



**Avondale Presbyterian Church**

## **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

*75th Anniversary Edition  
1944-2019*

## Avondale Statement

*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 2019

### Staff as of December 31, 2019:

Rev. Jim Ewing - Senior Pastor\*

Rich Stanley - Director of Music

Jessica Shanks - Administrative Coordinator

Jacqueline Howells - Financial Coordinator

Caroline Starnes - Communications Coordinator

James Higgs - Custodian

Dee Dee McDonald - Nursery Staff\*

Cynthia Rupert - Nursery Staff

Zachary Barjona - Basketball Coordinator

\*new in 2019

### Staff who moved on in 2019:

Rev. Veronica Cannon - Interim Senior Pastor

Louise "Lou" Johnson - Mission & Christian Nurture  
Coordinator

Marcia Halsey - Nursery Staff





# 2019 Annual Report

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## Session / Ruling Elders 2019

### Class of 2019

John Magee  
Patti Oswald  
Jessica Shanks

### Class of 2020

Zach Chambers  
Jennifer Patterson  
Jackie Shannon

### Class of 2021

Nancy Bohrer  
Alice Cuiello  
Rich Worf

### Clerk

D. J. Saleeby

### Officers of Corporation for 2019

President - Jackie Shannon  
Vice President - Rich Worf  
Secretary - Alice Cuiello  
Treasurer - Jennifer Patterson



## Ministry Team Leaders 2019

Christian Nurture	Tony McKenzie
Congregational Life	Lynn Wilkerson
	Ruby Cathey
Finance	Fred Wilkerson
Member Care	Rena Beall
	Susanne Anderson
Mission	Harry Greyard
ABC Ministry	Ann Sanders
	Kay Chelena
Outreach	Amanda Shanks
Personnel	Lynn Daniel
Property	Mahlon Thomas
	Todd Oswald
Spiritual Growth	Karen Shannon
	Paula Huffines
Stewardship	Laura Meier
	Ted Todd

# Pastor

## Letter from our Senior Pastor

Faithful Friends,

What an amazing year we have had here at Avondale in 2019! There has been so much to celebrate and give thanks for. This past year we marked the 75th anniversary of Avondale's ministry in Charlotte. For 75 years we have worked to serve God by being a light of hope, reconciliation, and grace in this wonderful city that we call home.

Over these 75 years, we have brought God's light to children through education in the Children's Center, Sunday School programs, Avondale Adventures, Children's Music and Vacation Bible School. Through Youth Fellowship, Confirmation, Youth Retreats and Mission Trips we have helped cultivate God's light in the next generation. In places like Kentucky, Eastern North Carolina, Mexico, Peru, and Haiti we have sent teams of Avondalers to both carry and receive God's light through Mission work. Here at home we have shared God's light with the Bethlehem Center, Room In The Inn of the Urban Ministry Center, Sedgely Middle School, Playbook for Life, and the sharing of our campus. Christian Education opportunities and meaningful programs have strengthened the light of Christ in us and those around us.

At the center of all this has been our worship of God. For 75 years we have come together during Sunday mornings where we have received and bore witness to the Light of Christ as we have come together as a faith community. The wonderful thing about Avondale is that the one element which identifies us - worship

At the center of all this  
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**For 75 years**  
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to the Light of Christ...



- is experienced in different ways. Our Taizé service, our Ash Wednesday service, or our Easter Sunrise service are as meaningful as the Sunday morning service and yet allow us to worship God through these unique experiences.

The significance being that it is in our worship where we find purpose, vision, direction, and meaning. It is why we were created and it is why we exist. In the next year and for the next 75 years, we will continue to grow in that purpose. We will give attention to creating new space which will help us to facilitate worship in deep and meaningful ways. All while serving the risen Christ by caring for one another and others in our community through mission and education.

You know, and I have the privilege of learning every day, what a special place Avondale is. It's a place where each member of this faith community is valued and cherished. Inside this report you will see evidence of how God is at work in and through the good people of Avondale. As we journey forward, growing in faith, the leadership of this remarkable church invites you to continue to be involved and connected to this new thing which God is doing here.

Grace & Peace,  
Jim

God is at work in and through



the good people of Avondale

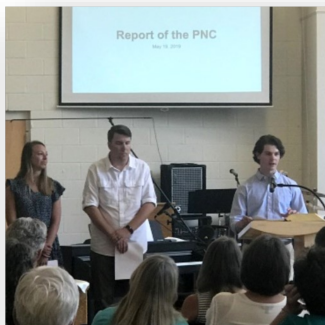
# Pastor Nominating Committee

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

A Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), elected in September 2018, continued its search for a Senior Pastor and Head of Staff for Avondale in 2019.

During the first four months of this year, the committee reviewed over 90 applications of people from across the U.S. wanting to come to Avondale. We also talked to many people asking for “word of mouth” recommendations from other churches and the Charlotte Presbytery. We contacted all the people we thought we might want to consider and asked them to apply. This put the PNC up to well over 100 people to consider. These applicants were very diverse: men, women, newly ordained, highly experienced, from large congregations and rural churches. The PNC researched the applicants online, listened to numerous sermons and talked with references for several applicants. We followed a process of interviewing that included online and in-person visits where our questions addressed all aspects of the ministry. We continuously reflected on these individuals, praying and listening for God’s guidance as we moved through this work for our church.

One candidate stood out through the entire process. Our first contact was in January. From interviews we heard his background, his investment in the total life of the church, and his strengths in pastoral care, mission, and worship. When we called references, we heard about this person’s reliability, the way he supported people through life’s challenges and conflicts, and how he lives his faith daily. Listening to sermons and visiting him at his current church, we found his messages thought-provoking and deeply based in the Gospel. We witnessed the

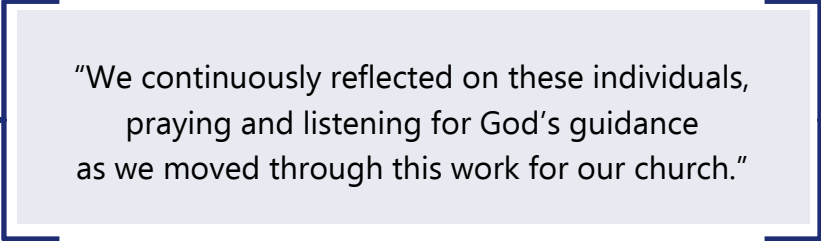




relationships he had with church members and were convinced that he was very well respected by everyone. At our third interview, the candidate grilled us about Avondale and revealed that he had talked with our references, both on and off our list!

In early April, our team was at a strong consensus that we were confident that God was calling Jim Ewing to ministry at Avondale. Our sense of clarity and our assurance in answered prayers moved us forward to issuing a pastoral call. We were all convinced that God was leading us to Jim. Jim was certain that God was calling him to Avondale.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the PNC presented to the congregation their committee's work and recommendation to bring Jim Ewing to Avondale. The Terms of Call were also shared. There was a unanimous vote by the congregation to accept and concur with the report of the PNC and to approve the terms of call.



"We continuously reflected on these individuals, praying and listening for God's guidance as we moved through this work for our church."

Jim, his wife Carrie and their children, Emma Grace and James, moved to Charlotte in late July and Jim began his work on August 5, 2019. He was welcomed into the Mecklenburg Presbytery on Saturday, August 17, 2019.

