

Letter from the Pastor

November-December 2019

"The Power of Listening"

Dear Avondalers,

One of the reasons I left banking to explore a call to ministry was the opportunity to connect with people through the gift of conversation and hearing their stories. Truth be known, had I been a good banker, I would have found ways to listen to people share about their lives. Nonetheless, one of the elements of ministry that I thrive on is learning about our members. I enjoy hearing where they came from; how they ended up in Charlotte; (for those that grew up here), what was Charlotte like back then; how did they come to find Avondale and what have they learned about God by being a part of this great church family? Those are some of the things I wonder about when I look out into our congregation.

As we move through the seasons of my first year with you, I am dedicating my time to listening, with the hope that you can teach me about all the wonderful elements of Avon-

dale, as well as help me to get to know you, as individuals, better. So whether it is a Coffee and Conversation gathering in someone's home or table talk at a covered dish, I value any opportunity to spend time with you and the privilege to get to know you better.



...we will be looking at the Messages of Christmas found in scripture and listening to what God is saying to us...

Listening isn't just significant in our personal lives, it also resonates deeply with our spiritual lives as well. Every Sunday we listen to God's word and we listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. During Advent we will be looking at the Messages of Christmas found in scripture and listening to what God is saying to us through the voices of those Christmas participants from long ago.

My hope is that as we move into the Advent season you and your family will join me and my family, as together, we listen and worship the Christ child who has come to restore us all.

Grace & Peace, Jim

...listen and worship ...the Christ child who has come to restore us all

Session Update

At the November 17, 2019 Stated Meeting of the Session, the following action was taken:

- Approved minutes of the October 13, 2019 Stated Meeting of the Session
- Approved minutes of the November 10, 2019 Called Meeting of the Session
- Approved the October 2019 Church Financial Statement
- Reviewed the Children's Center September 2019 Financial Report
- Approved that the Sacrament of Baptism of Bennett Michael Ferguson, son of Travis and Mindy Ferguson, to be conducted on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

continued

"Raising the Consciousness"

The Stewardship Team would like to sincerely thank each and every person who has pledged to Avondale for 2020.

If you have not pledged, please see this link for your giving options: avondalepresbychurch.org/pledge.

And even if you do not plan to pledge, please consider simply putting a -0- on your card and turning it in. It will save you and us a phone call. Again, many thanks to you all. - Your Stewardship Team



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- Approved various youth fundraisers for their international trip (sale of car wash tickets, BBQ, attic sale and placement of a picture board)
- Approved renewal of the church's \$300,000 Line of Credit with New Dominion Bank for another 12 month period
- Approved additional funds of \$2,500 for the Sacred Space Team

Elder Class of 2022

Avondale is pleased to welcome new leaders! The Elder Class of 2022 includes Amanda Shanks, Harry Greyard and Tom Stout; they were elected during the Congregational Meeting held on November 17. Also elected was Marin Blake, in the Class of 2020. Marin is Avondale's first Youth Elder; the Session recently added the Youth Elder position, which has a one-year

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Alice Balfe

Given by Terry and Donna Wise

In Memory of Molly Carver

Given by the PWA

In Memory of Ronnie Holm

Given by Paula Huffines

In Memory of Martha Meunier

Given by Paula Huffines

Memorials & Honorariums online at avondalepresbychurch.org/donate

term. We look forward to having the ideas of the youth represented on the Session. The new Elders will soon begin a study with Rev. Jim Ewing, in preparation for their leadership role.

Elder Class of 2019

Avondale's three Elders rolling-off Session at the end of December 2019 are John Magee, Patti Oswald and Jessica Shanks. With a grateful heart, we give thanks for their gifts of service and for faithfully serving as members of the Session.



