

SACRED SPACE

A PUBLICATION OF SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Winter 2018



60

YEARS OF MINISTRY



From the Interim Pastor

THE ACT OF "STOOPING"

As Christmas draws near, my first at Shallowford, I've been thinking about stooping lately.

When I walked onto Manger Square in Bethlehem a few years ago to visit the Church of the Nativity, I wondered how to get inside. There is no obvious entrance, and the enormous cathedral takes on the appearance of an impenetrable fortress without one.

The present church was built by the Byzantine emperor, Justinian, after the destruction of the original structure in 529 AD. It sits atop the cave in which it is believed Jesus was born (many houses in the region are still built in front of caves, which are used for stabling and storage - thus the manger).

Walking closer to the façade, I was directed to a small square hole near the base of the building. It is barely big enough to squeeze through on your hands and knees, but it is the only way in or out (it's believed all the cathedral portals were sealed in the 16th century, except for this tiny space, in order to keep horses from entering the cathedral!).

The building is shared by the Roman Catholic, Armenian and Greek Orthodox churches, making it a truly ecumenical place even though each doesn't seem to acknowledge the other. Once inside, the beauty of the church is overwhelming. The air is thick with the smell of burning oil from light stanchions above, and incense emanates from the narthex of the Greek Orthodox sanctuary. Through a hole in the elevated wooden floor, I got down on my knees again to peer into another hole where remains of a beautiful mosaic floor from the original church can be seen.

Finally, I entered the grotto to encounter the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born. Descending down a cramped and narrow stone stairwell, I came upon the shrine to the baby Jesus, where I stooped again to place my hand into a hole and touch the sacred rock below.

To "stoop," according to Merriam-Webster, is to descend from a superior rank, dignity or status. I did a lot of that at the Church of the Nativity. And during Advent, you can do it, too. You can stoop to hear the promise, to witness the birth, to share the Good News of God incarnate and remember that, in the grand scheme of things, each of us is anything but superior.

In these next weeks, I hope you'll bring out once more the memories of Christmases past into your home, reconnect with the ones you love most and come to church to experience the greatest story ever told within this rich community of faith. After all, part of that story is about you.

Oh, and one last thing. Be sure to give more than you get.

There's no better way to stoop than that.

Merry Christmas,

Rev. John M. Semmes



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ON THE COVER

Pictured on the cover are member, **Carie Cato**, and former member, **Kara Hemenway King** having fun at Shallowford's 60th Anniversary Celebration on August 4, 2018. The two met many years ago through Shallowford. Carie served as Kara's Youth Advisor!

GENERATIONS COLLIDE AT ALL CHURCH RETREAT

October 2018 - Over Columbus Day Weekend, members returned to the beautiful Callaway Gardens for exploring, engaging, and growing during Shallowford's Fourth All Church Retreat. While in Pine Mountain, members of all ages focused on the relevant and powerful theme, "Generations of the Church," with informative, engaging leadership by our Director of Youth & Programs Ministries, Bradley Kibler, and special guest Jenelle Holmes, Organizing Pastor of Ormewood Church in Southeast Atlanta.

Jenelle, who lives Ormewood's mission on a daily basis – welcoming everyone to explore the living God in our neighborhoods – led conversations through small group discussion exploring how we encounter God in different ages and stages of our lives. Honest, thoughtful dialogue encouraged by Jenelle, led to a deepening of relationships among group members. "I loved meeting your sweet folks," said Jenelle. "I was greeted with hospitality and was never without engaging conversation. You all truly show up for each other. I love how you showed up for our conversations about Generations."

When we weren't identifying God's many life encounters, members built and strengthened relationships while enjoying the Birds of Prey Show, touring FDR's Warm Springs, viewing the gardens by bike, admiring the chapel or simply relaxing with one another.

We invite you to join us in 2019 for more time away to connect, heal, and deepen relationships.