From August through the end of the 2019 calendar year, Jim has immersed himself into the work and life of our church. First and foremost, he has shared his faith journey with Avondale and worked diligently to learn about us as individuals and members of the church. We look forward to the Service of Installation for Jim Ewing as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Avondale on February 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Pastor Nominating Committee  
Team Members included: Mary Martin, Joy Calloway, Jack McKenzie, Dollie Sitton, Tom Stout, Lisa Worf

# Overview

## 2019 Gathering Groups

### **Worship Gathering**

Spiritual Growth and Stewardship

### **Mission Gathering**

Mission, ABC, and Outreach

### **Discipleship Gathering**

Congregational Life, Christian Nurture,  
and Member Care

### **Management Gathering**

Finance, Personnel,  
and Property

#### **Session**

#### ***Class of 2019***

John Magee

*Worship Gathering*

Patti Oswald

*Mission & ABC*

Jessica Shanks

*Discipleship Gathering*

#### **Session**

#### ***Class of 2020***

Zach Chambers

*Management Gathering*

Jennifer Patterson

*Children's Center*

Jackie Shannon

*Discipleship Gathering*

#### **Session**

#### ***Class of 2021***

Alice Cuvillo

*Worship Gathering*

Rich Worf

*Mission Gathering*

*Nancy Bohrer*

*Discipleship Gathering*

#### **Gathering Group**

Discipleship

Discipleship

Discipleship

Management

Management

Management

Mission

Mission

Mission

Worship

Worship

#### **Ministry Team**

Christian Nurture

Congregational Life

Member Care

Finance

Personnel

Property

Mission

ABC Ministry

Outreach

Spiritual Growth

Stewardship

#### **Leaders**

Tony McKenzie

Lynn Wilkerson, Ruby Cathey

Susanne Anderson, Rena Beall

Fred Wilkerson

Lynn Daniel

Mahlon Thomas, Todd Oswald

Harry Greyard

Ann Sanders, Kay Chelena

Amanda Shanks

Karen Shannon, Paula Huffines

Laura Meier, Ted Todd

# Discipleship

## Discipleship Gathering Group

### Christian Nurture

#### Children's Programming

The children's programming at Avondale was alive and vibrant in 2019!

Last winter, Avondale Adventures kicked off after the first of the year and invited the congregation to join them on Ash Wednesday for a burning of the palms and pancake dinner prior to the Ash Wednesday service. They continued to work in the weeks to come preparing music for the Palm Sun-

day service. The fall Adventures program showed significant growth and excitement with 25 children enrolled in the preschool and elementary groups. They completed the fall season with a wonderful musical, "Sing a Song of Christmas" dedicated in honor of Eleanor Ramey who faithfully served the Adventures choir for many years.

The Sunday School classes for preschool, elementary and youth continued to grow throughout the year. Preschool focused on lessons from the "Read and Share Bible", elementary continued with the use of the "Submerge" curriculum, and the youth use the lectionary to help guide their lessons and discussions.



Vacation Bible School at the end of July was a wonderful time! We joined efforts with the Bethlehem Center and

with the help of many volunteers were able to provide a full-day programming to 60 of our kindergarten to 5th grade children using the curriculum, "Who is My Neighbor? Learning to Love Like Jesus!" This was a wonderful week of service opportunity and jumping into action! The children shopped and prepared 60 boxes for Operation Christmas Child, made nine fleece



blankets for Room In The Inn, built and painted birdhouses for God's creation, made 60 candy flower pots for our shut-in members, and much more!

Joyful Noise offered a four week Advent series to our church members and community. This was well attended and moving forward will follow along with the Avondale Adventures schedule of 10 weeks every winter and fall.

The youth had an amazing year full of spiritual growth, fellowship, and work camps! They enjoyed trips to West Virginia, Montreat, Massanetta, Harlan, Kentucky, Camp Grier and several traveled to Eastern North Carolina for the congregational work camp.

In the fall of 2019, we celebrated heading back to school with the children and youth by offering a

"Back to School Breakfast" prior to worship. During worship, the children came forward with their backpacks and received a special blessing for the new school year. Also during the service, all rising 3rd graders received an NIV Bible and the three year olds, including the Avondale Children's Center 3's class, received the "Read and Share Bible."

## Adult Programming

Our Adult Sunday School classes, small group gatherings, Presbyterian women's association (PWA) and senior group (ASAP) continue to thrive. Our Sunday School classes, Bible 101, Sabbath House, New Beginnings, and Seekers enjoyed following along in the lectionary, looking at different books and following along with studies. During the spring, a congregational Lenten study was offered using the book, "Because of This I Rejoice." The Presbyterian Women of Avondale (PWA) and Avondale Senior Adult Program (ASAP) both offer time for fellowship and mission. Read more about these ministries in this section. In March, the women attended their annual Women's Retreat in Montreat, North Carolina. Jan Edminston was the guest speaker and Amanda Shanks provided the music and incorporated sign language. They

spent the weekend focusing on the theme, “Flip this Spiritual House” and enjoying fellowship time.

## **Avondale Children’s Center – Liaison Report**

The Avondale Children’s Center provides quality daycare to 78 children ranging in age from infants to five years. More importantly, through this ministry, the Church is able to nurture and share God’s love with the children and families at the Center, as well as the dedicated staff of teachers, administrators, and chef/sous chef.

Included in this Annual Report is a report from the Children’s Center Director Merrily Watts and Assistant Director Millie Norris that summarizes the Children’s Center’s many programs and accomplishments over the past year. The purpose of this Liaison Report is to highlight how we are working together to strengthen the relationship between the Church and the Children’s Center.

Ruling Elder Jennifer Patterson continues to serve as a liaison to the Children’s Center. She is a member of the Center’s Board of

Directors and works to ensure proper coordination and oversight of Church and Children’s Center activities. To further this effort, at the direction of the Session, a task force was formed this past year consisting of three Session members and four Children’s Center Board members. The goal of the task force is to ensure that there is a mutually beneficial, connected relationship between the Church and the Center with an alignment to the Church’s mission. The task



force has worked to develop a new charter for the Children’s Center, which has been adopted by the Session. In addition, a detailed property and expense allocation agreement has been developed and approved by the Church and the Children’s

Center. The focus for 2020 will be greater mission alignment between the Church and Children’s Center, including the creation of scholarship spots at the Children’s Center in collaboration with the ABC Ministry.

In 2019, the Children’s Center welcomed a new Director, Merrily Watts. Reverend Jim Ewing and Church members Jodie Lawson and Stephanie Mitchell participated in the recruitment process that



brought Merrily to Avondale. Merrily attends Avondale's weekly staff meetings and works closely with Avondale's staff in overseeing the operations of the Center. The Children's Center staff is now more closely aligned with the Church in another key way. In 2019, the Children's Center staff was enrolled in the PC(USA)'s Board of Pensions health benefits plan. This plan offers the Chil-



dren's Center staff greater benefits, access to an EAP, and a wellness benefit.

This past year, the Children's Center ministry was formally recognized as a Christian Nurture ministry of Avondale. This change is more than just the placement of a program on an organizational chart. Instead, it signifies our commitment to sharing God's love with the children and families at the Children's Center. The Church has done this in many ways over the past year, including through

providing a Chapel program and Vacation Bible School, expanding the Avondale Adventures program to include Children's Center families and preschoolers, providing Bibles to all three-year-olds at the Children's Center, and including the Children's Center children and families in our annual children's worship service.

In the coming year, we look forward to more collaboration and shared programs and more discussions about the important role the Children's Center can play as we work toward our objectives of preparing the hearts of children and families to abide in Christ, breaking down barriers to education, and serving our neighbors and getting to know them personally.

