



SACRED SPACE

A PUBLICATION OF SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Spring/Summer 2017



From the Pastor

POWER OF GOODNESS & GOD

Dear Friends,

As of April 16, we have entered the liturgical season of Easter. For fifty days each year, the church focuses on and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ in worship, mission, and community-building. Often this joyful season can be overwhelmed by our end-of-the-school-year rush and the transition into the summer calendar. It is easy to see Easter as a single day rather than a season. But we need all seven weeks of Easter, and the gifts that they offer to us. We need this invitation to meditate on the power and goodness of God at the heart of our faith. We need this period of the church year dedicated to joyful celebration.

In an era that discourages hopeful dreaming, Easter stands as a reminder that God has the final word. And God's final word is one of blessing and redemption. The impact of the resurrection is that we are set free to dream again, to pursue our passion and live inspired lives. This is true for each of us as individuals, and it is true for our church as well.

When I began preaching weekly at a Presbyterian church in Warrenton, North Carolina, my father sent me a package with some books that had given him homiletical inspiration through the years. One of those books was a collection of sermons by the great Presbyterian preacher Frederick Buechner, who will celebrate his 88th birthday this July. The title of the collection is *The Magnificent Defeat*, but my father's bookmark was placed by an Easter sermon, "The End is Life."

Here is how Buechner ends the sermon:

...the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.

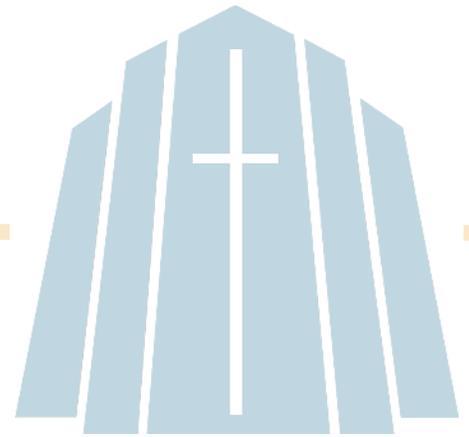
May we all have enough faith to dream big this Easter season and to live into the hope of new life!

See you in church,

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

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THE GIFT THAT *Keeps* ON GIVING

by Lindsey Thames

In June of 2013 our middle child, Celia, was born five weeks early and spent a week in the NICU. A dear friend brought a prayer shawl from Shallowford's Prayer Shawl Ministry to the hospital. In the nick of time, it made it to an extremely anxious mom in the operating room before the c-section. To say it eased my worries, is an understatement.

Fast forward to May of 2016 when Mike, my husband, was diagnosed with Leukemia. He was diagnosed on a Friday morning and was told to go home, get some stuff, and check in on the 6th floor of Emory, for what was predicted to be about a three week stay. When we went to pack our things, the one thing I made sure I had was my prayer shawl. Mike had numerous stays throughout the last year and each time my prayer shawl made the trip. We ended up staying in the hospital over Thanksgiving. Being away from our family was difficult on any given day, but being in over the holidays added a different level of sadness.

So we decided that on Christmas day we would bring some light to the darkness patients feel on holidays at the hospital. We knew this feeling all too well. I thought about the comfort my prayer shawl had brought me. My mom and I decided to ask Denise Webber for a large request, (somewhat last minute, too). She immediately responded to my mom with a YES and later said that when my mom asked her for the 50 prayer shawls, she knew it was "more than a request...it was a calling, a calling to be a part of something bigger."

And it was. Christmas night my mom, aunt, sister-in-law, and myself, spent two hours delivering almost 40 prayer shawls to 6E (Hematology floor) and 8E (Bone Marrow Transplant floor). As my mom described in her email to Denise, "The shawls touched so many lives - black, white, young, old, male and female." She said, "My Christmases have always been spent cooking for many,

opening presents and spending time with family, but this year added a new dimension."

There were patients who through tears expressed that they felt that being in the hospital had placed a burden on their families. Patients who were scared, worried, and alone. Some said this was their only gift this year. But I believe this shawl is more than a gift. It reminded them of God's love. The reminder that we are loved by God and we are all his children. I feel these shawls are a tangible reminder that we are not alone and that God is with us through prayer and through his other beloved children. When we wrap ourselves in these shawls we can feel in a big way, what



his love must feel like. In the Cancer Club there is this saying... "No one fights alone." These prayer shawls reminded each patient they were not fighting alone. I can't adequately describe their reactions to this gift, but the looks on their faces I will never forget.

I have a deep, deep gratitude for Denise, all the incredibly talented and giving prayer shawl crafters, and Jim Hutchinson. Not only do you receive a beautiful handmade prayer shawl, you also receive a beautiful handcrafted wooden clasp to keep the shawl wrapped

around you tight. There was equally as much buzz over his handcrafted wooden pieces, especially by our favorite nurse Edie, who told Jim's story as well. We shared the story of Shallowford's ministry as many people asked who created these beautiful shawls. And how PROUD we were to be able share this calling. It is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

I am grateful for Denise, who took the time to prepare this massive order at the busiest time of the year. I am grateful for each person who knitted, crocheted, and prayed. I am grateful for the hope and love I felt Christmas night. I am grateful for this ministry that left me with memories I will always treasure. This year has been a tough one for our family. I am continuously searching for purpose. I felt purpose on Christmas night, and for that reason alone I will

always be grateful for Shallowford's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Christmas comes wherever you are, whether you are ready or not and I thank God for that. I believe the lives at Emory saw God's light through these beautiful prayer shawls that night and felt the love of what Christmas is supposed to bring. Thank you for making that possible. Thank you for giving me hope and purpose. Life is Good!