Stewardship 2019 & 2020



\$454.9K

2020 Pledges Received

\$447.8K

2019 Campaign

Raising The Consciousness
2020 Campaign

2020 Stewardship

107 Families Pledged

59 Pledge Increases

15 New Pledges

2019 Stewardship

\$7,940 weekly average received

as of 11/24/2019

Pictured (top downward):

-Harry Greyard

-Marin Blake-

Avondale's first

Youth Elder

-Amanda Shanks

Finance Update

2019 Year End Giving

As 2019 draws to a close, Jacqueline is available to provide instructions for stock gift transfers as well as to answer any questions such as pledge contribution progress since **Q3 giving** statements were distributed and how to apply funds given in 2019 to pre-paid 2020 giving for tax planning purposes. Mark your calendars, Sunday

Worship on **December 29** will be the last opportunity for collection plate contributions applied to 2019.

Traveling? Please have your mailed check post dated by Tuesday, **December 31** or drop by the office.

2020 Pledge Campaign Update

The pledge campaign progress for 2020 has now exceeded 2019's campaign total! \$454.3K has been committed thus far (as 11/19/19). It is not too late to turn in your pledge card via

collection plate, in person at the office, mail, or email.

If you currently give via bank draft, your drafts *do not* automatically continue into 2020 unless you indicate to do so on your pledge card!

Contact Jacqueline to give via draft on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis. Contribution envelopes are here and distribution at Worship began November 22. Envelopes will continue to be available for pickup in the office.



Advent 2019

“Messages of Christmas”

Passages, Programs & Presents



Passages of Advent

Dec. 1	9:30 AM	HOPE	Advent I	“Gabriel’s Message”	Luke 1: 26-33
Dec. 8	9:30 AM	PEACE	Advent II	“Mary’s Message”	Luke 1: 34-38
Dec. 15	9:30 AM	JOY	Advent III	“Elizabeth’s Message”	Luke 1: 39-45
Dec. 22	9:30 AM	LOVE	Advent IV	“Joseph’s Message”	Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec. 24	4 PM	FLC	Christmas Eve	“Sharing the Message”	Christmas Eve Family Service
	11 PM	Sanctuary	Christmas Eve	“Sharing the Message”	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Advent Materials for adults and children will be shared at Worship and the church office.

Adults Devotional

“Straw for the Manger: Creating a Matthew 25 Advent Season”

During this holy season of Advent, we are invited to follow Jesus’s command epitomized by Matthew 25: 31-46, to love one another and care for “the least of these”. Rev. Sherry Blackman, chaplain, award-winning writer and poet, challenges us to fill our days of Advent with simple, loving deeds that help our neighbors.

Children’s Craft

Advent Calendar and Wreath Craft Kit

This fun and easy craft for little ones to assemble is great for them to follow along with to help them remember the reason for the Christmas season.

Programs of Advent

“Christmas with Crossroads” Concert Sunday, December 8 4 PM

Hear your holiday favorites of many musical genres. Rejoice to treasured hymns and sing-along to contemporary Christmas classics. The Crossroads band aims to please with songs to celebrate the season. Friends welcomed.

“Sing A Song of Christmas” Musical Sunday, December 15 11 AM

Stay after worship to enjoy a Christmas musical by the children of Avondale Adventures. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments following.

Presents We Bring

ABC Ministry Angel Tree due by December 8

Avondale and Bethlehem Center (ABC) share Angel tags so that we may help meet human needs in His name and bring joy to a child or family. Pick a tag and return a gift/gift card by the 8th.

Christmas Joy Gift Offering Sunday, December 22

This special offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Operation Christmas Child delivered in December

In our Vacation Bible School, the children hand-filled 60 boxes and included a handwritten letter to bless children in need around the world with Christmas wishes and gifts.

Refugee Resettlement due by December 26

An Advent challenge: Avondale youth are inviting the church to come along side them to furnish one household for a refugee family resettled here in Charlotte.

Endowment Builders Must Have Known...

Over the last few years Avondale has seen a great deal of change. Some call them challenges while others will think of the opportunities before us.

