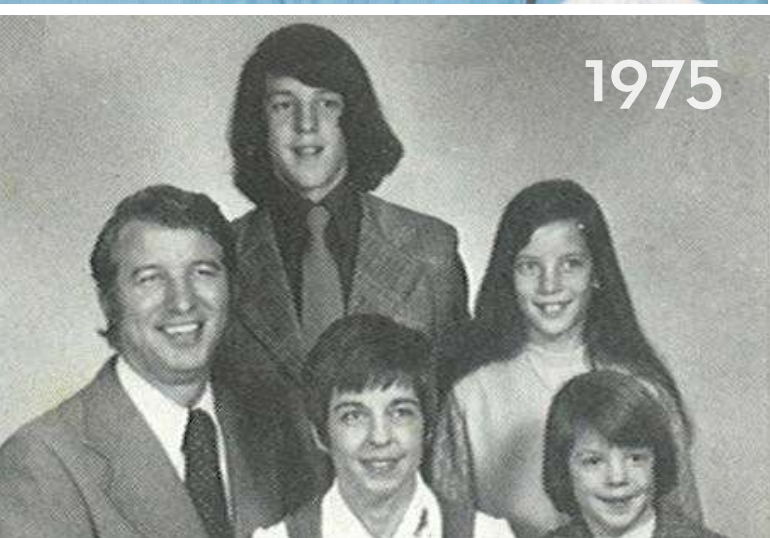


SACRED SPACE

A PUBLICATION OF SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Spring/Summer 2018





From the Pastor

POWER OF GROWTH

Dear Friends,

Growth is a powerful metaphor for the life of faith, whether we are thinking of individuals or congregations. In one of his most memorable parables (Mark 4:1-9), Jesus tells of a sower who threw seeds indiscriminately in every direction. Usually interpretations of the parable assume that God is the sower, the seed is the kingdom of God, and we humans are the dirt. That is, we are called to be fertile ground for the growth of God's kingdom. It is a powerful image and one that challenges us to more faithful and intentional discipleship.

But there is another possibility. It's the one that intrigues me most for Shallowford Presbyterian Church in 2018. What if this is not so much a description of what God does *to us*, but rather a prescription of what we are called to do *for God*?

Understood this way, the parable offers powerful promises to those who sow seeds.

The message is something like this: please do not ever give up on anyone. Plant the seeds you've been given, tell stories, offer invitations, share pain and sorrow. We do not get to decide when the soil is just right for seeds. We just spread and plant and pray.

This is where the parable of the sower meets the story of our congregation and its ministry. This issue of *Sacred Space* is filled with stories of planted seeds that are yielding impressive and transformative growth in our community.

And hear this Shallowford. You are not finished yet. You have a story to tell of a God whose grace is more powerful than all that seeks to divide or separate us. You have a story to tell of a Lord and Savior who calls us to actions of compassion and mercy and justice in the community and far beyond. You have a story to tell of a church that is large

enough for people on all ends of every spectrum, a church that whose mission is grounded in deep and sound theology, a church that takes the Bible seriously as the living word of God. You have a story to tell of a God who is still alive and active in the world and in our lives, who awakens us and calls us and commands us and compels us. What marvelous seeds you have been given to sow! What a tragic shame it would be if you choose to put them in your pocket or scatter with too much discrimination or fear. What a loss to this community and to the work of the kingdom if Shallowford's story goes untold and its future is compromised by caution.

When he died in 1862, the naturalist, author, and philosopher Henry David Thoreau left behind a dozen notebooks containing unpublished essays, poems, and reflections. Always able to discover the truth and lesson in nature, Thoreau wrote: "Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."ⁱ

Two things I know are true.

1. Without the planted seed, there will be no growth.
2. If we sow the seed of faith that we have been given, small as it may seem, if we indiscriminately spread God's grace, we can expect wonders.

See you in church,

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

ⁱ Henry David Thoreau, as quoted in *Faith in a Seed: The Dispersion of Seeds and Other Late Natural History Writings*, Island Press, 1993. p. xvii.



FEATURES

- 4 **MUSIC:** A Shallowford Tradition
- 6 **MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES:** MLK Jr. Work Weekend
- 8 **CONFIRMANDS:** 2018 Confirmation by the Numbers
- 9 **SHALLOWFORD:** Rev. Tom Are, Jr. Returns to Shallowford
- 10 **SHALLOWFORD:** Six Decades of Grace & Faith
- 12 **SHALLOWFORD SCHOOL:** A Place to Go to Learn & Grow
- 14 **WORSHIP:** Worship in Full Bloom
- 16 **THE STETHOSCOPE PROJECT**



STAFF SHOUTOUT

Congratulations, Bradley! We are proud to celebrate that Bradley Kibler, Shallowford's Director of Youth & Program Ministries, was accepted as a candidate for ordination by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta in February.

L to R: Bradley; Aisha Brooks-Lytle, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; and Laura Jernigan, Shallowford's Parish Associate for Congregational Care, pictured at the February Presbytery meeting.



MU&IC

A Shallowford Tradition

Chancel Choir Always Welcomes New Singers

Shallowford's Chancel Choir boasts more than 60 active members who rehearse every Thursday evening and lead worship from the choir loft on Sunday mornings. Since 2015, twenty-two new members have joined the choir under the direction of Emily Floyd, who marks her tenth year as Shallowford's Director of Music Ministries.