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

- Desmond Tutu

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be providing shawls to Emory Hospital again this December. All are invited to participate in contributing a prayer shawl. Finished shawls may be dropped off at the Prayer Shawl box, marking the shawl for the Shawl Gift 2017, along with your name. Shawls will be accepted from now until December 1. If you have any questions, contact Denise Webber.



LEARNING TO *Loop*

by Denise Webber

It was a good day. On Saturday, February 18, Mary Ellen Pendergrast and I journeyed to Camp Calvin to hold a Prayer Shawl Workshop for the Atlanta Presbytery Women's Retreat. We joined the approximately 65 participants for lunch, with those in attendance from the surrounding Atlanta area and Jacksonville, Florida. Our session followed with two groups of people learning to knit and crochet. We discussed yarn selection, and how to start a prayer shawl ministry. Mary Ellen and I taught 12 ladies of all skill levels. It was a wonderful time of sharing with others within the Presbyterian church.

The next Prayer Shawl workshop at Shallowford will be held on Saturday, May 6. All are invited who wish to learn to crochet, knit, or refresh their skills. Please contact Denise Webber (mrswebber@gmail.com) for more details.



TOP & BOTTOM LEFT: Members spent the afternoon learning to crochet! **RIGHT:** Mary Ellen Pendergrast, Denise Webber, and Retreat Coordinator, Pat Randolph, engaged in great conversation while learning new techniques.



2017 CONFIRMANDS (L to R): Robyn Bearden, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Derald Loomans); Julian Bushart, Chamblee Middle School, (Sponsor: Bruce Morris); and Grace Cate, St. Martin's Episcopal School, (Sponsor: Marla Lang).

Each spring, Shallowford excitedly awaits confirmands who are willing to put their faith, trust, and love in Jesus Christ! With our largest class to-date, Bradley Kibler, Director of Youth & Program Ministries, recounts just a few of the lessons covered over a four month period.

Bible 101: Before we dove into the Confirmation curricula, we needed to get a firm foundation in our Bible skills. We took the class through the different sections of the Bible and helped so that they could understand where to find different topics and styles of writing. Through Confirmation Sunday, we will work on a Books of the Bible song to improve our ability to locate the various chapters!

Church Polity: Our class explored the various levels of the Presbyterian church structure including Presbytery, Session and Elder responsibilities. We even had the opportunity to explore

the church courtesy of the Welcoming and Worship Committees-peeking into the nooks and crannies of the church.

Spiritual Practices: Part of building our faith involves the discipline of knowing how to engage with God. During our Spiritual Practices lesson, we took time as a class to explore the practice of Lectio Divina. The class also went out to the Shallowford amphitheater to experience the Breath Prayer led by one of our sponsors, Richard Phillips.

Series on the Sacraments: We were excited to invite pastors Chris Henry, Catherine Foster, and Robby Carroll to lead our lessons on the Lord's Supper. Pastor Chris emphasized the different symbols in our lives and brought the students into the chapel to gather around the baptismal font and reflect on its meaning. Pastor Catherine and Pastor Robby helped to reveal the meaning behind the Lord's Supper by exploring the scriptures and thinking about the different ways we receive communion.



CONFIRMANDS CONTD. (L to R): Thomas Maki, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Kyle Kilch); Ian Morrison, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: John Groover); Blake Munroe, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: BJ McMillan); Hadley Nelson, St. Martin's Episcopal School, (Sponsor: Sarah Wikle); Sutton Nelson, St. Martin's Episcopal School, (Sponsor: Andrea Adams); and Ben Padgett, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Steve Benise).



CONFIRMANDS CONTD. (L to R): Max De Jesus, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Bill Crews); James Fourmy, Providence Christian Academy, (Sponsor: Richard Phillips); Sara Hoover, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Lynn Marie Trotti); Catie Hopkins, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Nancy Phillimore); Bill Lee, Chamblee High School, (Sponsor: Dave Billet); and Avery LeFave, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Steve Hopkins).

Other Church Visits: One of the important parts of Confirmation is recognizing how other Christians worship so that our students fully understand how Shallowford Presbyterian worships. This year our students visited Buckhead Church, Central Congregational United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, and First Baptist Church.

Confirmation Sunday: Starting at 9 am on Sunday, April 30, all 21 confirmands will stand before the congregation to present their faith statements in the Great Hall. Come hear the role faith has played in their lives thus far!