Through this period Avondale has been able to successfully navigate an eventful financial journey. This year the roof on the FLC was replaced, significant HVAC repairs were necessary, and a variety of other property improvements were made for a total expenditure of roughly \$78,000. The Facility Fund, which has been created through member contributions over the years, made these capital improvements possible. They faithfully contribute simply knowing that the funds would be needed someday for the upkeep of our facilities important to us all.

The Bearden Family made an estate bequest to provide financial support the consideration of a new or renovated sanctuary. This fund has been used to fund the Sacred Space Committee's effort. The balance of the Bearden Fund will be exhausted in early 2020 but the Bearden's support beyond their lifetimes was a testament to their faith in both God and Avondale. They had faith in Avondale and trusted the future leadership to make good use of this resource. Their legacy will live on.

Over the last 20 years, the generous giving by Avondale members has seen the Golden Anniversary Endowment Fund grow to \$783,132. To date, the investment return has added another \$283,049 to the Endowment's balance. This fund, plus the restricted funds like the Facilities and the Bearden Fund, empowers Avondale to dream and serves as a buffer in chal-

lenging financial times. Without these funds, this year's projected deficit budgets and capital spending would significantly limit Avondale's capacity to serve.

So, did the donors to the Endowment know that Avondale would need the money they most generously gave to Avondale? Sure they did. These faithful donors had the wisdom to know there would be both challenging times and times rich with opportunity for Avondale that would require financial support. A heart felt thank you!!!

Jim's Thanksgiving sermon was right on point. The Financial Ministry Team and the Session will continue to diligently monitor Avondale's financial situation; but we all need to remember to be thankful for our many blessings.

If you would like to consider making a gift now or in the future to the Endowment, please contact Fred Wilkerson or Reverend Jim.



testament to
their faith in
both God and
Avondale

Their legacy
will live on.

Fred Wilkerson
fswilkerson@att.net
704-904-7277

What is a refugee?

According to the United Nations, "A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries."

Earlier this year, the youth of Avondale asked this very question. Our

youth leadership contacted the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency. The director came to a youth meeting and spoke with us about the process of becoming a refugee and what it is like to be a refugee and resettling in a city like Charlotte. The agency works directly with the State Department to place families in housing, jobs, schools and to build roots in our community.

I think we came away from that discussion a little shocked and a little inspired. So naturally we asked, "How can we help?"

When a family is resettled, the State Department gives them a small stipend for 3 months that helps them during the time of transitions. One



way the CRRA helps, is with collecting donations to help make that money go further. For instance, if the family does not have to buy furniture, their money may be able to pay for an extra month of rent as they get settled into their new job.

continued....Youth Advent Challenge



Birthdays in December

1 Lilly Stout	10 Kyle Bowen	25 Scott Coble
2 Jay Meier	Lynn Daniel	25 Caroline White
3 Jim Bowen	Megan Hunter	Grace White
Evelyn Hautop	Wynanda Sutherland	26 Wilson Major
4 Logan Harris	11 Mac Drozd	27 Mary Margaret Martin
Walker Hipps	12 Nell McRae	Robert Suydam
Steven Phillips	13 Liz Davis	29 Christie Flowers
7 Kathleen Shannon	14 Miller Boyd	Greg McKenzie
8 Brian Drozd	17 Elizabeth Eyer	30 Trish Boyd
Margaret McGinn	18 Peggy Simpson	Chris Gardner
9 Regina Love	19 Sara Chelena	Lilly McDonald
Olivia Sutherland	21 Wade Mitchell	31 Susanne Anderson
	22 Natalie Thomas	Kemper Boyd

Wedding Anniversaries in December

Alex and Emily Freeze	December 1, 2018
Adrian and Wynanda Sutherland	December 8, 2012
Ted and Belinda Camp	December 12, 2012
Chris and Lynn Mathis	December 16, 1972
Dave and Holly Thomson	December 18, 1993
Brad and Karey Marren	December 31, 2010

Joys & Concerns

Members: Billie Coates; Sue Haag; Betty Marshall; Frances McNair; Millie Norris; Libby Phillips; Eleanor Ramey; Lee Weigle; Tina Wilson.