"We welcome anyone who loves to sing," said an enthusiastic Emily. "We always have room for more. As our church grows, it is a comfort and a joy to know that people want to join our choir."

The choir holds a working weekend retreat annually to prepare special music and new anthems. It's a time of fellowship, group building and learning.

"Singing with the choir is a great way to grow spiritually," said Betsy Smith. "It's also a wonderful way to make friends as well as make music!"

Last fall, the choir worked with six other Presbyterian churches to present a concert under the direction of Emily Floyd in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The addition of the new Casavant pipe organ in the

sanctuary has added a distinct difference to the sound of music. Members and guests alike marvel at the richness of the organ's tone and the beauty it adds to each service. Organist, Dr. Wooyoung Kwon, uses her considerable talent and expertise to bring the organ to life and deliver a wide variety of sounds, whether accompanying the choir or playing hymns and special music.

Bells Are Ringing!

Every Sunday morning at Shallowford, music brings joy and inspiration. But, when one of the children's handbell choirs robes up to ring, the music seems to take on its own majestic air.

The ringing of handbells offers a unique opportunity for folks of any age to participate in worship. Last fall, a record number of elementary children caught the bell choir excitement and wanted to learn to ring.

Emily made the meaningful decision to add a second



Dr. Wooyoung Kwon

Westminster Bell Choir to accommodate all the would-be ringers.

She recruited Keren Barr, Janice Durant, and Dr. Marc Beaver to teach the two groups, a total of 20 ringers ranging from age seven to eleven.

“Each piece of music we choose is unique!” said Keren. “Some of the harder works can take as long as eight weeks to learn, but our ringers eagerly accept each challenge. Our bells add a bright, vibrant piece to worship.”

After roughly four to five weeks of bell rehearsal, the miniature musicians stood before the congregation and performed music that brought their skills to life and aligned with the Sunday scripture.

In the early 1970’s, SPC’s Music Director, Bob Chambless, formed Shallowford’s first bell choirs. Currently, the Shallowford Bell Choir is open to students in grades 6-12 and the two Westminster Bell Choirs serve grades 3-5. There are no requirements to join - just an interest in worshipping God through music.

A Lasting Impression for Our Children & Youth

Shallowford’s long history in music continues through our Children’s Choirs and Youth Choir, as well! At the core of these programs is a belief that music is an important part of every person’s life, in every stage of life.

Starting as young as three-years-old, our children learn healthy singing techniques, basic musicianship, and begin musical literacy. By the time they reach 6th grade, our children, now grown and known as youth, spend more time strengthening their singing techniques, and learn various ways to master the works of more advanced anthems.

The consistency of being part of Sunday worship helps our children strengthen their ability to use their voices to help form their faith. Each year, Shallowford presents a children’s Christmas concert, Children’s Sunday in February, and musical each May. Our youth look forward to the annual Chapel Choir Tour each summer, where choir members travel the country to sing for hosting congregations, as well as performing in Sunday morning worship, and holiday services.

All children, youth, and adults are welcome in the Shallowford music program, and we hope you will join us soon!



Westminster Sr. Bell Choir



Shallowford Bell Choir



Cherub Choir



Westminster Choir



MEMORIAL DRIVE WORK WEEKEND

A Huge Success!

by Catherine Foster

When Presbyterians talk about being a “connectional church,” they’re usually referring to an upcoming Presbytery meeting, a controversial General Assembly bill, or paperwork that needs to be sent off to Louisville. But this past January, two hundred and seventy Presbyterians revolutionized my understanding of and gratitude for our “connectional church.”

Memorial Drive Ministries’ Background

As the membership of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain continued to decline, it became more and more difficult for them to maintain their large campus. Far from hunkering down in scarcity, the membership of MDPC has reached out to their changing neighborhood of Clarkston and Stone Mountain to welcome three Presbyterian new worshipping communities, a Mennonite congregation, and at least six non-profit organizations.

Responding to MDPC’s request for support, in the summer of 2017, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta convened members of five neighboring Presbyterian Churches to work alongside MDPC and its ministry partners in a visioning process that has become Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM). MDM is becoming a Presbyterian non-profit that will manage the Memorial Drive campus by gathering critical leadership, organization, and a wide network of loving neighbors to create a new expression of God’s Beloved Community.

MLK, Jr. Weekend

The Board of the newly imagined Memorial Drive Ministries knew that in order for their vision of the Memorial Drive Campus to succeed that they would need many more church and community partners. The Board also knew that the campus of Memorial Drive called for an HGTV-worthy makeover in order to better host all the incredible ministries taking place on the property.

The MDM Board put the call out to all the churches in Greater Atlanta Presbytery, and, Shallowford responded with gusto! At least two hundred and seventy volunteers representing at least twelve Presbyterian Churches rolled up their sleeves, pulled on their work gloves, and got to work supporting their sister congregations.

