to Avondale’s Family Life Center and youth rooms. On Easter Sunday the BC Teen Center was dedicated during worship, including tours of the redesigned space. The OST program at Avondale started with 8 teens; this number increased to 18 middle-schoolers and teens when the OST transitioned from the school year to Summer Camp in June. The OST features educational projects, tu-

toring, homework help, field trips and college tours for the youth enrolled.

A highlight for ABC was the OST End of Summer Showcase in August, during which BC children and youth demonstrated areas of learning and recapped summer camp activities – for parents, families, and Avondale members.

Getting to Know Our Neighbors through Shared Activities and Volunteering

On Sunday, May 7 Avondalers joined with BC families to enjoy a tailgate lunch and a Knights game. What a wonderful way to kick-off our relationship and get to know one another! Many BC families attended the Avondale Fall Festival – both of these activities were planned by the Congregational Life team.

Many 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.

The Avondale Basketball program expanded its reach to include more BC children, youth, and coaches.

The ABC Angel Tree and Christmas

Party put the final touches on a terrific year. Angel Tree ornaments provided gift suggestions for BC children and youth as well as those from Southside Homes and Brookhill neighborhoods. Avondalers and Children’s Center parents fulfilled Christmas wishes, and gifts were given during the ABC Christmas Party on December 23. The party included Avondale live music, homemade desserts, a delicious dinner, and opportunities to meet and greet old friends and new.

Ministries Working Together to Build Bridges and Fulfill Vision

You will read throughout the Annual Report of Avondale ministries and teams coming together to fulfill the ABC vision and beyond. You see Congregational Life inviting BC families to events, Christian Nurture providing education to prepare Avondale with Come to the Table opportunities, Youth Ministries sharing space, Basketball program opening doors, Mission Team launching the Bridge Team to further the vision beyond ABC of reaching out to Southside and Brookhill neighbors.

Moving Forward

We seek to remain true to the

Avondale vision of integrating current ministry to strengthen our outreach to the Bethlehem Center and Southside and Brookhill neighborhoods. Upcoming projects include:

- * Redesign Teen Center Space from Classroom to Coffee House style.
- * Support recruitment of additional youth for the school-year OST teen center program at Avondale, currently serving nine youth.
- * Consider adding a BC classroom of 15 elementary school children to Avondale.
- * Explore ways to partner with Bethlehem Center in the Avondale Adventures program.

Facilitator), Georgett Johnson (BC Program Director), Donnell Washington (BC Teen Center Coordinator)

Many thanks to Avondale clergy, volunteers and ministry teams, and Bethlehem Center staff and families, for a rewarding and productive year.

ABC Ministry online:

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

Consider Becoming a Volunteer

ABC Volunteer information is on the Avondale website, or you can obtain information from any of the ABC team members. You can get involved with mentoring, helping with homework, providing transportation, helping with events, and many other opportunities.

ABC Ministry Team

Ann Sanders (co-leader), Robert Suydam (co-leader), Covert Suydam, Carl McDonald, Rev. Chris Lee (Clergy), Patti Oswald (Elder