CONFIRMANDS CONTD. (L to R): Meredith Pollette, Chamblee Middle School, (Sponsor: Ruth Gronde); Clay Rosselot, Renfroe Middle School, (Sponsor: Tom Heyse); Kayla Smith, The Friends School, (Sponsor: Monica Hollingsworth); Elisabeth Smith-Purcell, Chamblee Middle School, (Sponsor: Amy Caldwell); Chris Thien, Henderson Middle School, (Sponsor: Charles Hankla); and Claire Turney, Chamblee Middle School, (Sponsor: Margaret Jones).

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Challenge

by Margaret Evans, Director of Children's Ministries

I can still taste the caramel. You probably know the ones - the delightful little cube-shaped ones in the impossible-to-open clear plastic? They'd be stuck in your teeth forever! I can still remember how I earned my precious sweets - by reciting the Lord's Prayer from memory for my first grade Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Hamilton.

Many of you likely have memories like mine. Maybe you worked hard to learn something and had the pride of sharing that knowledge with someone. It was probably especially fun for you if you earned a prize!

Shallowford's Children's Ministry is gearing up to pass the memorable (and sometimes delicious) "memory verse" traditions to a new generation, with a few new twists.

The Children's Ministry Challenge is here. And we couldn't be more excited.

Pieces of the Challenge format will seem familiar to you, but this isn't your momma's memory verse program! Instead of just doing drills on Bible verses, we really want to engage children in all aspects of church life at Shallowford by encouraging them to participate in every facet of ministry. That said, we haven't left behind the memory verses.

We love memorizing **Bible verses**. We really do. We think it's important for our children to have something they can carry inside them - special verses that help to remind them of God's calling, even when things aren't going quite right. We are

definitely doing memory work, challenging our children to learn hymns, verses, Bible basics, prayers, and creeds.

We really love events and activities, no matter what the purpose. **Fellowship** with church friends of every age is very important to our children's faith formation. We want Shallowford to serve as a lifelong spiritual AND social hub for our children. We're encouraging them to participate in as many activities as they can, like our Easter Egg Hunt or Kids' Night Out events.

Service is super important to us, too. It's never too early for our children to learn the importance of following God's call to give. We want for them to recognize that giving can work at different levels and in different ways. We are challenging our children to actively

participate in service and mission and to donate items to our ministry partners.

We can't forget the importance of **worship**. Children are learning that they don't have to wait to be adults to be leaders in worship. Their participation in and understanding of worship is a key element of the Challenge. So, we challenge them to serve as acolytes, musicians, greeters, ushers, or preachers. We also want them to understand prayer, liturgy, the sacraments, and more.

The final piece of the Challenge stresses the importance of **outreach** and involvement in the church. We are challenging children to bring a friend to something. We'd love to see them in Sunday School, but including a friend in any activity at Shallowford is welcome and encouraged.

It's essential for children to see their parents doing the same



things we've asked of them - leading, giving back, participating. We've created the **Parent Challenge** to encourage parents to participate as leaders for a Children's Ministry class or event.

Of course, none of this can happen without the children being here. That's why we've included an **attendance** challenge as well!

Back to those caramels.

Prizes are a must. Starbursts seem to be the candy of choice these days, so we've already stocked up - small and large. Our absolute favorite is the Prize Board, which includes fun experiential opportunities (ice cream with Pastor Chris, anyone?) and experiences (we love leading liturgy). We're excited to find new ways to encourage even more involvement and connection with the prizes we've chosen (we just can't help ourselves)!

Now, we know memorization and participation aren't easy for every child. We encourage them to move at their own individual pace, doing what they can do, on their own schedule. Assistance and prompting are encouraged when needed, and we're more than happy to modify requirements to suit the unique way each child learns.

Faith formation is a journey, not a destination. Our hope is that this fun, engaging ministry will give our children a solid start on the journey. We want them to be lifelong learners. We want them to have a secure and comforting understanding of the Bible and what it means to their lives. We want them to be active and involved participants in the church. We want them to be loving and generous givers.

And, we absolutely want them to know we're here every single step of the way.

WHAT WILL OUR KIDS LEARN?

1 Learn Song or Hymn Verse

- Jesus Christ is Risen Today OR All Things Bright & Beautiful (Grades 1 & 2)
- The Church's One Foundation OR Amazing Grace (Grades 3 & 4)
- Blessed Be the Tie AND A Mighty Fortress OR Here I am, Lord (Grade 5)

2 Learn A Bible Verse

- Micah 6:8 AND John 3:16 (Grades 1 & 2)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 AND Luke 10:27 (Grades 3 & 4)
- Matthew 28:18-20 AND Psalm 23 (Grade 5)

3 Learn Bible Basics

- Find a scripture, list the 4 Gospels, and 10 Commandments (Grades 1 & 2)
- Name the Books of the Bible in order (Grades 3 & 4)
- List the Books of the Bible chronologically (Grade 5)

4 Worship Understanding

- Baptism, Communion, Offering, & Worship Furniture (Grades 1 & 2)
- Knowledge of the different parts of worship (Grades 2 & 3)
- Stewardship, Tithing, Prayer Types, & Seasons of the Church (Grade 5)

5 Prayers and Creeds

- The Lord's Prayer (Grades 1 & 2)
- The Apostles' Creed (Grades 3, 4, & 5)

6 Describe Three Bible Stories (All Grades)

Time & Commitment: IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

by Dale Glendening

As I recently celebrated my 70th birthday and retired from a legal career, the concepts of **TIME** and **COMMITMENT** have been on my mind. I have considered what accomplishments I have made in my lifetime and various commitments I made along the way. The choices I made, the obligations I assumed and the impact they made on my life give me great cause to reflect on the significance of time and commitment.