Each congregation brought their God-given talents to build up the body of Christ. One church employed their tall sanctuary ladder and electrical skills to convert much of the lighting over to eco-friendly LED bulbs. Another church coordinated with the Inspire After School Tutoring program to paint their classrooms bright, cheerful colors. Yet another church utilized the artistic skills of their youth group to transform a black water cistern into a mural celebrating water as a gift of life. Still another church came forward to cook a hearty lunch so that everyone could break bread together. Presbyterians from many different churches teamed up to clean out closets, paint rooms, and scrub the facility. Three Presbyterian-owned businesses volunteered trash removal, landscaping, and building repairs. Over the course of Martin Luther King weekend, God multiplied the many gifts we brought as individual Christians and solitary congregations to transform the campus of Memorial Drive and to knit us closer together as the body of Christ.

Connectional Church

Like any good Presbyterian undertaking, the creation of Memorial Drive Ministries has involved countless committee meetings, reams of documents, and the pokey pacing of doing things “decently and in order.” But never again will I think of polity or paperwork when someone uses the phrase “connectional church.” Instead, I will remember the electric Spirit of over a dozen congregations uniting in love, hard work and hospitality over Martin Luther King weekend.

“Connectional church” is the discovery that we are capable of so much more together than apart. “Connectional church” is the blessing of my weakness being your strength. “Connection church” is the miracle of God making a stranger a neighbor and a neighbor a friend. Thanks be to God for “connectional church”!



To learn more about or to make a donation to Memorial Drive Ministries, visit the website at www.MemorialDriveMinistries.org.

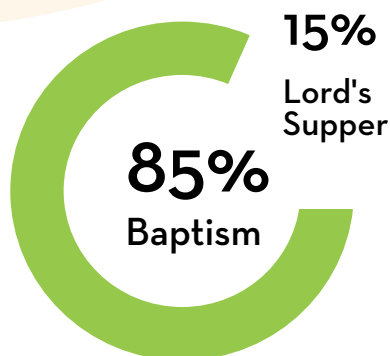


Confirmands

2018 Confirmation BY THE NUMBERS

[Class led under the care of Bradley Kibler, Director of Youth & Program Ministries]

What is your favorite Sacrament of the Bible?



21

Number of 2018 Confirmands

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9 am Faith Statements
(The Great Hall)

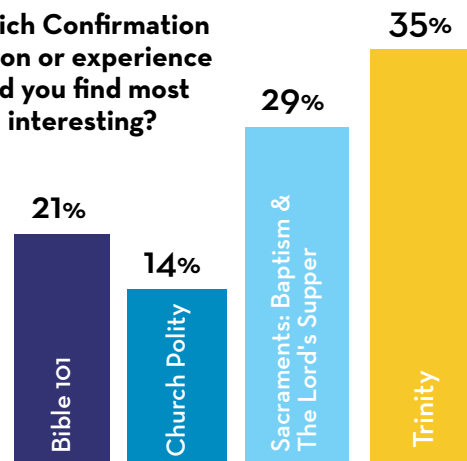
11 am Sunday Worship
(Sanctuary)



Confirmands by Gender:
6 Gentlemen & 15 Ladies



Which Confirmation lesson or experience did you find most interesting?



- Arbor Montessori School (1)
- Chamblee Middle School (3)
- Greater Atlanta Christian (1)
- Henderson Middle School (12)
- East Side Academics (1)
- Pace Academy (1)
- Tucker Middle School (1)
- The Westminster Schools (1)

Representation at 8 Educational Institutions in the Atlanta Area



2018 Confirmation Class, FRONT ROW (L to R): Meera Phillips, Evelyn Rosselot, Elizabeth Blass, Mitchell McHugh, Porter Tuggey, and Luke Jordan. **BACK ROW** (L to R): Sydney Erickson, Anne Cooke, Ella Floyd, Francesca Mariano, Emily Durant, Kylee Herbert, Rosa Ramirez, Ben Shackelford, and Noah Milton.
NOT PICTURED: Jonathan Carribean, Alexia Graves, Emilie Hankla, Isabel San Miguel, Mallory Small, and Ella Smith.

Session Meeting Reflections

(Confirmands are required to attend a called Session meeting as part of their journey toward membership.)

1.

"Seeing how many people truly care for this church." -Sydney Erickson

"The devotion/prayer at the beginning of the meeting." -Elizabeth Blass

2.

3.

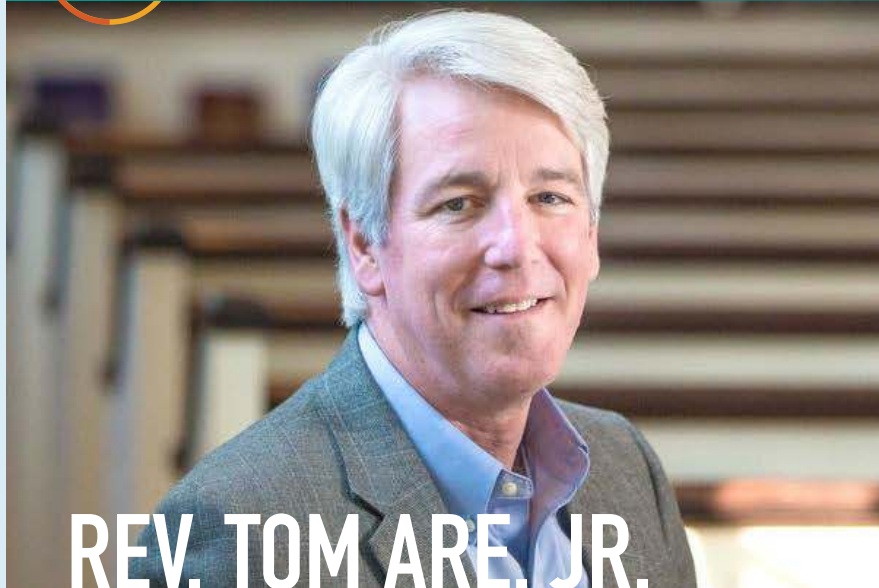
"Seeing the 'behind-the-scenes' of the church." -Kylee Herbert

"Everyone respects each other and takes their part seriously." -Luke Jordan

4.