Family and Friends: The Ash Family; Lee Ballard; Ed Boyd; Dave Glover; Laren Stephens Branson; Lillie Cowan; Molly Gartlan; Debbie Griffin; Anthony Higgs; Darlene Johnson; Cliff Norris; Mike Page; Beverly Schaffield.

Church Triumphant:

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Greyard, mother of Harry Greyard, who joined the Church Triumphant October 16, 2019. They received family and friends on October 18 and a Service of Witness to the Resurrection was October 19 at Iona Presbyterian Church in Fairmont, NC. [Obituary](#)

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Ronnie Holm, who entered the Church Triumphant December 31, 2018. To offer condolences, visit the online register at www.davisfuneralservice.com/notices/Ronnie-Helms.

New Members: On November 10, 2019, we welcomed new members Stephen and Gina Tate and their son Miles into the Church.

Members Who Moved:

Betty Parrish, a member since 2000 and PWA Honorary Life Membership honoree in 2008, moved to the Calabash area in September with her daughter Dawn and husband. Their address: 831 Bogie Lane, Carolina Shores, NC 28467

Wendy Campbell, a member of Avondale who served on two trips to Haiti and gave 17 years of service as the Crickets Class teacher at the ACC, moved to the Chicago area to be with family and help care for her grandson. Her address: 1031 Courtland Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

....Youth Advent Challenge

Here is the Advent Challenge: The youth are encouraging the church to come along side us to furnish one household for a resettled family here in Charlotte. They are items like coffee tables and sponges, silverware and light bulbs, sheets and toothbrushes. Please prayerfully consider signing up for an item and bringing it in over the next few weeks and **by December 26**. We will build out our home in the corner of the FLC so all can see the progress. Contact Zach Chambers with any questions. [\[SEE LINK ON OUR WEBSITE\]](#)





Birthdays in January

1 Lorin Bookout	15 Connie Love	24 Drew Russell
Jennifer Matz	Betty Patterson	25 Tom Cavanaugh
2 P.K. Kalevas	16 Billy Caldwell	Bonnie Howard
3 Tony McKenzie	Evan Wood	Andrew Patterson
Marian Stout	18 Liam Platt	26 JT Earl
4 Palmer Horton	Garrett Whitesides	Bob Gaddy
7 Millie Patterson	19 Sue Haag	27 Jennifer Oglesby-Dewyer
8 Emma Ewing	20 Becky Chavaree	Holly Thomson
Croft Hamilton	William Doherty	28 Bill Byrd
11 Thomas Lawson	Deidrea Pavlin	Linda Haigh
13 Karen Eakes	23 Bill Thomas	31 Joshua Oswald
Marcia Halsey	Ted Todd	Bill Thornberry
Leslie Saleeby	24 Ginny Mitchell	Carolyn Wright

We have no Wedding Anniversaries for January to share.

Avondale in Action

Fall Mission Trip

Last month, 17 Avondalers headed three hours east of Charlotte on a weekend mission trip (many call it a work camp). We worked with a well-organized group in Whiteville that is helping with relief from hurricanes in the Whiteville area. Ages ranged from teen-agers to, um, several decades past teen-agers.

Our task was to replace the floor of a large mobile home flooded by Hurricane Florence last year. So we yanked out old boards, swept the floor, measured for new boards, sawed new boards, swept the floor (again), installed laminate flooring, swept the floor (yep, again), and hammered boards. We learned new skills, taught each other, laughed a lot, and ate a lot more.

The mission team hopes to schedule another weekend trip to work on hurricane-damaged homes in the spring. All skill levels are welcome, and all skill levels are needed. Watch for details next year!

Avondale Bethlehem Center (ABC) Ministry Update

What are your gifts? What skill or talent do you have? Are you organized, good with money, a good cook or seamstress? Do you know how to navigate the light rail or bus system? The middle-school students in the ABC Teen Center are learning **Life Skills**; we are seeking folks who can come for an hour to teach 6 to 8 teens a simple life skill. There is a sign-up on the website that includes all the details.