## Avondale Children's Center

Avondale Children's Center continues to be a vibrant ministry of Avondale Presbyterian Church. Our current enrollment of 78 children represents 58 families (seven Church families). The Children's Center has 24 staff members.



Over the past year, we have had administrative changes at the center. Our former director left Avondale to pursue her passion in the arts and music community. Although we miss Jessica McQuillen, we have a wonderful new director. Her name is Merrily Watts and she comes with 25 years of early childhood experience. Merrily is a wonderful addition to the staff and is excited about being part of the Avondale family.

The children at Avondale Children's Center have had a busy year. We had monthly music classes with Ms. Donna where we learned fun songs and fingerplays. Ms. Erin from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library came to read to us several times per month. We also enjoyed two 10-week sessions of Soccer Shots here on campus. In addition, we had a 10-week YOLA class. YOLA combines literacy and yoga and is sponsored by Charlotte Speech and Hearing.

We also hosted fun activities that encouraged family involvement

like our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Art Walk and picnic on the grounds, Fall Festival, and a Christmas Celebration with children singing in the Sanctuary followed



Teach children about helping others.



by arts and crafts in the Family Life Center. In addition to arts and craft activities, Lyn Sweet read to the children as Mrs. Claus and the children had their pictures taken with Santa.

We love to teach children about helping others. Our older pre-school classroom sponsored a pink lemonade and donut stand. They raised \$401 for Mitchell's Fund, a charity that helps families facing challenging pediatric

illnesses. In addition, we collected and donated 737 pounds of food for Loaves and Fishes. We also hosted a Scholastic Book Fair on campus and the sales earned \$300 worth of new books for our classrooms.

The children continue to enjoy Chapel every other week and look forward to their time with Lyn Sweet, Libby Thompson, and Lynn Wilkerson. During Chapel, they

learned wonderful lessons from Bible stories and awesome songs that they sang throughout the year. During the summer, we had fun participating in Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was "In the Wild." We had a great time transforming our classrooms into the "jungle." The children's main focus was "God is always with us, don't be afraid." We continue to instill the wonderful messages learned during Chapel and VBS throughout the year.

We all look forward to 2020 in anticipation of another fabulous year here at ACC.



"God is always with us,  
don't be afraid."

Merrily Watts, Director and Millie Norris, Assistant Director

## **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 2019, with monetary support from our annual cookie/bake 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, snacks, and student/teacher materials
- Contacted college freshman monthly via cards and notes
- Provided scholarships for youth to attend Montreat Music Camp and to attend camps at Massanetta and Montreat
- Supported the international missions of Presbyterian Women (USA) through two special offerings

- Initiated a women's gathering between church service and Sunday School classes
- Honored Nancy Bohrer during worship service with the Honorary Life Membership award for life-long work in the church



PWA will continue these works in 2020. In addition, we look forward to helping with the Joyful Noise mission and the Mission team's church-wide endeavors.

## 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 a delicious meal, fun, and wonderful fellowship.

In 2019, we enjoyed the music of John Tosco and we sang hymns with Rich Stanley. We played White Elephant Bingo, enjoyed scrumptious desserts with Heidi Billotto, and listened to Sally Brewster critique summer reading books. These are a few of the activities from our monthly gatherings.

We had two mission projects this year. We brought in school supplies in August for 60 teachers at Sedgefield Middle School and collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The pop tabs are recycled and the proceeds help families stay near their sick children at no cost. We have continued with this collection and community beyond ASAP are also contributing.

Two trips were taken in 2019. We toured the beautiful Duke Gardens and some members traveled to the Flat Rock Playhouse to enjoy the "Christmas Spectacular."



We continue to support our “Faithful Friends” by making visits, sending cards, and making phone calls to let them know they are truly loved by their Avondale family.

Our ASAP leadership team consists of Ruby Cathey, Betty Chambers, Tim Chambers, Brenda Coble, Stewart Farris, Mike Love, Lyn Sweet, and Caroline White.

## Member Care Ministry

The Member Care team focused ministry efforts on caring for the members of our Avondale Family throughout 2019. We showed our love and concern by offering support to members during difficult times of grief and illness and times of joy. Our ministry relies heavily on the support of our congregation to assist with these important life events.

The team provided meals before memorial services and served food and punch for visitations following services. Member Care relies on a team of volunteers to assist, often on very short notice, with these events that are so meaningful to our members during a time of loss. This past year, our Youth Group showed their compassion and support by providing food and beverages and serving the many friends and family members at a very large reception. Our team was so grateful for the support and outpouring of love on that difficult day.

Member Care also provided care and support by delivering meals to numerous members following a stay in the hospital. In addition, the team sent cards and flowers to individuals to let them know that we were thinking of them and praying for healing.

Member Care shared in the joy and excitement of our members following the birth of a child. Volunteers delivered meals and visited families once they were home with their little bundle of joy!

The Prayer Request list is maintained by our ministry. Kelly Platt continued to share her gifts and commitment by organizing the Prayer List and sending it out to our volunteers who faithfully pray for our members and friends on the list.

We would like to say “THANK YOU” to all that assisted with this ministry that provides love and support when needed most.

Team Leaders: Rena Beall and Susanne Anderson



## Congregational Life

### Congregational Life

Our Congregational Life ministry provided many opportunities in 2019 for members to connect and enjoy fellowship with each other and other members of the community. Congregational Life had an extra busy year as we celebrated Avondale's 75th anniversary! This ministry invited all to join in events of music, food, worship, and fun held throughout the year celebrating and remembering 75 years on Park Road.

Shared here are many of our 2019 gatherings led by Congregational Life. In February, we had a fun night with a bonfire, s'mores and songs. March featured a pancake dinner on Ash Wednesday. In April, we hosted our friends from the ABC ministry for a tailgate party and Knights baseball game. We had a great night of laughter, music and Youth Ministry memories at our church-wide dinner in May. Avondalers joyfully worked together to have a welcome brunch for the Ewing family in early August. October brought our wonderful Homecoming Weekend. Our celebrations included a covered dish luncheon, a History Open House, and "75 Years of Music" concert. Members and friends, past and present, enjoyed a meaningful weekend of faith, reflection, music, and fellowship. We ended our year with our first Christmas Market featuring many of our talented members.

2019 featured additional celebrations and historical reflections for our Avondale anniversary. It was a truly blessed and busy year in the life of our church! We invite you to read our 75th Anniversary report.

Leaders Lynn Wilkerson and Ruby Cathey are very grateful for everyone's support of Congregational Life and to all the volunteers and contributions that helped make this a truly memorable year.



## Sacred Space Art

Sacred Space Art is a visual art program offering classes for Avondale and the community in a variety of art media. Classes were developed to offer opportunities to

- 1) explore new art media and the creative/ self-expressive process;
- 2) develop a greater understanding of symbolism in art as it relates to the spirit/ Christianity; and
- 3) build deeper relationships through small group fellowship.

The first classes were offered in the fall of 2018, with the first year having a fall and a winter/spring round of classes. Due to a recognition that the summer is a difficult time for people to make multiple week commitments, there was a break during the 2019 summer. Classes resumed with new offerings in the fall of 2019, following a big kickoff with an exhibit of some of the artwork created during the first full year of Sacred Space Art. A fundraising project was highly successful and featured the creation of note card sets with photos

of five paintings by participants in the “In The Garden” acrylic painting class.