5.

"It was nice to feel involved and 'in the know' when it comes to my church community." -Ella Floyd



REV. TOM ARE, JR.

TO RETURN HOME TO SHALLOWFORD

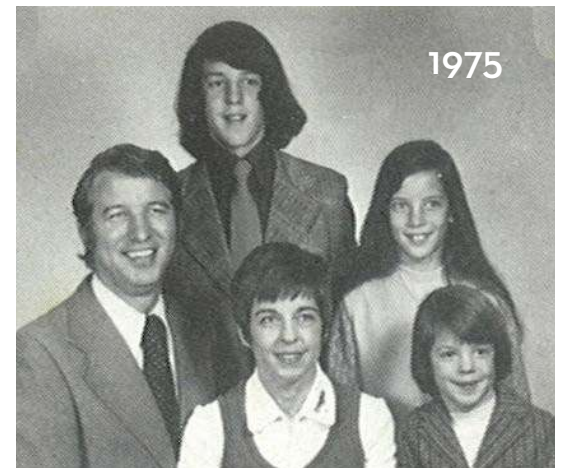
In honor and celebration of Shallowford's sixtieth anniversary, our congregation will welcome home Rev. Tom Are, Jr., son of Shallowford's former senior pastor Rev. Tom Are, for a weekend celebration August 4 and 5, 2018! Tom will speak on Saturday (Aug. 4), and preach both worship services on Sunday (Aug. 5). Mark your calendar and be sure to join us!

The Are family was first introduced to Shallowford in November of 1971 when Rev. Tom Are was called by the Session to serve as senior pastor. Rev. Tom, along with his wife, Martha, and four children, Tom Jr., Gene, Martha and Jimmy made the trip from Montgomery, Ala. and made Atlanta and Shallowford home for the next 21 years.

While at Shallowford, Tom Jr. spent his time singing in the Chapel Choir and ringing in the Bell Choir. He also spent time at youth fellowship, held in the basement of the chapel. He remembers worship in Fellowship Hall and the building of the new sanctuary.

After high school graduation, Tom attended Presbyterian College in South Carolina. During summer breaks, he found himself back at Shallowford, working to help the church staff.

"SHALLOWFORD WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO WELCOMED ME; TREATED ME BETTER THAN I DESERVED; AND HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN PART OF THE REASON I AM IN MINISTRY TODAY."



*Former Shallowford Rev. Tom Are is pictured with his wife Peggy and three children Tom Jr., Martha, and Jimmy. *Not picture is their son, Gene.*

Tom followed in his father's footsteps to pursue a career in seminary. After graduating from Presbyterian College, Tom went on to graduate from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Va. and Yale Divinity School.

Since 2004, Tom has served as senior pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He has served on the Boards of Montreat Conference Center, Presbyterian College, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Most recently, he has been a founding member of the NEXT Church network in the PCUSA and finds that to be a sign of resurrection in the Presbyterian Church.

Tom and his wife, Carol, have been married since 1987, and they have two young adult children, Sarah and Nathan. Carol is a registered nurse, and Tom is a sixth generation Presbyterian pastor!

**Welcome Rev. Tom Are, Jr. Home
for our 60th Anniversary Celebration
August 4-5, 2018**



6 DECADES OF

A BRIEF GLIMPSE INTO SHALLOWFORD'S HISTORY

THE BEGINNING OF SHALLOWFORD

'50s

Shallowford Presbyterian Church exists because of the prayers, interest and support of many persons.

In June of 1958, 55 people attended a service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Carmichael, who later submitted a petition to the appointed Commission in July of the same year. Less than 24-hours later, twenty-three families with 51 communicant members became Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

Sunday classes quickly formed and members attended weekly worship to hear Shallowford's first installed pastor, Rev. Kirk N. Nesbit, as they convened in the library at Oak Grove School. The congregation grew too large for the library and moved services to the cafeteria where Shallowford's first choir was formed.

Thanks to the generosity of the Carmichael family, Shallowford was gifted four acres of land, and an additional acre was purchased by the Atlanta Presbytery to build the church.

'60s

A PERIOD OF RAPID GROWTH

By 1961, Shallowford had approved a three-stage building program which included the construction of a chapel, education building, and sanctuary. Named after the Carmichaels, the chapel was completed in late summer of 1961. Sunday school classes met in every available space, including the kitchen. Worship services quickly outgrew the seating capacity of 200 leading to the addition of an 8:30 am (now 8:45 am) service.

In May of 1965, 350 people met in the Fellowship Hall to dedicate our new Christian Education Building, which completed stage two. And one year later, in 1966, church members started a kindergarten in the building as a service to the community.