Children & Mission

CHILDREN OF GOD *ON THE MOVE*

by Margaret Evans

We spend a lot of time with our children reminding them that they are children of God. We want them to know that every single person we encounter is also a child of God and our family extends beyond our own congregation and into the world. This summer, our children experienced what it means to care for and walk alongside other children of God on our first Elementary Family Mission Retreat.

Shallowford families with young children banded together to complete mission work based in and around Clinton, South Carolina. We spent a full day doing mission in the community, and another day on retreat together. The entire weekend was full of fellowship and fun, and great experiences for the children and adults!

At Presbyterian Homes of S.C.'s Clinton Community, we opened a mini-nail salon for many of the home's residents. Card games like Gin, Rummy, and Left-Right-Center were favorites, and we even lost a few games of corn hole to several gentlemen who were all named Bill. It was a great opportunity for our children to see that mission doesn't always involve building or cleaning something. Sometimes, mission can be focused around sharing our time and love with one another.

Our group also visited Presbyterian College, where several of our own SPC members attended college. Our children dined in the mess hall, and enjoyed an extensive tour of campus before a snack break (while Miss Margaret bought

out the school store!). Several of our children are already considering their future as Blue Hose (the school mascot).

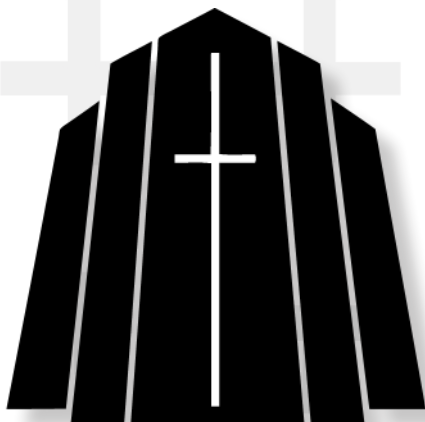
Well-fed and stocked up on PC swag, we headed to Thornwell, a Presbyterian home and school for children. At Thornwell, we were tasked with the important work of cleaning the buses they use daily to transport children to school, field trips, church, and more. Of course our crew turned it into a competition to see who could make their bus the cleanest. Judges are still trying to tally the score, but the real winner was Thornwell, who got three sparkling clean buses!

Our home base for the weekend was PC(USA)'s Fellowship Camp & Conference Center, just outside of Clinton. We were able to enjoy our own mini-camp, with the children participating in arts and crafts; swimming; ga-ga ball; canoeing, and more. There was even a campfire with s'mores! Our biggest

camp adventure was tracking Ruth, a turtle who lives at Camp Fellowship and is monitored by the University of Georgia. While at Camp Fellowship, we jumped into mission again, taking over the kitchen, baking delicious goodies to then deliver to local first responders.

The Elementary Family Mission Retreat was a fantastic adventure in mission for our children and their parents. We were able to grow our view of the world a little more, and learn that mission takes many different forms. Most importantly, we learned that the church loves and cares for people all their lives no matter what their age, or where they are!





HONORING GOD'S CALL: *our search for a new senior pastor*

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM

As we journey through this time between senior pastors, the Transition Team is grateful to everyone at Shallowford. You have prayed for us, supported us, supported our interim pastor, and filled out those CAT surveys. We have felt the prayers and will work to keep this time of transition moving smoothly. Should questions or concerns arise, please let us know at transition@shallowford.org.

Senior Pastor Search Process Updates

Soon after our journey to find Shallowford's new senior pastor began, our Interim Pastor Nominating Committee found a promising interim pastor, John M. Semmes. John comes to Shallowford after a 14-year called position at First Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Mississippi. John and Cindy, his wife of 27 years, have two daughters, Emily and Sophie.

Our hard-working devoted Transition Team welcomed John and Cindy to Shallowford at a churchwide reception in September. "John is already fully immersed in the life of Shallowford, and I am sure Shallowford will thrive through his leadership," said Prue Swerlick, member of the Transition Team. After John's arrival, the Transition Team launched a Church Assessment Tool, known as the CAT survey. The CAT survey will provide vital information to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they create the church's job description or "Ministry Information Form."