Over these first three semesters, 11 classes were offered in such art media as acrylic painting, photography, ceramics, charcoal drawing, card-making, collage “junk” journals, jewelry-making and cake decorating. 59 students participated, with several students overlapping from one session to another.

Our hope for 2020 is to expand the offerings with new media/projects,

new instructors, and encouragement of new people to get involved and participate. We have been reserving funds with each class to be able to offer partial/full scholarships so that people are not limited in their ability to participate by their budget. Our plan is to extend an invitation to parents of the ABC Teen Leadership Cooperative youth to become a part of the program through participation in classes. We hope to see you in 2020.

Leader: Cheryl Judd-Magee



# Mission

## Mission Gathering Group

### Mission Ministry

In 2019, Avondale sought to practice Christ's great commandment - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" - and through that work, demonstrate our faithfulness to the first commandment - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:36-40)

At Avondale, we show God's love in our neighborhood; our city; our state; and our world. Our work cannot stop until we have done everything we can to build God's kingdom here on earth.

At Avondale,  
we show God's love  
in our neighborhood;  
our city; our state; and  
our world.  
Our work... to build  
God's kingdom  
here on earth.

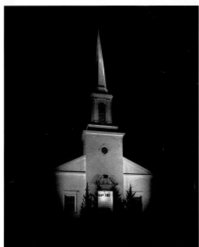
### ABC Ministry

The ABC team continued its work promoting the partnership between Avondale and the Bethlehem Center of Charlotte. Bethlehem Center offers afterschool programming and a summer camp to low-income children and teens, from grades K-12 (as well as preschool, which Avondale is not involved with).

Avondale began its ministry with Bethlehem Center by housing its middle and high school afterschool program in the Family Life Center at Avondale. This has continued. Generally, the middle and high school program has 6-10 students at Avondale. Programming for elementary school children, which takes place at other sites, ranges from 25-35 children.

The most labor-intensive part of Avondale's ministry with Bethlehem Center continues to be Kid's Café, which occurs twice a month during the school year. At each Kid's Café, Avondale members prepare for and serve dinner to 45 Bethlehem Center students and staff. All the elementary and older students are brought to a central location for this Friday late afternoon meal. We began the year serving the meal at

*continued on page 25*



AVONDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

## A CANVASS PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the church which our Saviour founded and for whose life He died. We thank Thee for Thy love which has reached out to us through the church to draw us to Thee and to one another. We thank Thee especially for Avondale Church, for those whose devotion and labors in the past have given her life, and for the bright promise of days to come.

We offer to Thee, not merely our prayers. We offer, rather our selves, to be Thy people, dedicated anew to be instruments of Thy healing power, to our own community and to the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 1956 - Stewardship booklet



### A Message From Our Minister

Dear People,

A church, like an individual, grows and develops a personality of her own. Her first plant the very sacred memory a given church has come and it is in that church's growing and development that we find a new life. It has been said that a church which depends is put upon the gifts of others is no more church. The church is not a building but a people and it is the people who make a church. A church which depends is put upon the gifts of others is no more church. The church is not a building but a people and it is the people who make a church. A church which depends is put upon the gifts of others is no more church. The church is not a building but a people and it is the people who make a church.

Avondale is a young of age. We still think of ourselves as being a young church. And that is good because as youth baptisms, youth, vision, and leadership. There are before the memory of most of us in the Church today, we passed rapidly through our infancy and became an adulthood. We have now entered adolescence for a period of about ten years (the time during which I have been your minister). The time has come, I believe, for us to move on, to grow up. The Lord is calling us to maturity.

Sincerely yours,  
Thos. W. McLean

October 29, 1956

## YOUR GIFT BUILDS YOU

... and a greater Avondale Presbyterian Church

Your Gift builds a church. More important it builds you. Some of us have lost the original nature of our Christian life is not because our habits of giving have not grown in proportion to our physical and economic stature. Giving little we receive little. It is more important that our spiritual life should be renewed than that our church should undergo the physical plant, but both may be done together. New heights of spiritual living are gained through new heights of sacrificial giving. Larger contributions can mean greater consecration. Where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. A giving congregation will mean a living church.

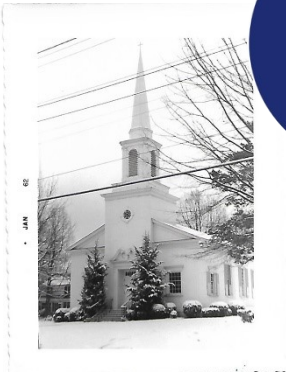
No one can say how much you should give. Each family must make its own decision. Only peaceful

consideration and the determination to put God first in our lives will ensure a gift that is truly sacrificial. Your pledge is an act of faith: a prayer to God who alone can fulfill it. The amount must be determined not by perfect calculation but through personal conviction. Not the church's need for money but our need for Christian growth in faith and service must guide our giving. Our standard is neither what we have done nor what others are doing, but the example of Christ, our Guide in giving, as in all of life.

The opportunity to share with the Lord that which He has given is open to all. Join with your Brothers in Christ in giving generously to His work and in serving as a living witness to His Gospel.



## 1956 - Rev. MacLean letter



1962 - Avondale  
with snow



1962 - Church Roster in Bulletin for  
Dedication of Education Wing





# 75th Anniversary

## A Look Back at Avondale's 75th Anniversary

We had a wonderful year-long celebration of Avondale's 75th Anniversary. Being immersed in the history of the men and women who were bold enough to listen to God's leading to start our church in 1944 has been awe inspiring. Thankfulness abounds for those who made it possible for all of us to be worshipping at Avondale today.

The Congregational Life team focused on gatherings that would celebrate Avondale and its members and ministries all year long. In January, we had cake and lemonade to celebrate the 20th year of Room In The Inn. A bonfire with s'mores and hotdogs was held in February with sock donations collected for our homeless friends. The Palm Sunday Egg Hunt was followed by cookies and lemonade in the Sacred Garden. The annual Knights game and tailgate with friends from the Bethle-

hem Center was held in April. In May, we held a church night supper that focused on 75 years of Youth Group memories. In June, we held a Brunch Celebrating Presbyterian Women and named the annual PWA Honoree.

Avondalers joyfully worked together to have a Welcome Brunch for the Ewing family in early August. The Blessing of the Backpacks and Backpack Breakfast were in late August, accompanied by an exhibit of artwork from the Sacred Space Art program. Our Homecoming Weekend was held in October. Invitations were sent



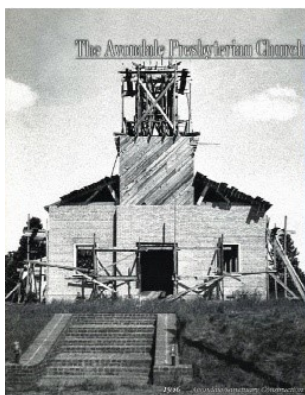




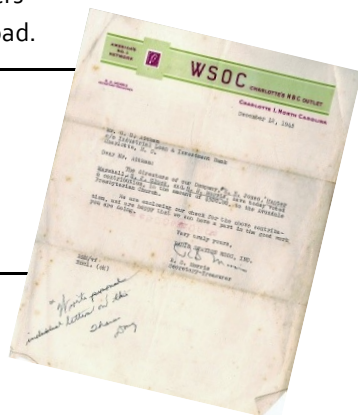
*This is the first building erected on the property.*



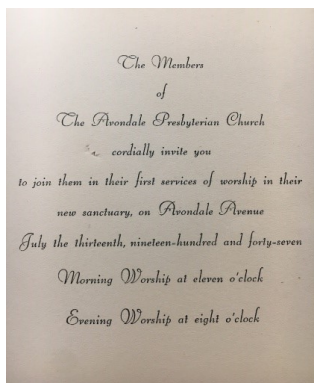
1944 - The first Avondale was a school house building donated by one of the Belk brothers and moved to the present sight on Park Road.