ESTABLISHING STAFF

'70s

In 1971, leaders of the church called pastor, Dr. Thomas L. Are to Shallowford to lead the congregation in their efforts of continued outreach and faith.

A memorial dedication service held in May of 1976 marked the opening of the new sanctuary, completing the final phase of the three-stage building program.

Shallowford's Music Ministry was brought to order under the leadership of Bob Chambless who offered something for everyone - adult and youth choirs; ensembles; bell choirs; musical plays, tours and trips.

Meanwhile, Shallowford's Christian Education Program flourished under Martha Rosselot. Our youth fellowship grew through a variety of activities. The church installed its first Associate Pastor, Rev. David Fry and hired a Director of Member Development. In July 1979, the membership at Shallowford Presbyterian Church totaled 900.

MUSIC, MISSION & FUN

'80s

The search committee recruited Bob Simpson from Westminster Choir College to fill the Minister of Music position in the late-seventies. Soon after, Shallowford was in search of an organ for the sanctuary. On March 23, 1986 Shallowford held a dedication concert for the newly purchased electronic organ built by Allen Organ Company.

In 1986, Shallowford built its first Habitat house for a family from Laos. Since then, sixteen families have found a better life in new Habitat homes through the hard work and generosity of our members.



FAITH & GRACE

IN HONOR OF OUR UPCOMING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mission work turned international in 1981 when Tom Are and three members made their first mission trip to explore 34 villages in Ghana. Six years later, Shallowford joined a Presbytery youth work group working to build the foundation of a health clinic in Dambai, Ghana.

Perhaps the most significant event during this decade was the merger of the two denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS '90s

In 1992, Rev. Tom Are announced his departure from Shallowford. We called Gray Norsworthy, as senior pastor in 1994.

We established the Shallowford Training & Counseling Center now known as the Shallowford Family Counseling Center in the late '80s which was led by Burney Overton, an ordained minister and licensed therapist. In 1998 Burney passed away, and William B. Carr, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, led the Center until Rev. Robby Carroll was called to lead as Director.

During this decade, the percentage of the annual budget committed to mission nearly doubled, and the list of needs served by our church family continued to expand. When Bob Simpson retired, Bob Chambless returned as Director of Music Ministry. He produced a decade full of special music programs. The congregation grew and Vacation Bible School, Day Camp, children's Sunday School and adult ministries flourished.

A NEW MILLENNIUM '00s

As a result of the 1998 Capital Campaign, construction began on a new atrium and the Great Hall.

Mission opportunities continued to grow both locally and overseas. During the 2000s Sunday worship thrived along with spirituality retreats, small prayer groups, Bible study, care minister trainings, men's prayer breakfast meetings and Shallowford Presbyterian Woman.

The youth gave their time to the Chapel Choir, local mission opportunities, Bible study, and fund raising events for the annual summer choir tour.

In 2008, Senior Pastor Gray Norsworthy announced his departure from Shallowford. This same year, the search committee recruited Emily Floyd and hired her as Director of Music Ministries following Bob's retirement.

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE '10s

Rev. Robby Carroll, Jr. led the congregation as Head of Staff until March of 2011, when Rev. Christopher A. Henry was installed as senior pastor.

Shallowford began a capital campaign in 2012 under Rev. Henry's leadership to renovate the existing chapel and create a space for our youth. Shallowford's first print magazine publication, *Sacred Space*, was printed. As membership and staff continued to grow, the Session named Jay Turney chair of the 2014 Capital Campaign Task Force to renovate the sanctuary and kitchen and build staff offices and a nursery.

With a newly renovated sanctuary, we looked forward to Shallowford's first pipe organ. On October 30, 2016, we held a dedication concert to celebrate the installation of our new Casavant Pipe Organ.

In February of 2017, membership reached 1,000 members for the first-time since 1987! The following year Shallowford celebrated the retirement of Rev. Robby Carroll, Jr. as Parish Associate for Congregational Care and his 14 years of faithful service. This decade marked record attendance at our all church retreat and Vacation Bible School.



A PLACE TO GO TO LEARN & grow

by Maggie Casner,
SPS Assistant Head of School

While Shallowford Presbyterian Church has experienced growth in membership, facilities space, staff, outreach, and missions, the last three years have shown an incredible amount of growth at Shallowford Presbyterian School (SPS) as well. Our preschool has expanded from 100 students to our current enrollment of just under 200 students through third grade. Within the next two years we will add fourth and fifth Grade classes.

Not only have we seen an increase in the school's size, but our students are growing, too! We have watched our little toddlers grow from two feet tall to four+ feet and continue to grow. Our preschool teachers have held their hands, changed their diapers, and taught them ABC's. Now some of those same children are learning to write persuasive arguments, solve word problems, and master the lost art of cursive writing. When asked what they liked most about the school growing, a group of students agreed that it is "all the new friends we get to make."

There are currently 13 students in the third grade, nine of whom have been together since preschool. You will find a similar scene throughout the other grade school classes as well. **We can see the lifelong friendships budding thanks to the bond that is Shallowford Presbyterian.**

Even as we grow our offerings, we are mindful that SPS is a beautiful and unique learning environment. We want to offer more opportunities to our community without sacrificing what makes our beloved school remarkable.