Shallowford members answered the ask! More than 390 members completed the survey; that's 90% of our average Sunday worship attendance. In addition to the CAT survey, the Transition Team hosted a churchwide gathering where members shared their thoughts about Shallowford's next senior pastor.

And then there's the PNC. "The Pastor Nominating Committee spent the fall getting to know each other and learned more about SPC as a whole. A staff member or committee chair was invited to our meetings to provide information on their ministries. This allowed us the opportunity to learn more about the structure of our ministries, our budget, staff needs, and goals," shared Katie Kilch. With input from the Personnel Committee and members of the Session, the Ministry Information Form is on track to be completed and approved by Joy Fisher, congregational consultant from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, as early as January 2019. Once the MIF has been approved, the committee will advertise the position with the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection system, denomination publications, journals, and through word of mouth. At this point, applicants can submit a Personal Information Form via the Shallowford website. The PNC welcome and encourage each Shallowford member to submit names of candidates who would best serve as our senior pastor.

Meanwhile, life at Shallowford goes on. Staff and volunteers are working diligently as always as we move through the church year. With Pigs on Fire behind us and Advent upon us, everyone is keeping eyes and hearts open for the future God has in store for Shallowford. Please continue to pray for our church, our staff, the PNC, the Transition Team, and the person whom God is calling to lead as our next senior pastor.

Committees to Shepherd the Transition

Three important committees, comprised of Shallowford members, were set in place to lead the congregation through this process. Committees include:

1. **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee:** Thanks to this committee for a job well done! Members include Brad Bryant, Carolyn Carl, Alan Rosselot, and Lynn Marie Trotti.
2. **Transition Team:** This committee will continue to oversee the entire transition process. Members include Steve Benise, Alicia Budd, John Groover, Katie Kilch, Kenneth Linsley, B.J. McMillan, Diane Prucino, Jimmy Shafe, and Prue Swerlick.
3. **Pastor Nominating Committee:** This committee began work in September after the arrival of our interim pastor, Rev. John M. Semmes, and will continue the search until Shallowford finds our new senior pastor.

Please continue to pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and for our congregation throughout this process. We trust in God guiding us to the person who will be a blessing to our congregation in the future.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

pnc@shallowford.org



Laura
BISHOP



John
BOGLE



Thurston
COOKE



Katie
KILCH



Jenni
MATHIS



Diane
PRUCINO



Bob
SMITHERS



Jay
TURNERY



LEARN MORE ONLINE!

- PNC Member Profiles
- 5 Phases of the Search Process
- FAQs
- Terms to Know
- Committee Member Photos

QUICK CAT FACTS

#1

PRIORITY across all age groups is to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

of respondents say they are **attending worship more** frequently than they did three years ago.

88%

SPC "morale index," the degree of positive, passionate engagement

EXCEEDS 95%.

We "get it" and actively invite others to "get it" too.

390

Survey Respondents

How SPC compares to other churches:

**HIGH ENERGY
HIGH SATISFACTION**

Q&A:

What do you love about Shallowford?

"I love the people...their friendliness, compassion, and openness. I love the music, and the children's and youth programs."

"Community & Sunday Worship"

ALL AGE GROUPS

have a strong desire to **expand outreach ministries** to be marginalized.

VISIT WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG/SENIOR-PASTOR-SEARCH-PROCESS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Shallowford's 60th Anniversary



ships. A slideshow covering the church's history played on a screen throughout the evening.

Serving as the evening's emcees, Bradley Kibler and Jill Buechner narrated a journey through Shallowford's 60 years, highlighting music and trends as they introduced members dressed in the clothes of each decade. Next came an interactive game of BINGO that required each player to collect 24 different signatures of folks in attendance.

Pop-Up Museum

Meanwhile, in the upper atrium, volunteers Margaret Jones, Laura Bishop, and Wende Veeder had assembled a pop-up museum with photos and artifacts from Shallowford's past. From a distance could be seen framed pictures of all of our senior pastors, and former staff and church members including a picture of J.R. (Red) and Norma Carmichael, who made the land gift on which the Shallowford campus was built. Black and white photos portrayed the clearing of land and the beginnings of construction. The first official worship bulletin was displayed, too.