TIME is an invisible element always consciously and subconsciously impacting our daily activities. Time is also a concept by which we incrementally measure the days of our lives. The time we are given in our human existence should be directed toward intellectual, physical and spiritual growth and discovery in these spheres. Often, however, we humans squander these opportunities.

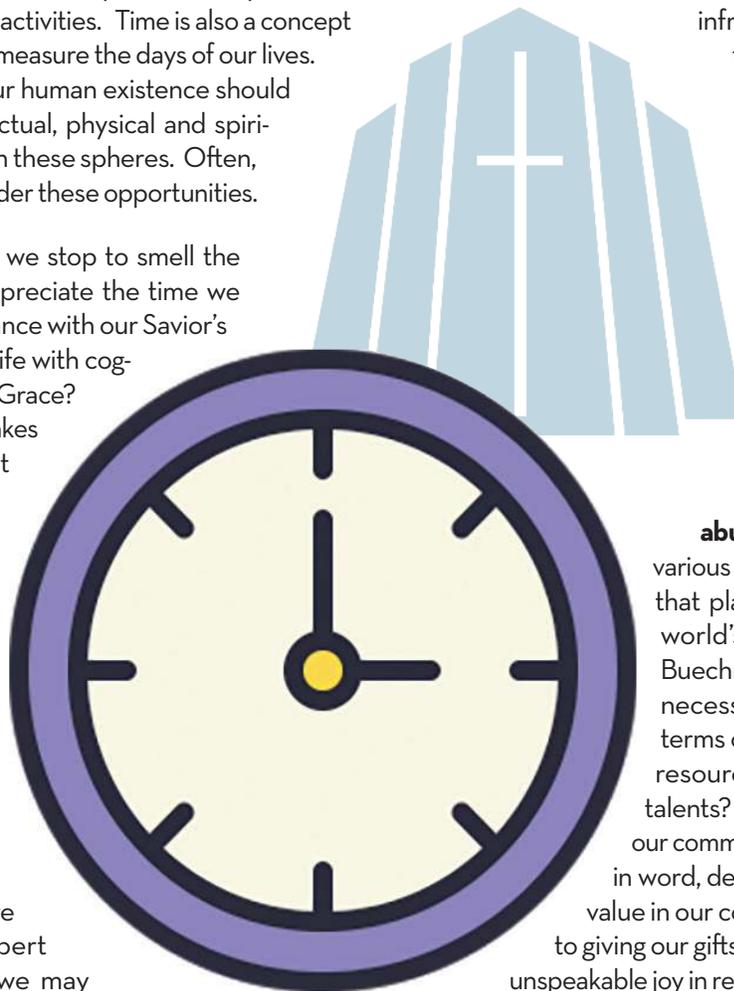
As we live our days, do we stop to smell the roses? Do we pause to appreciate the time we have? Do we live in accordance with our Savior's wisdom? Do we approach life with cognizance of God's abundant Grace? I think for many, if not all, it takes practice to develop the art of living in the moment with a sense of fulfillment and contentment. "Oh thou who kindly dost provide for every creature want, we bless thee God for all thy goodness lent. And if it please thee, heavenly guide, may never worse be sent. But whether granted or denied, Lord, bless us with content" ["A Grace Before Dinner, Extempore", Robert Burns, 1791]. Otherwise, we may lament our lives in disappointment, wondering, "Where did the time go?"

COMMITMENT is an interesting, scary and intimidating word for many, as one may correctly infer an "obligation" from the word. For the purpose of this reflection, consider commitment

as an action that emotionally or intellectually binds someone to a course of action. It may involve a formal, or informal, promise of agreement to do something; but it is clearly an obligation. Typically, a commitment requires an investment of time, talent and resources - and occasional sacrifice.

It is inherent in life that humans commit to something. The possibilities and nature of the commitments throughout our lives are many and seemingly endless. It is an infrequent day when in some form or fashion, we do not commit to something. That very something can be gratifying and fulfilling - or uncomfortable, painful and a source of resentment or angst. Sometimes, it's just not our cup of tea. So let me ask: What belief, cause, or goal is so important to you that you are willing to commit to and pursue it by investing your time, energy, and resources?

Shallowford members have an abundance of opportunities within the various church programs and projects to find that place where "deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" [Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*]. We know the necessity of responsible stewardship in terms of finances, but what about member resources of education, experience and talents? We have resources that can benefit our community of faith and the abilities to serve in word, deed, love and prayer. And we all have value in our community of faith. When we commit to giving our gifts to Shallowford, I believe we receive unspeakable joy in return - joy that is equal to and perhaps greater than the measure of our gifts. Perhaps that cosmic, philosophical line from the Beatles' last recorded song has a place in this reflection: "And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make" ["The End", John Lennon and Paul McCartney, 1969].