At SPS our mission is to nurture the whole child by accepting uniqueness and developing an academic, spiritual, and social foundation. As we continue to grow, we focus on how we can truly nurture each child. With great care and planning, the school's Board of Directors and administration have increased our offerings, while maintaining our loving and

special preschool environment. Just like SPC, we want every child to feel welcome in the school and become a successful member of the community.

The school also works with each individual family to create the optimal environment for the entire school community.

SPS families are flourishing thanks to a close relationship with the Children's Ministry. Our parents and students are able to build their family support systems through events and groups such as MOMtourage, Kid's Night Out, and choir. Some of our grade school children, who are also in choir, are already looking forward to the Scotland trip!

As a mission of SPC, the school benefits from a wealth of resources. We would not be able to offer an affordable grade school option to our community without the support of the church. We are able to provide a challenging curriculum with top-notch



teachers, beautiful facilities and outdoor space, and specialties such as a computer lab, certified media specialist, art, Spanish, Christian education, music, physical education (twice a week!), and reading tutoring. While many other schools are decreasing their offerings to students, we have been able to ensure a well-rounded education. Because of the church's support, we can offer all this at a fraction of the tuition of local private schools. And each year we are increasing our scholarship program and outreach to underrepresented children in our community. We are currently able to enroll at least one scholarship student in each class of the grade school.

As SPS increases its offerings, it is important that we continue deliberate planning to ensure that we adhere to our mission. **Because of a rich history of gifted and caring educators who laid the foundation for our superlative program, SPS is an exceptional environment in which children thrive.** When families come to tour the school, we are often told that our school stands out as a loving, fun and imaginative environment. We are dedicated to keeping that uniqueness even as we grow.

While working hard to maintain what distinguishes us from other schools, we also look to outside agencies to ensure that we are adhering to best practices in education. **SPS is proud to be an AdvancED accredited school.** For those who are not familiar, AdvancED is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the United States and internationally. This designation is not only an affirmation of the merits of our

program, but it also gives us benchmarks and comparisons with other schools. One of the greatest benefits of being an AdvancED accredited school is that it helps us strive for our best future with continuous improvement planning.

Lastly, adding students and grades means making changes to our day-to-day operations. We now have two carpools; one for preschool and one for grade school. SPS has added an administrator, the assistant head of school, and increased the board size from 12 to 16. We have a Parent Teacher Counsel that focuses on fundraising and building community among families. We offer before and after school programs that include childcare at a reasonable rate.

We all are truly blessed to have the tremendous opportunities afforded us through the growth of SPC and SPS. **We are all building a great foundation to support the local community and our faith in God.**

Growing FRIENDSHIPS AT SPS



TOP: Greg Moon (middle row first on the left), parent of current SPS student Jacob Moon, is glad that he can share SPS with his son. **BOTTOM:** Charlotte Casner and Amelia Moseley have been inseparable since they first met at SPS in the two-year-old program. Charlotte and Amelia are now rising 4th graders at SPS!





WORSHIP IN FULL bloom

by Kim Padgett

*What should be done then, my friends? When you come together,
each one has a hymn, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation.
Let all things be done for building up.*

1 Corinthians 14:26

We members of the Worship and Music Committee sometimes wonder how the things we do contribute to meaningful worship. Last fall, we looked at our various tasks: enhancing worship spaces, recruiting ushers, preparing Communion, organizing elders, decorating for Advent and Easter, arranging flowers, coordinating acolytes, supporting the Flower Guild, and more.

We pondered what it means to participate in, rather than merely attend, worship. How could we transform our worship experience into more of an opportunity for members to become involved and inspired?

We determined that keeping our worship spaces alive and dynamic with polished worship symbols, liturgical colors of the season, and beautiful music, flowers and acolytes reminds us of God's presence and plays into helping all of us to worship.

In many ways, worship is a sensory experience; we enjoy hearing beautiful music and the poetry of the Word; touching with handshakes and hugs; and seeing Christian symbols, stunning organ pipes, and lovely flower arrangements. All these make us more receptive to an awareness of God's presence.

We agreed that the Worship Committee's mission statement, "...to glorify God by facilitating and providing opportunities

for full participation in worship by all," aptly describes how we try to approach our work. It helps us to see the volunteer work that we do in a much larger context.

For some of us, the committee's work has indeed become a spiritual practice. The work of the recently formed Flower Guild is a prime example.

THE FLOWER GUILD

Linda Hanks established the Flower Guild about two years ago, and she now serves as the director of a group of creative and gifted artists. Each week, they take turns creating beautiful arrangements for all to behold in our sanctuary.

Guild members include Joan Groover, Pat Britt, Dianne Barklay, Mary Crosswy, Kate Fourmy, Elizabeth Todd, Laura Bishop, Gwen Morgan, Lois Finch, and Deborah Jennings.

On most Saturday mornings, an enormous blue tarp covers the carpet in the Narthex, catching pieces of flowers and foliage that fall from a stainless steel table. Guild members select pieces from this table, drawing on their intuition and creative ability to arrange the flowers and foliage into bouquets. The result is an artistic floral arrangement that will grace our worship space and inspire all who attend Sunday services.

Guild members report that creating these stunning flower arrangements for church has become a meaningful way to open spiritual gifts and belong to a close and supportive small group at the same time.

To learn what opportunities exist to help make magic at Shallowford, consult the online Time & Talents survey; find a spot that fits your interest; and sign up!