On display were photos of Shallowford's first building, the Chapel, which showed no trees or bushes in sight; a black and white photo of the first adult Sunday School class; and many images of the Education Building — an area which served as a worship space for a time.

Newspaper articles showing the large arches of the sanctuary were pinned up to read, and later renovations of the atrium, Great Hall, and Chapel were noted in pictures, too. Scattered within this timeline of construction were pictures illustrating all the various

CELEBRATING IN STYLE



The summer of 2018 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of Shallowford Presbyterian Church on what was once an unpaved road in Atlanta's growing northern suburbs. With a membership of 51, the new church joined Atlanta Presbytery in 1958.

To celebrate 60 years with a series of events, an invitation to "Come Home to Shallowford" went out far and wide to former members and staff as well as current members and friends.

Shallowford's College of Elders hosted the kickoff on Saturday evening August 4, in the sanctuary featuring the Rev. Tom Are, Jr., son of Tom Are, Sr.,

Shallowford's second pastor who led SPC for 21 years.

Tom, Jr. delivered an insightful talk about the current and future state of the church. A sixth-generation Presbyterian pastor, he grew up at Shallowford and has served as Senior Pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas since 2004.

Following the talk, guests moved to the Great Hall, decorated with greenery, fresh flowers and a canopy of small string lights that presented a garden party-theme. Throughout the room, multiple food stations provided space for guests to mingle, reminisce and renew their Shallowford ties and friend-

choirs, pictures of mission opportunities, and even a tall trophy from a Shallowford's girls' basketball tournament.

Member directories lined the front edge of the museum's tables and featured photos of members from the past 60 years. "What a joy to go through scrapbooks and boxes of archival materials collected over the years," expressed Wende.

Sunday Programs

Sunday morning found long-time members Martha Rosselot, Bridges and Betsy Smith, and Alan Rosselot hosting a packed crowd in Heritage Hall to share memories and stories from the past 60 years. See a full recording on the SPC website.

Delivering the sermon at both Sunday morning services, Tom Are, Jr. shared a few fond memories and then inspired and challenged the congregation. Rev. Tom Are, Sr. observed with pride.

As is Shallowford's tradition, music filled the sanctuary as a key part of the celebratory worship with anthems from both the Chancel and Chapel choirs, and instrumentalists. A reception followed at noon and once again all in attendance enjoyed Shallowford's warm welcome and fellowship.

Many thanks to the planning committee that included Chairman Steve Benise, Julie Burkhard, John Groover, Margaret Jones, Martha Rosselot, Lisa Turney, and staff members Bradley Kibler, Emily Floyd, and Rebecca Goode.

Memories of Shallowford

As part of Shallowford's 60th Anniversary, former pastors and staff members shared their memories.

"Shallowford is and has been the richest spiritual experience of my life."

-Robby Carroll,
Former Associate Pastor
for Congregational Care

"...what was unique for me centers around the Word family."

-Gray Norsworthy,
former Senior Pastor
(1994-2008)

"My first day at Shallowford was baptism by water leaks."

-Bill Carr,
former Parish Associate

"So many memories of choir—singing, conducting and having fun, fill me with such joy."

-Lynn Rodgers,
former member

To read the full text of these and many more, visit www.shallowford.org/spc60.



SHALLOWFORD CO-SPONSORS

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT

by Scott McGough

Refugee resettlement is one of the most urgent humanitarian efforts of our modern time. Only about 1% of the 25 million refugees worldwide can be resettled.

To be granted legal status to resettle to the United States is an extraordinary testament to our country's generosity made possible in part by women and men of faith-based, local community volunteer groups who devote their time and resources to help families make a foothold.

Shallowford is partnering with New American Pathways, an Atlanta-based nonprofit, to assist an Afghan family establish their new home in the United States.