Thanksgiving comes to the ABC Ministry! On Friday, November 22 the Bethlehem Center families shared a catered **Thanksgiving meal** with Avondalers.

The **ABC Kid's Café** continues into the winter season – please sign-up on the Avondale website to prepare a hot meal for the Bethlehem Center children. Kid's Café is every other Friday – dates are included on the sign-up; you will be contacted with resources to help you with the meal. We also have a dedicated group of volunteers who are often available to help set-up and serve. You will be surprised at how easy and fun Kid's Café is.

Christmas is also coming to the ABC Ministry. The **Angel Tree** is in the Family Life Center atrium. Please take an ornament and provide a gift for a Bethlehem Center child, or a gift card for a Bethlehem Center family. Avondale Childcare Center will also participate in providing Angel Tree gifts

Thank you for sharing your holidays with the ABC families!



Avondale Children's Center

Fall Festival

The ACC Fall Festival was held October 18 and we had great attendance! Pizza from Portofino's was served and all had a wonderful time. The children had a blast with a bounce house, face painting, and balloon animal artist.

Munchkin Pink Lemonade & Donut Fundraiser

Our Munchkin classroom collected \$401.37 for Mitchell's Fund on October 25, 2019. Mitchell's Fund supports the financial and socioemotional needs of children and families facing crisis during a life altering pediatric illness. Mitchell's Fund gives support to help relieve financial stress for parents so they can focus on caring for their sick child. Past contributions have funded expenses like mortgage payments, utility bills, funeral expenses, and counseling services.

Avondale Children's Center has a personal connection with the Mitchell's Fund. In 2012, Mitchell Bays Turner was only 3 months old when he was diagnosed with a rare infant leukemia. This diagnosis came the day he was scheduled to start at Avondale Children's Center. Mitchell's big brother, Frank, attended the ACC from birth through age 5. Mitchell earned his wings in 2014...just weeks after his second birthday. For more information about this wonderful foundation.... www.mitchellsfund.org.

Trunk or Treat

For Halloween, the children dressed-up in their costumes and paraded around our beautiful campus. Afterwards, the children trick or treated in the parking lot. The ACC invited church families again this year and we had a wonderful turnout. Approximately 20 cars participated in the contest for best decorated. 1st Place went to the Ghostbusters vehicle (The Drozd Family), 2nd Place went to the Haunted Disney World mobile (Rich Stanley, Music Director), and there was a tie for 3rd Place...Scary Skeleton vehicle (The Costa Family) and the Swampmobile (Avondale Children's Center Staff).

Wait-list / Openings

Our Infant, Toddlers and Two year old classrooms remain on a two year wait-list. In January 2020, we will have two spaces available in our older preschool classes. Details are available at www.avondalepresbychurch.org/childrenscenter.

Welcome New Staff

On October 28, the children's center welcomed Merrily Watts as the new ACC Director. Merrily boasts over 15 years of early childcare administrative experience and has been working in early childhood education for over 24 years. In addition to Merrily's outstanding qualifications, she brings an outgoing and positive attitude, along with a warm and loving personality. Thank you to the search and hiring



team of Taylor French, Jodie Lawson, Rev. Jim Ewing, Stefanie Mitchell and Johnathon Weathers.

Teacher Wendy Campbell left the center in October to relocate to the Chicago area. We are grateful for her more than 16 faithful years of teaching at ACC. On November 18, the Crickets classroom (older 4s and young 5s) welcomed new teacher Meagan Schmidt!

ACC Task Force

A joint task force of the Session and Children's Center Board has been meeting regularly 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 members are Center Board President Taylor French, incoming President and Church member Jodie Lawson, Session members Jessica Shanks and Rich Worf, Session member and Board member Jennifer Patterson, Board member and Church member Lynn Daniel, and past Board member and Church member Caroline White. The task force has suggested revisions to the charter for the Children's Center, which are being reviewed by the Session. The task force will now focus on mission alignment, including the creation of scholarship spots at the Children's Center.