1946 - under construction



1945 - A donation to Avondale from WSOC



1947 - Invite to Worship in new Sanctuary



1947 - newspaper article announcing new Sanctuary

to Avondalers and friends for our biggest celebration of the year. Our last event of the year was our first annual Avondale Christmas Market. On December 7, over 20 artisans shared their talents alongside our annual PWA Bake Sale. Refreshments and Christmas decorations welcomed the community to our campus and this joyous time celebrating Avondalers and our anniversary.

Our big 75th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend was held Saturday and Sunday, October 12-13, 2019. In a campus-wide Open House, displays of Avondale ministries and activities over the years were shared. On Saturday, we welcomed all to a "75 Years of Music" performance. All music groups at Avondale made this a joyous event! The music was followed by a hotdog dinner on the lawn. On Sunday, our worship service focused on God's grace and leading of Avondale in the past and in the future. Our Homecoming Luncheon followed this service bringing together Avondalers past and present, friends

and family. It was a special day.

In addition to our celebrations, history presentations "The First Ten Years" and the "The Next Ten Years" were researched and shared in worship and online.

Weekly emails shared history notes and pictures from the History Team, called "Avondale...Did You Know?" The Presbyterian Women of Avondale reprinted "The Avondale Cookbook" from 1970 and sold copies.

Avondale artwork from the past was highlighted and revisited. A new

banner was hand-crafted to represent the 2005-2014 era of Avondale and the world, joining six other banners from our history, all displayed in the Family Life Center.

All of these celebratory events were made possible because of the love, joy and enthusiasm of so many Avondalers who shared their time and talents.

Leaders: Lynn Wilkerson, Ruby Cathey (and countless others)



Southview Center, but since September, the meal has been served at Avondale. Recruiting people to prepare and serve Kid's Café

er enrollment than the afterschool program- about 70 students. This year, Avondale included Bethlehem Center summer camp youth



throughout the year is a primary focus of the ABC team's efforts.

In mid-year, the program director for the middle and high school program was replaced and the new director, Justin Higgins, has been an active member of the ABC team. Justin has promoted life skills learning for the middle and high school students, and the ABC team has sought to engage the congregation in this ministry.

Avondale also was instrumental in sending four summer campers of the Bethlehem Center to Camp Grier for one week. Camp tuition was funded either by the Church or by grants that church members worked with Bethlehem Center staff to obtain.

Avondale stepped up its efforts to engage with the Bethlehem Center summer camp program. The summer camp program has a high-

in the Avondale Vacation Bible School program, which required significant coordination and flexibility on the part of Vacation Bible School organizers. The church also purchased sheets and pillows for the 70 summer campers who attended overnight camp through Bethlehem Center.

As Avondale has done since the partnership was founded, the church hosted Bethlehem Center families at a Knights baseball game and tailgate party in the spring. Instead of the joint Avondale-Bethlehem Center Christmas holiday meal as in the past, this year the ABC team hosted a catered Thanksgiving Meal for Bethlehem Center families, which was well-attended and successful.

Avondale continued the Angel Tree program during Advent, in which students received gifts from church members. Families also

received gift cards. The Avondale Children's Center participated in this gift ministry as well as the congregation. In the future, we may consider including Bethlehem Center staff in the Angel Tree program.

The Avondale Children's Center is considering offering scholarships, and an ABC team representative attends these meetings to stay abreast of such discussions and offer any needed help.

This year, the Avondale - Bethlehem Center (ABC) partnership completed its third year of operation. As with all collaborations, there have been lessons learned along the way. In response to the evolving mission of the Bethlehem Center, and its branching out from the Southside Homes community, the ABC team has focused its efforts on responding to needs presented by Bethlehem Center leadership. We will continue to work to develop ever-deeper relationships with the children and families the Bethlehem Center serves.

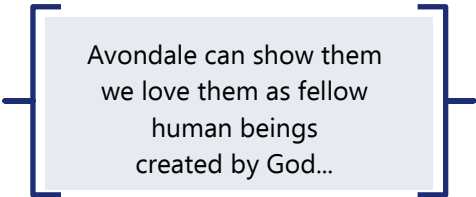
The ABC Ministry leadership extends appreciation to all volunteers who have assisted with Kid's Café and all other ABC activities and endeavors. The 2019 ABC team consisted of Ann Sanders, Kay Chelena, Patti Oswald, Linda Haigh, Ginny Mitchell, Jessica Shanks, Georgett Johnson, and Justin Higgins.

## Room In The Inn

Avondale continued its proud tradition of supporting Room In

The Inn during 2019. For 2019, we shifted to hosting once a week, on Sunday night. This schedule helps the Urban Ministry Center because Sunday is a low-participation night. It also works well for Avondale because we typically do not have programming after youth group finishes on Sunday night, and having much of the work take place on a weekend maximizes the number of people who can participate.

We continued to serve 12 guests each night, with Avondale members setting up; picking up our neighbors from the Urban Ministry Center; cooking and serving dinner; hosting our neighbors overnight; returning our neighbors uptown; breaking down the Fellowship Hall; and cleaning laundry and linens. All of these tasks involve a large portion of our con-



Avondale can show them  
we love them as fellow  
human beings  
created by God...



2019 marked 20 YEARS of  
Room In The Inn ministry

gregation. We also have the opportunity to build bridges with Havurat Tikvah, the Jewish congregation that uses our Fellowship Hall and participates regularly in Room In The Inn, as well as with staff and parents from the Avondale Children's Center.

In fall 2019, our Mission team decided that for the first year in some time, Avondale would participate in Room In The Inn during the month of December. We hosted five nights in December, helping 60 neighbors during that period, even though the holidays were in full swing.

The importance of this decision was highlighted by the unfortunate death of one of our neighbors on December 1, 2019, the very first night of the program. Walter McKinney enjoyed our fellowship and a warm dinner, but was taken to the hospital when he began having trouble breathing after dinner. He had a cardiac ar-

rest and passed away later that night. It was the first time he had used the Room In The Inn program, and he likely would have been on the street on his last night without it. Avondale paid for his cremation using some of the remaining Mission budget so that his brother could take possession of his ashes.

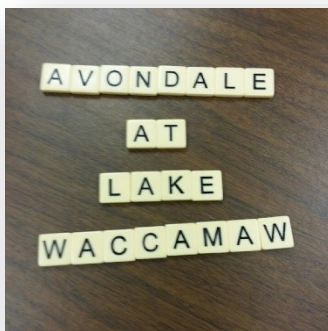
Through Room In The Inn, Avondale lives out Christ's injunction that "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Every Sunday, we encounter neighbors with heartbreaking stories of mental illness, lack of affordable housing, jobs that pay too little, discrimination on the basis of gender or race, and sometimes, bad decisions long ago that unjustly continue to haunt them and prevent them from rebuilding their lives. For one night each week, Avondale can show them we love them as fellow human beings created by God, and we can provide them with some measure of dignity and respect.