If you'd like to learn more about arranging or just helping with the flowers, watch for details about the Guild's next workshop, an inspiring event in every sense!



TOP: Members of the Flower Guild Linda Hanks, Mary Crosswy, Pat Britt, and Kate Fourmy learned new techniques to help arrange flowers at workshop last November. **LEFT:** Dedicated greeters, Howard Yeager and Hal Thompson, smile for the camera. **BOTTOM:** J. Michael Bushart and Joshua Phelps make worship a part of their Sunday routine by serving as acolytes for the 11 am service.

THE stethoscope PROJECT

by Jan Ziegler, PsyD

They sit at home or in a residential facility waiting for a phone call, a card or best of all someone to come visit. These once vibrant members of our church community are elderly now. They remember when they taught Sunday School, served on Session, drove the church bus, arranged flowers, skillfully provided their input on church building needs, built houses for Habitat, or provided meals for the sick. Many of them still knit, pray for others, send cards and pray for their church. The inequities of age have caught them in ways they did not quite imagine. Most of them can no longer attend church and Bible study as they once did. Their sense of shared community has been disrupted by lack of transportation, chronic illnesses or by change in residential circumstance.

In a study on aging published in psychology literature, the researcher gave pre- and post- tests for depression to elderly who were cut off from their familiar communities due to problems related to aging. The study found that these people experienced a significant amount of depression. The research further showed that when someone listened to the elders' life histories for as little as one hour, the telling of their life stories decreased the depression significantly. When retested three months later, these same folks' level of depression remained lower than before they had told their stories.

I began thinking about the dear faces of the people who I no longer saw around church. I wanted to know their stories. Mary Ellen Pendergast provided names of 19 members who could only attend irregularly or who were over 85 years of age. I wanted a project name that spoke to the meaning of the sort of listening that we would be doing. We would be

listening to their hearts with our own heart. I chose The Stethoscope Project. I developed questions regarding life experiences to get them talking. I recruited Sherry Cross as a key team member who was willing to give a great deal of time to recording these stories and making discs for the family members. She, along with Richard Philips, proved to be invaluable partners.

There were 19 of us who met with our 19 elderly members and had the joy of being with them as they recalled their lives. Shallowford, along with the members' families, now have an archive of these wonderfully rich stories. Some of the stories were of difficult times of loss or war. Others are filled with laughter as some told of a first kiss or a proud graduation.

It was a unique and gratifying opportunity to share these heart-to-heart experiences through the stethoscope of love. Each of the "listeners" has been back in touch with the "tellers." Many of our listeners were profoundly affected by the experience. I am grateful for a church that listens and gives the opportunity to explore new ways of caring and connecting.



Stethoscope Listeners, First Row: Carolyn Otto, Marilyn Coggins, Joyce Burnette. Second Row: Francesca Mariano, Bart McMillan, Theresa Phillips, Sherry Cross, Mickey Hutchinson, Richard Phillips, and Jan Ziegler. Listeners not pictured: Martha Coursey, Judy Dalton, Rachel Mariano, Dale Smith, Jo Moore, Bette Chambless, Vaughn Dunnigan, Alan Clarke, Linc Marx, and Jim Reeves.



Rise
AGAINST HUNGER



You Did it, Shallowford!

At the annual Rise Against Hunger event in January, Shallowford was recognized for surpassing 100,000 meals packed for people in need of meals to help end hunger around the world.

Left: Rev. Catherine Foster accepted a trophy on behalf of Shallowford members having packed 100,000 meals for the hungry! Right: Members, small and tall, joined together to pack meals.

100 SHAWLS & STILL KNITTING!

by Denise Webber

Jan Buchanan, originally from the Washington, DC area, is an early member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. **Since joining the group in 2006, she's made over 100 shawls and she didn't even begin knitting until her 30s.**

Jan is a self-taught knitter. After learning how to knit from a book, she and her husband Clyde attended a church retreat where Mary Ellen Pendergrast told Jan about the newly formed Prayer Shawl Ministry and invited her to join. Jan accepted her invitation and began making prayer shawls to support people during times of loss, illness, or other crises. Jan does beautiful work that gives comfort and support to people when they most need it.

Jan's favorite prayer shawl story is about one of the first shawls she made. Jan made a shawl for a cousin in the hospital. He was overwhelmed by her act of kindness and it helped bring the family closer together.

Prayer shawls continue to have a profound effect both on those who make them and those who receive them. Whether they inspire tears, hugs or quiet grace, these shawls touch people when they are dealing with life's most trying times.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry outreach has grown worldwide. We regularly give shawls to church members, their families and their friends. We provide 50 shawls to Emory Hospital each Christmas. We are also the only Prayer Shawl Ministry in Georgia that participates in the Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers, a nationwide program which provides shawls for the families of the fallen service men and women and to Dover Air Force Base, home of the joint-service mortuary facility.

If you are interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Denise Webber at mrswebber77@gmail.com for more information. We offer workshops in May, August, and November every year. We enjoy making shawls, fellowship, teaching and sharing stitches, techniques, and stories of what the ministry is doing.