1. R to L: Merrily Watts and Millie Norris* (*with ACC since April 1996)



Pictures left to right:

2. Wendy Campbell and kids
3. Trunk or Treat parade
4. Meagan Schmidt and kids

Avondale in Action

Music Ministry News

We thank all those involved in the "75 Years of Music" concert on October 12. It was a great success and blessing!

The choir would like to welcome our two newest members: Lynn Wilkerson and Deidrea Pavlin!

The Avonbellers have been preparing for Advent and they will play every Sunday in Advent. We are still in need of several more players in the Handbell Choir so please consider joining us in the new year, it is open to middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults.

All of our music groups at Avondale are open and have plenty of room for more members. The Choir, Band, and Handbells consist of volunteers with varied musical experience and abilities. So whether you are a beginner or more experienced, we need you and would love to welcome you! - Rich Stanley, Director of Music

Youth Group

We have about 38 middle and high school youth participating this year. Last year we read and discussed Bob Goff's book, "Love Everybody Always". This year, we decided to put an emphasis on living out that Love in hands-on ways. We've been incorporating mission and community service projects and learning about twice a month. Youth have visited with our Avondale shut-ins, cleaned-up our campus, partnered with Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (see Advent Presents), participated in the congregational mission trip, performed a service project at Camp Grier during our retreat, and planned to assume all the responsibilities for one night of Room In The Inn (RITI) on December 8. We've also been supplementing our service projects with small group discussions based on Bob Goff's new book of 365 devotions, "Live in Grace - Walk in Love". Our Christmas party will be December 15 and will include a costume contest and an appetizer contest, along with a "white elephant" gift exchange. Our leaders this year are Arthur Baum, Meg and Court Stephens, Davidson Valmyr, and Zach and Shea Chambers.

The youth organized and performed in the Unity Talent Show on November 15 with the goals to promote unity across Charlotte and make a donation to the Tim Tebow foundation. They succeeded in raising \$144 for the foundation in support of the "A Night to Shine" program. The show was lots of fun and supported a great cause! Thanks to all who participated and attended.

Youth Group Dates:

December 7 - Holiday Sale order pick-up
December 8 - Youth at Room In The Inn (RITI)
December 15 - Youth Group Christmas Party
December 26 - Advent Challenge ends
January 17-20 - Winter Retreat to West Virginia

Avondale Adventures

Avondale Adventures 2019 fall program is coming to an end and it has been a joyful and energetic time with 11 preschool and 14 elementary aged children enrolled! Beginning at 5 PM, the preschool children join together in the Joyful Noise room for a Bible study and craft with Jessica Shanks and music with Rich Stanley. At 5:30, all the children come together for dinner, always combined with a fun theme, like backwards night where we started dinner with a backwards prayer and dessert. At 6 PM, the elementary kids move on to music with Rich, Bible study with Linda Haigh, art with Donna McKenize, and recreation with our youth and parent volunteers. Avondale Adventures is a wonderful program of the church that brings together different generations and families for a night of fun and growing in faith. The next round of fun will begin on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Registration opens Tuesday, December 3. Find details: www.avondalepresbychurch.org/avondaleadventures.



Avondale in Action

Children Perform Christmas Musical

Rich Stanley and all of the Avondale Adventures children have been working very hard to learn and prepare for the "Sing A Song of Christmas" musical being performed in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 15 at 11 AM. We invite you to come and feel the spirit of Christmas fill the hall! A reception with refreshments follows.

Sacred Space Update

The Sacred Space team is receiving intermediate plans from the architect as they work through the schematic design with our desired budget in mind. We are in the process of having a topographical survey of the property done which will allow our design team to fully understand and plan for our particular site. Our team is very encouraged with where we are heading with the concept and future plans for our church campus. Please continue to keep in prayer for the direction and guidance of God's people here at Avondale.