## Work Camp

In 2019, we revived Avondale's tradition of out of town work camps with great success. More than a dozen Avondale members, led by Cindy McKenzie, and with a



special appearance by Rev. Jim Ewing, traveled to Whiteville, North Carolina near Lumberton to help with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts. Working with the local United Methodist relief organization, we spent two days installing a new floor in a home that had been devastated by the floodwaters. Our work crew was an efficient machine, led by the expertise of Marc Chavaree, Corey Shanks, and Zach Chambers, as well as other veterans of past work camps. Our impact was



great, and the fellowship was fantastic. All will remember it as one of the most fun weekends of 2019. It was also an important instance of residents of Charlotte reaching out to help our less fortunate neighbors in rural North Carolina - something we city-dwellers do far too infrequently.



We will continue the work camp tradition at some point in 2020 and look forward to continued strong participation from the congregation.

## Haiti Ministry

Avondale's mission in Haiti continues to focus on supporting the building of a Mission House in Milot, Haiti. Members of our congregation, unfortunately, were not able to make an official church trip to Haiti in 2019 due to continued political turmoil there. Our congregation, however, is greatly enriched by the presence of Davidson Valmyr, son of our longtime Milot friend and contact Jacquelin Valmyr. Davidson has become a member of our church while he studies at CPCC, and has been a faithful and much-valued contributor to the ministries of our church, including youth group, Room In The Inn, and ABC. He and Joe Zuyus were able to return to Milot for a Christmas visit.

We continued to support the building of the Mission House financially, with a contribution in the amount of \$4,000 to fund construction of a well, which we raised through the cornhole tournament run by Avon-

dale members in the fall of 2018. We are anxious to organize another fundraiser and trip as soon as political conditions permit.

## Giving Garden

In 2019, we celebrated our fourth year as a 17-plot community garden, where members of Avondale and neighbors brought forth bounty from the earth while spending therapeutic time in nature. Three plots benefiting the Friendship Trays meals-on-wheels program provided over 200 pounds of fresh produce for homebound recipients. This little plot of land on our campus represents Avondale's desire to use all of its available resources to build God's kingdom on earth.

**Haiti**  
continued  
support...  
financially...  
to fund  
construction  
of a well...

## Bridge Team

The Bridge Team was formed in 2017 as a vehicle for facilitating outreach and relationship-building with the often underserved residents of the nearby Brookhill and Southside Homes communities. The group partnered with South Tryon Community Church with an emphasis on engaging in service-oriented activities to promote the continued development of relationships between Avondale members and residents of those communities.

In 2019, the Brookhill community center opened, led by longtime Bridge Team contact and former South Tryon Community Church employee Debbie Williams. Three Avondale members, along with a Brookhill resident, helped to paint the center. Then, for the kickoff event in April, Avondale supplied six volunteers to help with the event (three of whom spent most of their time sorting clothes for the clothing closet at South Tryon Community Church). Avondale also assembled volunteers to help with resume training, job interview skills, and computer training at the community center.

As in previous years, it proved difficult to engage community members other than Debbie in real relationship-building. We invited residents to our annual Knights game event and although many requested tickets, none showed up (to Debbie's consternation). The center also did not take advantage of the Avondale members we had lined-up to help with



resumes, job interviews, and computer skills.

At the end of the year, after much prayerful consideration, the gathering group decided that the work of the Bridge Team had run its course and that it would not continue as an official ministry of Avondale. We will continue to

be grateful for (and will hope to continue to cultivate) the relationships we built during the last three years. We also have an enduring appreciation of and respect for the residents of the Brookhill and Southside Homes communities, who are a community of hope and share with us an abiding faith in the grace and soul-saving power of Jesus Christ.

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### Denomination Support & Special Offerings

Avondale continued its strong tradition of giving to the Presbyterian Church as well as special offerings throughout the year:

Denomination support: \$13,560

Special offerings: Total \$29,422

Ten Cents A Meal	\$5,165
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,820
Pentecost Offering (part of this offering was kept by Avondale)	\$2,035
Joy Gift Offering	\$1,650
Children’s Ministry	\$1,077
Love Offering	\$3,115

### Avondale Basketball

Avondale participates in the Playbook for Life Ministries League with Zachary Barjona as the Avondale Basketball Coordinator. Zachary, fondly known as “Ziggy,” has worked to build a basketball ministry within Avondale that fosters strong relationships between the players and coaches. You will find Ziggy in the FLC every Saturday for games and visiting practices to cheer on the team.

Avondale had a great 2018-2019 season with a number of teams making it to the playoffs and even winning a few championships! The mission project for the season was organized through Playbook for Life-International. Each team purchased a basketball, signed it and took

a picture with it to send to children in South Africa.

For the 2019-2020 season, Ziggy's fourth with Avondale, we have 11 teams, 93 players and 20 coaches participating.

## Outreach

Outreach continued its mission of recent years to invite, include, and share faith with those outside of Avondale's immediate faith community. We seek to welcome our guests by providing opportunities for guests to build meaningful relationships with others in the church and grow in faith through participation in ministry. The Outreach team has placed a Yellow Guest Card in every bulletin to ensure guests have an opportunity to provide contact information, ask to receive Avondale communications, or be contacted by a member or clergy. The Outreach team tracks and manages these responses in collaboration with staff. For those interested, the "Next Steps" class was created as an opportunity to learn more about Avondale and the Presbyterian church, prepare prospective members to join the church, and build relationships with other members and staff. Two "Next Steps" classes, of four sessions each, were held in 2019 with 12 participants between the two classes. All 12 participants joined the church and have been active in worship and church activities. Several have been especially committed to mission, volunteering with the ABC program and Room In The Inn. We also began a shepherding program, in which we assigned existing members to walk alongside new members for at least six months, providing information, spiritual guidance, and encouragement.

Additionally, the team continued to encourage the sharing of faith stories during worship. Outreach has periodically assisted other ministry teams throughout the year, as well as encouraged other teams to consider and reflect on how ALL ministries at Avondale can be welcoming, inclusive, and grounded in faith. The team has also been working with Avondale Children's Center to welcome new families, providing a welcome letter, a book on faith-based parenting, and baked goods, as well as reaching out to families and staff to offer prayer or assistance during significant life events such as illnesses and births.



# *Worship*

## **Worship Gathering Group**

### **Spiritual Growth**

Our Worship ministry team works to enhance the weekly Sunday services at Avondale for the Glory of God. In 2019, the Worship Ministry supported additional services including Ash Wednesday, the Maundy Thursday service, the Easter Saturday Great Vigil service, sunrise and regular service on Easter. In addition, we had a Sunday that recognized the Children's Center and Avondale children and a Sunday led by the Avondale Youth Group. In October, we had a special service celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Avondale. The Taizé team, led by Ted Todd, Mahlon Thomas, and Jackie Shannon, continued the monthly Taizé prayer services the first Tuesday of every month. During Advent, the children's Christmas musical was presented after a Sunday worship. The Christmas Eve family service was again held in the Family Life Center with the Christmas Eve candlelight service at 11 PM in the Sanctuary.



During 2019, we continued to support our Interim Minister, Veronica Cannon, and welcomed our new minister Jim Ewing. We continue in our support for Jim while he learns about the many activities at Avondale. During worship, we continue to emphasize mission with Avondale In Action and Faith Stories.