My closing thoughts and challenges: Know that you are beloved. Find reverence in life and be attentive to the abundance of God's Grace - not only in the special but in the ordinary commonplace of everyday life. Take care of and be gentle with yourself and those for whom you have a responsibility. Practice forgiveness and kindness unceasingly. Be reflective on and prayerful about your life; and be mindful of your time. Find that joy that can flow through participation by word and deed, with love and prayer, in Shallowford's community of faith. **Make time to make a commitment to Shallowford**, and invest your talents and passions where it counts.

If not now, when?

Pax Vobiscum,

Dale Glendening



Photography, audio visual, and greeting members on Sundays are a few of the many ways you can share your talents with Shallowford! Fill out the Time & Talents Survey online at www.shallowford.org, or email Rebecca Goode (rgoode@shallowford.org) for information.

SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENTS

by B.J. McMillan

Stewardship is about more than just money. Stewardship is also about finding ways to use your unique, God-given talents and interests to help others experience the love of Christ.

Whether your talent is making music or leading a Sunday school class, there is a place for you at Shallowford. Here you will find numerous opportunities to enjoy the fellowship of others while seeking to make a difference in our church, our community, and the world. Here your time and talents are an essential resource, as Shallowford cannot effectively spread the Good News without your help.

In the coming days, the SPC Stewardship Committee will distribute a Time & Talent Survey to all members of the congregation. Whether you are a new or long-time member, please give this survey prayerful consideration. Select a ministry for which you are enthusiastic and elect to donate a portion of your time to it. Choose more than one if you wish, but choose according to your passion(s) and your available time. The idea is NOT to burden you with more responsibility, but to provide one or more opportunities for you to serve and connect with others in a way that brings you abundant joy.

The Time & Talent survey will be distributed through the weekly e-newsletter and should be taken using an online link to simplify tallying the results. If you are not computer savvy, a paper form will be available.

Thank you in advance for sharing your gifts to help bring about a better church, a more compassionate community, and a more hopeful world!

There is a time for everything,
and a purpose under heaven...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Mission



STOP HUNGER NOW

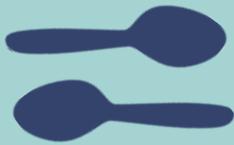
BY THE NUMBERS



30,000
Dehydrated Meals

\$0.29

Cost Per Serving



23

Essential Vitamins
& Minerals

214



Volunteers

STOP HUNGER NOW

An Annual Shallowford Event * January 25, 2017 * Matthew 25:35



COMMUNITY IMPACT

photos by Don Burkhard



Shallowford's partnership with Habitat for Humanity started in 1983 and has since continued each spring. Our devoted leaders, Bob Simpson, Bridges Smith, and now Don Burkhard, along with a team of volunteers, have helped to participate in 17 builds with Habitat Atlanta and several more with Habitat DeKalb.

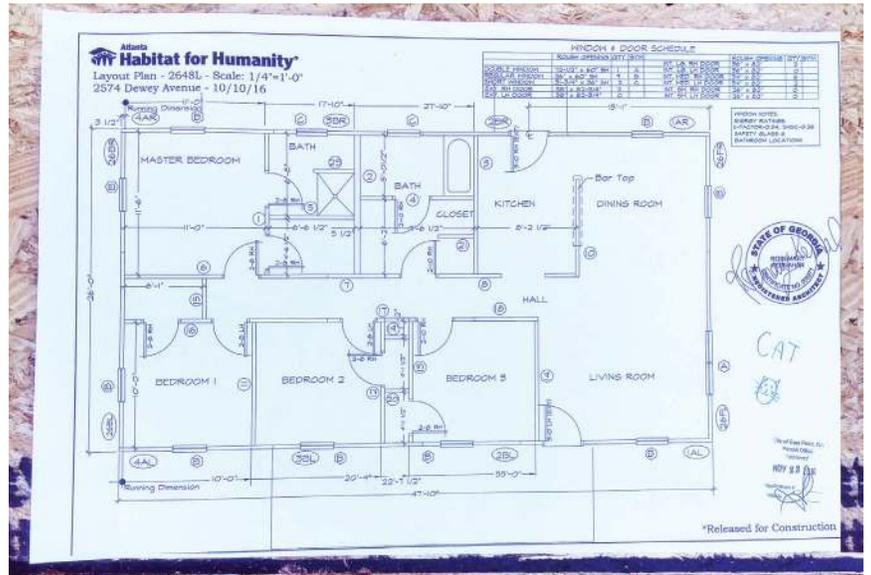
Starting in February and continuing through April, the team helped build a home for the Valdez Family, comprised of Ms. Valdez and her three sons (ages 5, 6, and 11). Originally from New York and raised in a

high rise, Ms. Valdez is excited for the opportunity to teach her children the value of homeownership. The Valdez family (like all Atlanta Habitat homebuyers) will purchase this house with a no-interest loan. She will make a down payment of \$750, pay a monthly mortgage, put in 250 "sweat equity" hours, and attend 12 homeowner education classes.