We are looking forward to sharing schematic design plans with the congregation in the upcoming months.

continue in prayer for the
direction and guidance
of God's people
here at Avondale

Gatherings with Rev. Jim

When Jim Ewing and his family joined us at Avondale in August, we floated the idea of having several in-home, small gatherings where members could get to know our new minister a little better. Now that we've celebrated Homecoming, we are ready to get together. These simple events are times to mix, mingle, and share stories with friends. Jim is eager to know us all better.

So that the host home will know who to expect, please RSVP to attend. Call the office or see link on our website. If you would like to be a host, please contact Mary Martin (call/text 704-258-2585).

Our first three gatherings:
November 18 at 6:30 PM at the Meier's home
December 5 at 6:30 PM at the Pavlin's home
December 17 at 1 PM at the Martin's home

*"We are courageous like
Daniel in the lions den."*
- Avondale Adventures

Room In The Inn

Our Room In The Inn winter shelter ministry begins Sunday, December 1 and runs for 18 Sundays this winter. We need many hands as we provide safe shelter, warm meals, and fellowship for our neighbors struggling with homelessness during the coldest months of the year.

Avondale welcomes 10-15 overnight guests every Sunday night from December through March. These men, women and children who are experiencing homelessness are picked-up from Urban Ministry and transported to our campus. They receive a hot, nourishing meal, have opportunity to shower, are provided with a safe place to sleep, and are given breakfast and a sack lunch before being transported back to Urban Ministry.

This ministry does not happen without an army of volunteers. See our Avondale website for the link to [sign-up to help](#). A reminder - friends and family are welcomed volunteers!

ROOM IN THE INN

"Thank you to all who have signed-up already. We especially need members and friends who'd like to spend the night. That would be most helpful! It is a really special experience and the good feelings you get from helping others more than balances out the slight increase in tiredness!" -Rich Worf



AVONDALE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY



A Look Back at Avondale's 75th Anniversary

It has been 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 worshiping at Avondale today.

Our 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. Sock donations were made 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 Bethlehem Center was held in April. In May we held a church night supper that focused on 75 years of Youth Group memories. 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. Our big Homecoming Weekend and 75th Anni-

versary Celebration was held October 12 and 13. This included displays of Avondale ministries and activities over the years in a campus Open House. On Saturday, October 12, we welcomed all to a "75 Years of Music" performance in the sanctuary. All music groups at Avondale made this a joyous event! This was followed by a hotdog dinner on the lawn. On Sunday, October 13, our worship service focused on God's grace and leading of Avondale in the past and in the future. Following was our Homecoming Luncheon bringing together Avondalers past and present, friends and family. 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. A new banner was crafted to represent the 2005-2014 era of Avondale and the world, joining six other banners from our history. Our last event of the year will be the first annual Avondale Christmas Marketplace on December 7. We will have 25 artisans sharing their talents and our PWA Bake Sale, along with Christmas decorations and refreshments too. Please come!!

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.



#Bible101 Creates Banner for 75th Anniversary

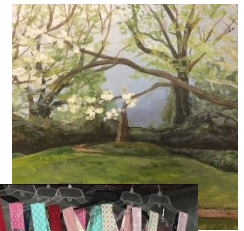
In 1974, at our 60th anniversary, the adult Sunday School classes took on a project to create banners for each decade of Avondale's history. They were to show the history going on in the world, as well as Avondale. The banners created then were hung again in our Family Life Center to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

For our 75th anniversary, the Bible 101 class created a 2005 to 2014 banner, that debuted at Homecoming!





We have over 20 local artisans and the PWA Bake Sale getting ready to share their goods at the Avondale Christmas Marketplace. Please help make our last 75th Anniversary Celebration event a HUGE success. Please tell friends and family about our event!