Led by Stephen Caldwell and Bob Chambless, the mission project began in January 2018 when they started making plans and recruiting volunteers needed to help. Throughout the process, the core mission team's varied tasks included apartment setup, the airport welcome and home introduction, transportation assistance, cultural orientation, community guide, job development, and financial education.

In October, the Afghan family finally arrived in Atlanta after a two-year paperwork struggle. Shallowford members Amy Caldwell and Bob Chambless, along with an interpreter, greeted Seyed Amin Hasseini (77), the father, and daughters Elham (29) and Ghasal (27) at Hartfield-Jackson International Airport.

Especially exciting was all the work that members of the Resettlement Team did to prepare for the family's arrival.

Shallowford volunteers donated, collected and then stored furniture and household items to furnish an apartment for the family. Informed of the arrival date, they made the

apartment ready in Clarkston. The family members have quickly settled into their new home. Bob, now referred to as "Uncle Bob", states that the family was overwhelmed by Shallowford's generous volunteer efforts. On that first day, however, they were noticeably somber and shaken as they walked through the apartment bedrooms realizing their mother was not present to share their new American home.

In addition to providing them with a fully stocked food pantry, the Resettlement Team had put careful effort into planning a culturally-appropriate 'first hot meal' for the family's arrival. To show their appreciation, the family offered Bob and the others a seat at their table and invited them to share portions of the meal. It was a most blessed moment for everyone on that first long day.

With joy and gratitude, Shallowford volunteers will continue to work with the Hasseini family on their journey to U.S. citizenship and help them to realize their dreams as they build new lives in Georgia.



OUR SHALLOWFORD VOLUNTEERS

Stephen & Amy Caldwell * Bob Chambless * Robert & Carolyn Fairey * Joe Anziano * Russ Mathis * Brant Mathis * Jerri Russell * Scott McGough * Anne Holland * Laura Khan * Louis Khan * John Bogle * Bill & Peggy Kendall * Prue Swerlick * Louis Reyes * The Turney Family * Thurston Cooke * Davis Cooke * Marlo McDonald * Dwight Blinson * Audra Doyle * Dale Smith * Jill Buechner * Isaac Toney * SPC Youth * Bruce Morris * Jeff Wright * and many others who donated household items.

Youth Small Groups



10th & 11th Grade Boys



10th & 11th Grade Girls



9th Grade Girls



12th Grade Boys & Girls



6th & 7th Grade Boys



6th-8th Grade Girls



8th & 9th Grade Boys



2018 Small Group Leaders



SMALL GROUPS

In the fall of 2016 Bradley Kibler, Director of Youth & Program Ministries, kicked off Youth Small Groups – an exciting new program where once a month during Sunday evening fellowship, youth break into groups, typically by grade and gender, to meet on campus with their assigned adult group leaders. During their time together, group members bond over delicious meals all while addressing varying topics introduced by guest speakers. Based on requests from the youth themselves, our groups covered important social issues including depression and anxiety, homelessness in Atlanta, and Georgia's Division of Family & Children Services.

This year in hopes of cultivating deeper relationships and an opportunity to spend more time together, our youth traveled off campus to meet in the homes of our Shallowford members. Seven families, none of whom have a child in the youth group, volunteered their homes, and often provide dinner at the monthly gatherings.

In addition to the generosity of our many hosts, a vast majority of our small group leaders signed on to lead their groups for another year. All seven groups, consisting of roughly 65 boys and girls from sixth to twelfth grade, were given the opportunity to address tough issues in a safe environment with leaders and friends where they feel most comfortable.

We look forward to many more opportunities with our youth and are especially thankful to Bradley, and Youth Intern, Isaac Toney, for their continued leadership to support this ministry.

THANK YOU!