For eight-weeks, members of our church spent their Saturdays laying siding, shingling the roof, insulating walls and ceilings, painting interior and exterior walls,

installing kitchen cabinets and countertops and bathroom hardware, as well as the finishing touches with landscaping.

Find members in action by browsing our Habitat for Humanity photo album on Facebook (Search > Shallowford Presbyterian Church) and see how they made a difference for this well-deserving family.



A VISIT TO *Sacred Spaces*

by Roger Ward

In the summer of 2012, my wife Joann and I, along with fellow SPC members Clay and Mary Jo Warner, vacationed in Europe. We made a point to visit two locations that I consider sacred spaces, although they exist as the result of war and evil.

We visited the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Colleville-sur-Mer, France and the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial at Dachau, Germany. The first is a symbol of man's sacrifice to free people from oppression and the latter is a symbol of man's inhumanity to man in the attempt to eliminate dissension and destroy a people.

Honor in Remembrance

Survivors created sacred spaces to honor the thousands who lost their lives. Soldiers died on the beach at Normandy during World War II fighting for freedom. At the same time, Jews and others died in concentration camps at the hands of ruling tyrants.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial sits atop a small hill with a view of the sandy beach stretching down to the ocean. It features 20 acres landscaped with trees and green lawns dotted with white marble markers on either side of a beautiful reflecting pool.

In contrast, Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial is surrounded by a moat and a ten-foot wall topped with barbed wire and guard towers. A stark building houses chronicles of the sordid history and suffering endured there. Surrounding trees seems to purposely hide the space from view.

The Normandy Cemetery is the resting place for 9,387 American soldiers who died in action during the invasion and campaign. 307 markers read "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God." Each soldier's

grave is marked with a simple white marble cross or star of David. A wall names 1,557 other American soldiers, sailors and airmen who remain missing in action.

At Dachau, what remains are the infamous gatehouse with the phrase "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Makes You Free), the administration building, two restored cell blocks showing the prisoners' conditions, and the infamous crematorium. No memorial inscriptions or markers indicate where thousands of Jews, gypsies, homosexuals and Christians, yes Christians, died as enemies of the Nazi regime. Only a grassy mound in a small grove of trees marks the place where the ashes from the crematorium were dumped.



Personal Connections

Before our trip, Clay asked if anyone in our congregation wished us to visit a friend's or family member's grave at Normandy. At the cemetery, the superintendent escorted us to two graves. The first was that of SGT Paul J. "Red" Bearden, my uncle who I never knew. (I had visited his grave twice before - in 1974 with my mother and in 1994 with my oldest son.) He died 68 years before on 23 July 1944. The family is unsure if he knew that on the day he landed on Utah

Beach, 26 June 1944, my Aunt Lorene gave birth to their son.

We also visited the grave of 1LT Rex Caster, college sweetheart of Ms. Ann West, a late member of Shallowford. At each grave, we placed French and US flags. Our cemetery escort produced a small pail of Normandy beach sand which we used to highlight the engravings on both graves to show greater contrast in our photographs. She told us that this small gesture was begun to reduce the time required to remove the water based paint previously used. Visitors gratefully use the sand because it is symbolic of the French soil that their loved ones died to liberate.

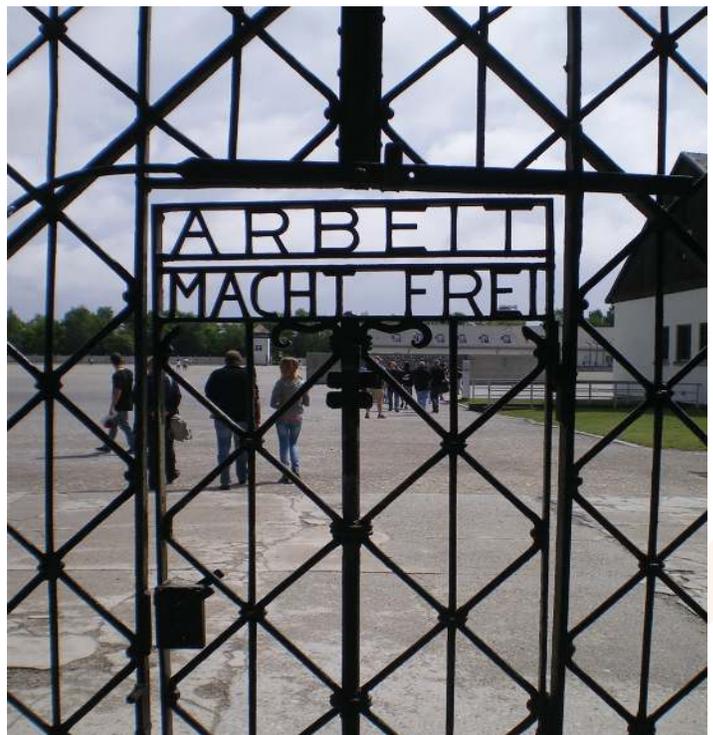
While these two memorials are totally different, I felt God's

presence in both - in the reverence and quiet atmosphere of reflection. Each brought to mind a Bible verse from the Gospels.