Room In The Inn Ministry

With the merger of the Urban Ministry Center and the Men's Shelter this year, and the continued problems relating to affordable housing in Charlotte, we expect the need this year to be greater than ever for Room In The Inn. We need people to help with:

1. **Pick-up neighbors** from Urban Ministry Center, or return them the next morning. This is very easy if you can drive the bus!
2. Serve as **overnight hosts**. This job is easier than you think! It mainly involves getting to know our guests, making sure they have everything they need, and helping with laundry. Neighbors leave our campus by 6:30 AM, leaving plenty of time to get to work!
3. Serve as **evening hosts**. Essentially the same as overnight hosts, except you don't spend the night.
4. **Prepare dinner**. This is a fun way to serve our neighbors, and a great option for kids to help out!
5. **Prepare bagged lunches**. We give each of our neighbors a bagged lunch when they leave us on Monday.
6. **Prepare breakfast**. We give our neighbors a good hot breakfast on Monday morning as well.
7. **Set-up Fellowship Hall**, or **break down Fellowship Hall** the next day. This is easy, and another great way for kids to get involved!
8. **Wash linens**. Also extremely easy--all the linens are collected for you already, you just need to wash them!

*...for I was hungry and
you gave me food,
I was thirsty and
you gave me some-
thing to drink,
I was a stranger and
you welcomed me*

The words of Matthew 25: 34-40 are apt for RITI. We ask every member to prayerfully consider how they can be involved this year.

Sacred Space Art Program

The Sacred Space Art cards sets are here! The orders placed in August were available beginning November 24. We will also have these beautiful cards available at the Christmas Marketplace! Sacred Space Art cards are 5 for \$8 and a set of 10 for \$15. We look forward to seeing you and thanking you in person for your support of our program.



CHRISTMAS



- Dec 1** - Advent I HOPE - Worship "Gabriel's Message" / Luke 1: 26-38
- Dec 3** - Taizé Prayer Service
- Dec 4** - Joyful Noise Christmas
- Dec 7** - Christmas Marketplace at Avondale
- Dec 7** - PWA Bake Sale at the Market
- Dec 7** - Youth Holiday Sale order pick-up
- Dec 8** - Advent II PEACE - Worship "Mary's Message" / Luke 1: 34-38
- Dec 8** - "Christmas with Crossroads" Concert
- Dec 8** - Angel Tree presents due
- Dec 12** - Staff Christmas Celebration
- Dec 11** - Joyful Noise Christmas
- Dec 12** - ASAP & Friends "A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas"
- Dec 15** - Advent III JOY - Worship "Elizabeth's Message" / Luke 1: 39-45
- Dec 15** - Children's Christmas Musical "Sing A Song Of Christmas"
- Dec 15** - Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 16** - ASAP Christmas - John Tosco & Friends music
- Dec 17** - Genesis Circle
- Dec 18** - Joyful Noise Christmas
- Dec 22** - Advent VI LOVE - Worship "Joseph's Message" / Matthew 1: 18-25
- Dec 22** - Christmas Joy Gift Offering
- Dec 24** - Christmas Eve Worship "Sharing the Message" Services at 4 PM & 11 PM
- Dec 26** - Refugee Resettlement gifts due



Avondale Presbyterian Church
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Newsletter Publishing Schedule

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



Room In The Inn Sundays in Winter December-March 2020

Friends and family are invited to volunteer as we host Room In The Inn for our 21st year. As we extend shelter, food and fellowship to our homeless neighbors, many hands are needed to make this program possible. Find details inside or visit Avondale's website for the link to sign-up. One of our greatest needs is Overnight hosts.



Advent "Messages of Christmas" December 1-24

During Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. Avondale celebrates the "Messages of Christmas" this Advent season and we invite you to join us in Passages, Programs and Presents. Find inside our Worship schedule, musical programs and missions for the season.



Avondale Christmas Marketplace December 7

Come to Avondale for an awesome shopping event. You'll find great gifts, hand-crafted goods from local artists in a variety of mediums, and our annual Bake Sale. Avondale is celebrating 75 years on Park Road and the many, many gifts and talents of members, friends, and the Charlotte community.

Avondale Adventures
January 29 - April 1 2020

Avondale Women's Retreat
March 13-15 2020

Vacation Bible School
July 20-25

www.avondalepresbychurch.org