Rich Stanley, our music director, worked with the Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Bell Choir, Worship Choir, Worship Band, Instrumental Ensemble, and guest instrumentalists. All groups have shared their gifts during various worship services. In honor of Avondale's 75th anniversary, Rich organized and led a special Saturday afternoon concert celebrating "75 Years of Music." Early in the year, Rich and the worship ministry team sponsored the William and Mary Choir at Avondale. They performed a free concert for Avondale members and the greater

community as part of their spring tour. Rich identified a need for additional instruments to be used for Avondale Adventures and Vacation Bible School. Because our budget could not provide for these, we ran a special fundraiser for the children's instruments. The fundraiser was very successful and the instruments will be used by the Children's Music program for many years to come.



While we are still worshipping in the Family Life Center, the logistics of setting up for services continue to dominate the time and resources of our ministry team. This year, we experimented with a revised setup with two screens in front and a third screen in the back for the choir and music participants. This had the advantage of being able to leave screens up between services and a better central placement of the choir for improved sound. We will continue to make adjustments as needed.



We are very grateful for our many volunteers for worship. We especially want to mention those who set up the sound system for music, the chairs and worship embellishments, and the coffee and beverage bar. In addition, many volunteers read scripture, lead services, greet members and guests, care for children, and participate in our various musical ensembles.



#### Worship Team Members:

Rev. Veronica Cannon (through July 2019) - Interim Minister

Rev. Jim Ewing (August 2019) - Minister

Rich Stanley - Director of Music

Paula Huffines and Karen Shannon - Co-Leaders

Alice Cuviglio, John Magee, and Jackie Shannon - Elders

Cheryl Judd-Magee, Betty Chambers, Barbara Darling, Ted Todd, and Debby Sacra - Creative Team

## Music Ministry

2019 was a special year as the church celebrated 75 years. The celebration included a concert, “75 Years of Music” involving all of the music groups of Avondale: Choir, Band, Handbells, Youth, and Instrumentalists. A variety of music was performed to represent Avondale’s history and how we use all forms of music to glorify and praise God.

The Worship Choir and Worship Band continued to lead music for each Sunday

Worship service. They provided anthems and other special music to support the scripture and theme for each service. The Worship Choir presented the Tenebrae Service “Behold the Darkness” on Maundy Thursday and both Choir and Band provided music for the Easter Vigil service. Participation in both groups dropped slightly in 2019 and the Worship Choir gained two new members. Recruitment for these groups is ongoing. We invite you to join.

The Avonbellers Handbell Choir continued to play periodically throughout the year and for most of the Advent/Christmas season.

Participation in this group dropped in the fall, new members are being recruited in the new year.

Avondale has several members who play musical instruments and have played periodically for many years. In 2019, an Instrumental



We use all forms of music to glorify and praise God.

Ensemble was formed and used throughout the year to play hymns, anthems, offertories, and more for worship and other special services.

In the summer, Rich Stanley our

Director of Music, led a music class in Vacation Bible School. The VBS children enjoyed singing and playing the new instruments purchased with the funds from a special children’s instruments fundraiser.

In the fall of 2019, a weekly Youth Choir rehearsal time was set prior to Youth Group each Sunday. Attendance declined toward the end of the year and the group was put on a hiatus. Efforts to restart this group will begin in early 2020. The children of Avondale Adventures presented the Christmas musical, “Sing a Song of Christmas”, in the Fellowship Hall after

worship with a cookies and refreshments time following the performance. The performance was dedicated in memory of Eleanor Ramey who shared her love of music with our children for decades.

Avondale's Music Ministry was pleased to host the William and Mary Choir in 2019. The choir students were housed in many Avondale member homes. The choir shared a free performance at Avondale that was open to the community and received great attendance.

Rich continued to work on improving practice spaces for our Avondale music groups and organize our church's music resources.

Avondale is blessed to have many members and friends who continue to give of their time and talents to the music ministry. Thank you to all for your service in 2019.

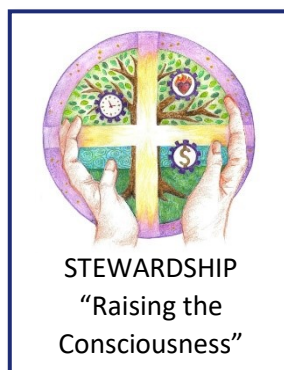
## Stewardship

Your Stewardship team's responsibility in 2019 was to remind everyone of the realities and responsibilities there are in our community and our church family here at Avondale. We asked that each one of us contemplate and discern, deepening our giving and broadening our vision. We made every effort to "Raise the Consciousness."

"Raising the Consciousness" requires taking time to deepen our understanding of God's will and discern God's love. We asked you to raise your own consciousness while discerning what Avondale's future holds for both you and the greater congregation.

We began the 2019 Stewardship campaign in March and ended in November. Along the way, we tried to raise the consciousness with videos and speakers from our congregation. In the end, we are pleased to inform Avondale that we have exceeded our goal, and our final 2020 pledges total is \$469,675. Thank you to all who have generously pledged to the furthering of Christ's work here at Avondale.

Laura Meier and Ted Todd, Co-Chairs  
John Magee, Jim Flowers, Laura Daniel



# Management

## Management Gathering Group

In 2019, the management team strove to serve the congregation of Avondale to provide resources for all of the missions and ministries of the church. All of our actives require some kind of support from our staff, accounting support or simply a space to meet. It was our joy this year to help provide these resources for you and the community, allowing room and support for each of our ministries to strive to Glorify God.

I would especially like to thank the leadership of Todd Oswald, Mahlon Thomas and Fred Wilkerson as their current terms of leadership come to an end. Well done, good and faithful servants! (from Matthew 25:23) In 2020, Matt Mitchell and Andrew Pavlin will be leading the Finance team, Corey Shanks and Tim Doherty will be leading the Property team and Lynn Daniel will continue leading the Personnel team. Respectfully submitted,  
Zach Chambers

## Property

The focus of Property Committee continues to be managing our aging property in order to meet the needs of worship, community outreach, and the Avondale Children's Center. The faithful giving to the facilities fund and contributions of time and resources by congregational members has been essential in allowing us to address major property issues in 2019. Highlights of 2019 for the property committee include:

- Replacement of a water main isolation valve to the Children's Center.
- Repair of an old broken iron water pipe under the Sanctuary.





- HVAC repairs throughout the campus.
  - Roof replacement of all flat roofs on the Family Life Center.
- Our spring and fall workdays are an opportunity to accomplish significant campus cleanup and maintenance activities. They are always accompanied by great fellowship. Thanks to the congregation for supporting the work days.

The Property Committee would like to express thanks to the following:

- Jessica Shanks, who has been critical in handling the daily issues associated with property and supporting the Children's Center.
- Jennifer Patterson for her continued support in helping to define the relationship between the Church and the Children's Center for repair and maintenance of the Children's Center area.
- James Higgs who continues to care for our property weekly.

Looking forward, the contributions to the Facilities Fund and the dedication of time and talents by congregational members will continue to be important as we continue to address issues associated with an aging facility. We keep the work of the Sacred Space committee in our prayers as Avondale moves forward into the next decade.

Thanks to the commitment of the 2019 Property Committee members and their dedication to maintain and help keep up with the facilities that God has blessed us with here on Park Road.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Oswald and Mahlon Thomas

We keep the work of the Sacred Space committee in our prayers as Avondale moves forward into the next decade.

## Personnel

2019 was an active year for the Personnel Team at Avondale culminating with the welcoming of our new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. Rev. Jim Ewing joined Avondale on August 5, 2019. Avondale welcomed Jim and his family with open arms and he has settled into our lives and ministries very quickly.

Other changes in 2019 were:

- Rev. Veronica Cannon who faithfully served Avondale for almost

two years as our interim departed in August.