At Normandy, I thought of John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" and Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." I like to call these "The Soldier's Verse" and "The Soldier's Beatitude".

At Dachau, I thought of two Beatitudes: Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." and Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Surely, God has made these places sacred.



MIDDLE (p.14): Roger Ward pictured at the grave of SGT Paul J. Bearden at Normandy Cemetery. **TOP LEFT:** Bronze statue represents the spirit of American youth rising from the waves. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Dachau Barracks Sites. **TOP RIGHT:** Ash grave of Jewish dead at Dachau. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Gatehouse at Dachau Concentration Camp.

Living THE SHALLOWFORD WAY

Every week, members of the Shallowford family worship in our sacred spaces, gather for churchwide events and programs and volunteer to help others. Take a look at some highlights from a few activities in 2017. Find us on Facebook (*Shallowford Presbyterian Church*) for a more in-depth look into our fun and fellowship!



A CONGREGATION THAT *Cares*

One of Shallowford's daily missions is to offer love, care, and support to the members of our congregation as well as to members of the community. We accomplish this mission through a variety of programs designed to meet the many different needs of our members and the community at large. As our congregation experiences growth and change, we look for new and inventive ways to provide well-deserved care and support. Listed below are a handful of care options. To view our entire list, please visit www.shallowford.org//congregational-care/. More volunteers are always welcome.

1 ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

The Shallowford Family Counseling Center hosts the only support group in Atlanta that meets weekly that is specifically tailored for Alzheimer's families and friends. The group meets on **Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:30am in Heritage Hall** located on the first floor of the Education Building. This support group provides guidance, solace, and fellowship to caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

In addition to this support group, the Counseling Center now offers a time for those who are experiencing the early stage of Alzheimer's. This group meets at the same time as the existing Alzheimer's support group, **Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 am in the Burney Overton Room** located on the first floor of the Education Building. Suzette Bifold, Alzheimer's Association Program Director for the Georgia Chapter, currently leads the group. For more information, contact Robby Carroll (rcarroll@shallowford.org).



2 PRAYER NETWORK

Each year the Prayer Network organizes volunteers so that each member of Shallowford is prayed for by name for one month in the year. It's important for our members to feel the love through the many different activities we offer on campus, as well as through the act of prayer. For more information, contact Prue Swerlick at swerlick@comcast.net.



3 TAKE THEM A MEAL

Whether you are expecting the birth of a child, or have an unexpected illness or accident, Shallowford families are willing to make sure your transition period is as comfortable as possible. Thanks to the coordination of a proactive volunteer team and to the generosity of our members **over 70 meals were purchased, prepared, or delivered to Shallowford families during a time when assistance was necessary during the month of February.** To have your name added to the list of volunteers, please contact Betsy Smith at betsysmith@gmail.com.



4 CARE MINISTERS

In the eyes of Shallowford, our shut-in members are just as important as the members we see on campus each week. Through our Care Ministry, volunteers assist, build and maintain relationships with shut-in members through monthly visits, calls, and activities. If you would like to help build this ministry, please contact Betsy Smith at betsysmith@gmail.com.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT.

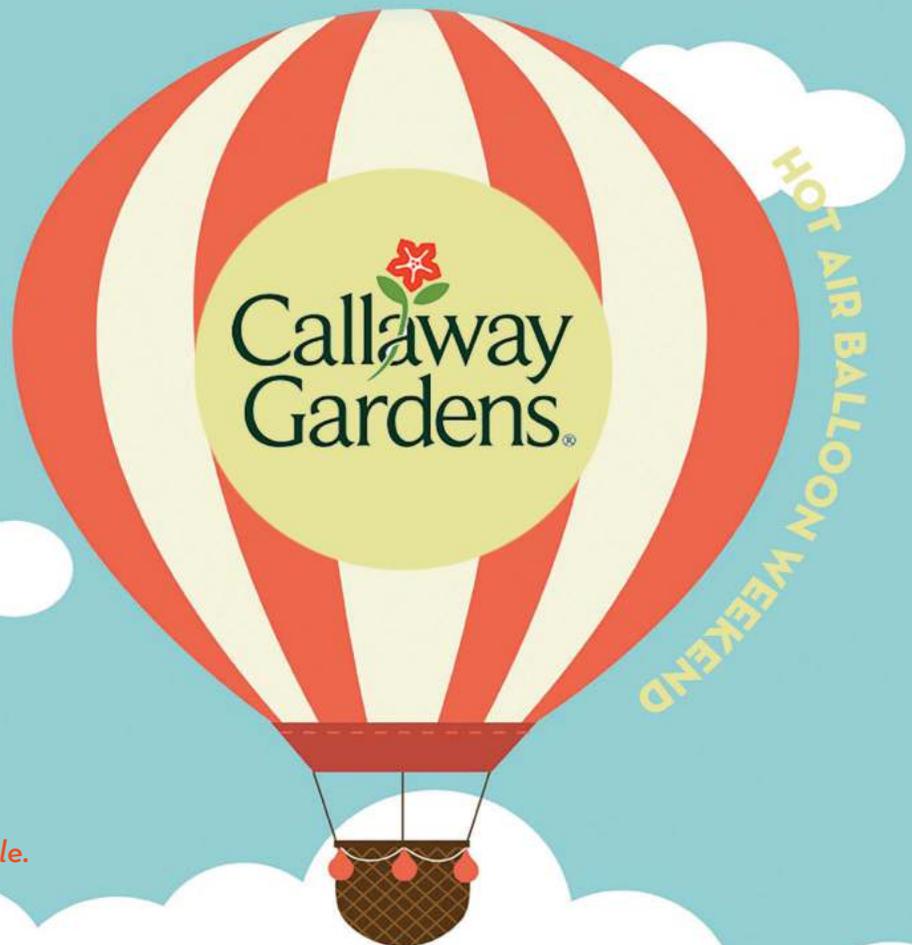
EXCITING NEW LOCATION!