News



News

Messages

Events

Groups

Giving

Directory



Support | Privacy

A NEW WAY TO CONNECT AT SHALLOWFORD

We are pleased to introduce a fun and innovative way for you to access our church directory no matter your location! Realm, Shallowford's new online member database, is one place where our church can go to stay informed, connected, and focused on multiplying our many powerful ministries. Members now have the ability to connect with and share what's going on at Shallowford anytime.

5 REASONS WHY IT'S WORTH CONNECTING:

- 1 ACCESS MEMBER INFORMATION ON THE GO** - Search for a phone number, email, mailing address, or birthday in just minutes.
- 2 PUT A NAME TO A FACE** - You can now upload your very own picture. With your help, our congregation can make this pictorial directory a success!
- 3 TRACK YOUR GIVING ONLINE** - View your individual giving statements for current and past years.
- 4 CONNECT WITH MEMBERS** - Receiving hundreds of emails a day is a thing of the past. Communicate with any of your Shallowford groups, committees, Sunday school classes, etc. through Realm group messaging.
- 5 PAY & REGISTER FOR EVENTS** - Paying has never been easier! Register for events that require a payment in just minutes.

DOWNLOAD THE APP - Visit the App Store on your smartphone or tablet and search for the "Realm Connect" app titled: Connect - Our Church Community.



WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG/REALM

GET TO KNOW OUR Staff



Rev. Laura Jernigan

Position: Parish Associate for Congregational Care

Roles & Responsibilities:

Part of my job is to assist the pastors and staff in the pastoral care of our members, whether through visitation of those who are sick, serving home communion with one of the elders, or facilitating the weekly

Alzheimer's Caregivers group. I also support the Congregational Care Committee of the Session in their various ministries of "in-reach" to our members, including home visitation, Take-Them-A-Meal, prayer, spiritual retreats, bereavement guild, prayer shawl ministry, and the work of our care ministry team. I also see my role as engaging folks in "holy conversation" and finding God's presence through life's ages and stages, sorrows and joys.

What brought you to Shallowford? I am excited to be "back home" at Shallowford. John and I came to Shallowford when our three sons were in 8th, 6th, and 2nd grade. We have been most grateful for those "golden" years of welcome and nurture they received in the children and youth ministries through choir, fellowship and confirmation. After serving 5 1/2 years as associate pastor at Northwest, I am grateful to be returning to SPC in a part-time professional role. I look forward to getting to know many new friends, and discerning together how God is calling us to serve Christ and people.

Tell us a little about your family and interests outside of your work: I am married to John Jernigan, who is a physician and researcher in the division of infectious diseases at the CDC. We suddenly find ourselves "empty nesters", so we are adjusting to this new reality as we support our sons in their endeavors: Ben is studying law; Jeff is an officer in the Navy and has just begun flight training; and Will is a first year college student. My mother, Peggy Hollandsworth, lives at Park Springs, and is an active member of Shallowford. I grew up as a PPK (Presbyterian Preacher's Kid) and moved from Kentucky, to Texas, to Tennessee. I like to be with family and enjoy being outdoors. I love singing and making music. I am writing a musical on the Old Testament characters Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar (stay tuned!).



Dooley Shabazz

Position: Facilities Manager

Roles & Responsibilities:

In my role as Facilities Manager, I oversee the maintenance, repairs and cleanliness of the buildings and grounds here at Shallowford. My job also entails monitoring individual systems such as HVAC, water, and electrical. I manage four wonderful team members that make up our facilities staff. I provide ongoing support to programming staff, Shallowford Presbyterian School staff, church members and volunteers to make improvements to the Shallowford campus.

What brought you to Shallowford? I was first introduced to Shallowford by a member of the church who frequently visited a restaurant that I owned. I was presented with the opportunity to join staff as a contracted caterer and did so for eight years. My previous position led me to serve as Shallowford's Interim Facilities Manager, which has now led to the full-time position of Facilities Manager. Shallowford has played a big role in my life and I look forward to giving back to the church in my new position.

Tell us a little about your family and interests outside of your work: I have been married to my beautiful wife, Jan Shabazz for 16 years, whom I met while walking down Peachtree Street during a popular music convention. I have two brothers, two sisters, two nephews and two nieces and a dog named Paisley. Outside of work, I like listening to all kinds of music and I like Salsa dancing. Every now and then I go and take Salsa classes at the Fernbank Museum, but my true passion is cooking and catering!

Share one experience that has impacted your life: This one is easy... being married! Jan and I are good friends and teammates. As a team, we play our individual roles well, and compliment each other's shortcomings. Some may even say she's the brains and I'm the muscle (HA!), and we wouldn't have it any other way.

SACREDSPACE is a publication of
Shallowford Presbyterian Church
2375 Shallowford Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
404-321-1844
info@shallowford.org
www.shallowford.org

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor

Rev. Christopher A. Henry
Rev. Catherine E. Foster

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School Hour

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.



Connect

with us through social media!



Shallowford Presbyterian Church



@ShallowfordPC

2018 ALL CHURCH RETREAT

NEW Date, SAME Location

WHO

Members of All Ages

WHAT

A Two-Day Retreat
focused on Fun,
Fellowship, &
Generations of the
Church

WHEN

Columbus Weekend
October 5-7, 2018

WHERE

Callaway Gardens

*Featuring Guest Speaker,
Rev. Jenelle Holmes,
Pastor of Ormewood Church
in Atlanta, Georgia*