- Lou Johnson's contract ended and she departed in July.
- Marcia Halsey retired after 27 years of service to our children.
- Dee Dee McDonald was hired to fill Marcia's vacancy.

In addition to working through the various personnel changes and celebrations, the team worked to support our staff throughout the year.

Thanks to the committee members for the hard work. If done properly, the work of the committee is not heard about much. Nonetheless, it is important to our mission.

Marcia cared for  
our children  
for 27 years

"Well done,  
good and faithful  
servant!"

*Matthew 25:21*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Daniel

## Finance

The primary responsibility of the Finance Team is to handle the financial accounting and management of Avondale and the resources you faithfully give to advance the mission and ministry of the Church and the Kingdom. Managing the 2019 financial year required a bit of navigation, flexibility, and faith.

We started the year with a budget deficit which, per the stipulation of the Session, required a mid-year review to be sure the projections were tracking as expected. We had several significant capital expenditures ranging from a variety of HVAC repairs, the replacement of the roof on the Family Life Center, and the funding of the Sacred Space committee effort. Most of these expenditures were covered by tapping and ultimately depleting the Facilities and the Emily Bearden Funds.

The Golden Anniversary Endowment Fund, the unrestricted fund within the Always Avondale Endowment, provided funding for the Pastor Nominating Committee and the additional financial support needed (i.e. target salary increase, moving expenses) to bring Reverend Jim Ewing and his family to Avondale. The Session and Finance Ministry

Team felt the money was well spent and served to reduce the impact of the expected budget shortfall.

Navigating through the financial year was made possible by members who faithfully made gifts and bequests expecting that Avondale would need the resources, flexibility, and the faith that the Session would have the wisdom to put the funds to their best use. Without their generosity, much of what we were able to do in 2019 and hope to in the future would not be possible.

After a year that included all these financial factors, Avondale ended the year with a slight budget surplus aided by favorable investment results and higher than projected budgeted rental income. Avondale’s leadership continued to successfully carry out their responsibilities to the congregation at or below their budgeted allocations. A sincere thank you to the gathering groups, committees, the Finance Team members, and Jacqueline Howells, our Financial Coordinator, for their dedication to Avondale; but most of all, we are thankful for you, the members who have faithfully supported Avondale with your financial gifts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Wilkerson

Navigating... the financial  
year was made possible  
by members...



# Financial

## Financial Information

	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
Contributions	\$464,207	\$490,575
Rental/Other Income	64,588	25,125
Children's Ctr. Reimbursement	28,875	31,519
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	13,163	17,500
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$570,833</b>	<b>\$564,719</b>
Personnel	337,297	350,919
Property	128,071	137,237
Office Supplies/Technology/ Communications	17,697	24,518
Mission	32,450	39,210
Christian Nurture	25,788	24,450
Congregational Life	5,438	5,500
Spiritual Growth	8,453	10,945
Family Life Ctr. Ministries	7,839	13,975
Other Expenses <sup>1</sup>	2,190	5,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$565,223</b>	<b>\$612,254</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$5,610</b>	<b>(\$47,535)</b>

<sup>1</sup>Of other expenses, the majority includes Member Care & Stewardship.

<sup>2</sup>\$22k of Endowment support included in 2019.

## Notes to Financial Information

As of December 31, 2019 the balance of the Vanguard Golden Anniversary Endowment account is comprised of the following:

Endowment:	\$908,677
Emily Bearden:	\$38,449
Goodpasture Fund:	\$9,244
Columbarium Fund:	\$88,454

Facilities Fund: \$0  
Excess Operating Reserves: \$0

Fund balances were brought to book balances in the first quarter of 2020. Excess operating funds at year-end were also transferred.

On September 27, 2019, Session approved up to \$66.8k in expenditures from the Emily Bearden fund (including \$32k approved in 2018) for use towards Sacred Space capital expenditures. \$9.8k was spent in 2019 bringing total capital expenditures to \$38.4k.

In December 2019, Avondale received prepaid pledges of \$5,000 which were recorded as a Prepaid Pledge Liability. On January 1, 2020 this liability was transferred to the Member Pledge total supporting the 2020 budget.

Capital Expenditures of \$10k were budgeted in 2020 and not budgeted for 2019 due to the Facilities Fund declining to a balance of \$0 on December 31, 2019.

With 2019 being a transition year, the Endowment provided \$22k in support for the pastor search and onboarding.

## ***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:

	1/1/2019	12/31/2019 <sup>1</sup>	2019 Return	2018 Return
<i>Golden Anniversary Endowment Account</i>				
	\$965,006	\$1,092,496	5.5% <sup>2</sup>	-4.4%
<i>SBM Maintenance Fund</i>				
	\$10,304	\$10,951	6.3%	1.0%
<i>Local Ministries Fund Account</i>				
	\$13,522	\$16,468	21.8%	-2.9%

<sup>1</sup>Difference between book balance and fund balance at year-end adjusted in following quarter

<sup>2</sup>Return calculated after removing fund transfer activity

# Membership

## Membership Overview 2019

75th  
ANNIVERSARY

### Membership In Brief

Five baby girls and three baby boys were born.  
The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to five children.  
We welcomed five families and two individuals to membership.  
Twelve members went to the Church Triumphant.  
The church published a new Member Photo Directory.  
Church member data was updated, removing names long inactive.

Active Membership 12/31/2018	434
Adults welcomed into membership in 2019	12
Youth welcomed into membership in 2019	0
Membership Transferred	4
Deaths	12
Other	47
Active Membership 12/31/2019	383

### Births 2019

William Brian Doherty	January 20
Parents: Tim and Anne Doherty	
Mary Elizabeth Russell	March 22
Parents: Drew and Elizabeth Russell	
Irie Ann Presson	March 25
Parents: Nic and Rebeca Presson	
Hudson Liam Vorholt	April 21
Parents: Dana and Beth Vorholt	
Emory Page Parks	May 2
Parents: Chad and Kendel Parks	
Dell Carter Lawson	May 14
Parents: Thomas and Jodie Lawson	
Grace Bearden Marren	June 19
Parents: Brad and Karey Marren	
Evelyn Martin	August 4
Parents: Drew and Mary Margaret Martin	



## Baptisms 2019

James Griffin Shanks	April 21
Parents: Corey and Jessica Shanks	
William Brian Doherty	May 26
Parents: Tim and Anne Doherty	
Hudson Vorholt	July 28
Parents: Dana and Beth Vorholt	
Dell Carter Lawson	December 8
Parents: Thomas and Jodie Lawson	
Bennett Michael Ferguson	December 15
Parents: Travis and Mindy Ferguson	



## In Memoriam 2019

Harriette Thomas	January 2
Martha Rogers	January 27
David Phillips	April 29
Domicia Louise Sitton	May 8
Mary Alice Bryson	May 26
Alice Balfe	June 2
Ryan James Patterson	June 24
Charles Hayes	July 4
Martha Meunier	July 17
Molly Carver	September 22
Eleanor Ramey	December 8
Ronnie Holm*	December 31, 2018

*\*not shared in 2018*



## New Members 2019

James Beall	March 31
Terry and Elizabeth Davis	March 31
Timothy and Anne Doherty	March 31
Drew and Mary Margaret Martin	March 31
Davidson Valmyr	June 16
Dana and Beth Vorholt	June 16
Stephen and Gina Tate	November 10



## Marriages & Youth Membership

none





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

*Avondale*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2821 Park Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209  
[www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org](http://www.AvondalePresbyChurch.org)