\$225/Adult
\$100/Child

(\$600 Family Max)

Scholarship Opportunities Available.



WHO: All Ages

WHAT: All-Church Retreat

WHERE: Callaway Gardens

WHEN: September 2-4, 2017

WHY: Connect. Explore. Grow...
with your Shallowford Family!

Featuring Guest Speaker: Rev. Nancy Graham Ogne

Meet Our Staff

Jim McGarrah



Position:

Director of Operations

Roles & Responsibilities: I joined the Shallowford team in early 2017. I seek to enable the effective programs of the church by striving for excellence in the operational support functions of finance, facilities, communications, IT support, and human resources.

What did you do before Shallowford? I graduated “With Distinction” from the U. S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and received my Navy commission in 1973. I served in both the active and reserve components of the U. S. Navy for 33 years, and also served 24 years in the telecommunications industry, primarily in network operational and planning assignments. I was a Laboratory Director and Chief of Staff of the Georgia Tech Research Institute for eight years. I have a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University, a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, and am a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Georgia.

Tell us a little about your family and interests outside of work: I’ve been married almost 44 years to Nancy, a private-practice clinical psychologist in Atlanta. We have two daughters - Mindy has been a professor at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla. and will be moving to Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur this summer, and Elizabeth is a speech pathologist with the Gwinnett County School System. We have five grandchildren ranging in age from 18 months to 11 years. In our personal time, we enjoy theater, travel and dining with friends, and I try to play golf when I can.

Share one experience that has impacted your life: One experience that significantly impacted my life was commanding a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. I was responsible for the readiness and well-being of 750 Navy “Seabees” in support of the Marine Corps. The combination of this responsibility and a high operations tempo in a combat zone, combined with the effects on my family back in Georgia, was quite impactful!

Rebecca Goode



Position:

Director of Communications

Roles & Responsibilities: Since my arrival last August (2016), I continue to be responsible for the development and implementation of marketing materials to promote the ministries of the church. Through print collateral, digital materials, and graphic design, I support the rising demands of our growing congregation.

What did you do before Shallowford? My passion for communications started during my undergraduate years at Valdosta State University. There I earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations. Upon graduation, I went on to work for my sorority's National Headquarters, Phi Mu Fraternity in Peachtree City, Georgia. As Communications & Marketing Specialist, I was responsible for all social media marketing, campaign development, internal and external communication plans, print collateral (including *The Aglaia*, Phi Mu's print publication), and special event graphics. I worked directly with the Director of Communications, and Director of Marketing, both of whom played integral roles in my career through daily mentorship and knowledge sharing.

Tell us a little about your family and interests outside of work: Atlanta will always be my home! My parents raised me, and my two siblings, in Sandy Springs where I attended Mount Vernon Presbyterian High School. I learned at a young age that time spent with my family and friends is what is most important to me. In my downtime I enjoy being at the lake, hiking the North Georgia Mountains, or exploring the many parks Atlanta has to offer.

Share one experience that has impacted your life: Easy! My service trip to El Salvador through Habitat for Humanity changed my life. My team assisted in building homes for two local families, and at the end of the trip, the head of each household shared their story, and how they came to find Habitat. It was an amazing feeling knowing my time and effort went toward helping a well-deserving family. I look forward to serving on many more trips in the future!

SACREDSPACE is a publication of
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www.shallowford.org

Senior Pastor

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

Sunday Morning Worship
Children's Sunday School
Adult Sunday School

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.



Connect
with us through social media!



Shallowford Presbyterian Church



@ShallowfordPC

2017 Summer Camps!



KIDS GO WILD

June 5-9, July 10-14, &
July 24-28

1:15 - 5:30 pm
Ages 3 through Rising 3rd Grade
www.kidsgowild.me/summercamps/



SUMMER FUN

June 5-9, July 10-14, &
July 24-28

9 am - 1 pm
Ages 2 through Rising 3rd Grade
www.shallowfordschool.com



CLUB SCIKIDZ & TECH SCIENTIFIC

June 12-16, July 10-14, &
July 24-28

9 am - 3 pm
Grades PreK through - 8th Grade
www.clubscikidz.com



SPC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 19-23

9 am - 1 pm
Ages 3+ Potty Trained through
Rising 6th Grade
Contact: Danielle Lawn
(dlawn@shallowford.org)