To our Fabulous Hosts

Hugh Stoddard
 Kay & Brad Bryant
 Bill & Peggy Kendall
 Diane Prucino & Tom Heyse
 Monica & Randy Hollingsworth
 Rob & Leah Pope
 Barton & B.J. McMillan

To our Devoted Small Group Leaders

Lyle & Hannah Collins
 Maggie Galbraith
 Nell Herring
 Meg Heyse
 Hutch Hutchinson
 Kyle & Katie Kilch
 Craig Lovingood
 Jenni Mathis
 Rob & Leah Pope
 Jordan Stringer
 Kim Tashiro
 Isaac Toney

COME TO THE GARDEN

With a vision and a nudge from the Holy Spirit, Mary Virginia Shores and Janice Moriarity decided to improve our lovely Memorial Garden space. They recruited our in-house plant and flower guru, Barbara Hubbard. Then these three women went to the Facilities Committee with their plan and were given approval to proceed.

The first step was to repair the irrigation system for the south campus, including the Youth Center, Chapel, and the Memorial Garden areas. Their goal to start and end in the month of February was met with time to spare. Not wanting to rest on their laurels, they turned their vision to the north campus. Partnering with the Memorial Garden Committee, they developed a site plan and budget. Taking the plan and budget to the Facilities Committee, they were met with admiration, appreciation, and a thumbs up to proceed.

Watching Mary Virginia, Janice, and Barbara achieve what the Holy Spirit put on their hearts is inspirational. After all, we are the church together!

FUN, FITNESS, AND FELLOWSHIP

by MC Graves

For about ten years the Fitness, Fun, and Fellowship group have been meeting in the Great Hall on Thursday mornings to exercise to a DVD produced by Mr. Sam Freeman. Mr. Freeman is a retired Marine drill sergeant and a trained physical therapist.

We at Shallowford were introduced to Sam and his DVD by Barbie, wife of Bruce Meyer, our interim minister at the time. After the Meyers family completed their time at Shallowford, we decided that we really enjoyed these Thursday mornings and continued to meet, updating the DVDs as Sam produced new ones.

On August 16, 2018, Sam was going to be in Atlanta for a reunion and we invited him to come by the church for a visit with his long time, but never met in person, exercise class. He came to the church and led the group (pictured to the right) in our 70 minute class, LIVE, while correcting us on the mistakes we were making in the routine. He also mainly kept us laughing with his stories of many years of developing and leading exercise groups with his emphasis on strengthening, stretching, and balance exercises.

We also were so pleased to finally meet the man we had exercised with for so long and to find that he was a charming and delightful as he appears in his videos.



Pictured (L to R), Front Row: Ann Battle, Nancy Phillimore, MC Graves, and Mickey Hutchinson. **Back Row:** Nancy Palmer, Nancy Ehlers, Sam Freeman, Peggy Kendall, and Jan Ziegler.



LIVING

THE SHALLOWFORD WAY

Each 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 of our more recent highlights from a few activities in 2018. Find us on Facebook (*Shallowford Presbyterian Church*) for a more in-depth look into our fun and fellowship!



Chapel Choir Tour



Emily Celebrates 10 Years



Pigs on Fire



Trunk-or-Treat



Habitat For Humanity



SPW Fall Call

SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

A Journey with Jesus

Last spring, the worship committee created a new Holy Week experience called, *A Journey with Jesus*. JWJ was a unique Shallowford take on the traditional stations-of-the-cross. More than 40 Shallowford members teamed up to develop 12 interactive stations that creatively told the stories of Jesus' agonizing journey from Bethany to the tomb. Each station had elements that engaged the five senses including the aromatic spikenard used by Mary to anoint Jesus at Bethany, the taste of the ancient bread at the last supper, the stinging pain of the crown of thorns, the evocative music that echoed the grief of Jesus' family and friends, and finally, the quiet darkness of the tomb. Each station also included one or more scripture passages, poems, and devotions that lead participants to meditate on how these ancient stories are still very relevant in our lives today.

More than 170 adults and 60 children from both Shallowford Presbyterian Church and Shallowford Presbyterian School took the journey. Many expressed that it had a profound

impact on their Easter experience. Quotes follow: "... Never had we had such innovations in worship. The stages were both painful to see, yet inspiring to realize so vividly how Easter came to each of us!"

"As I made the walk from station to station, I became aware that I had not included a time for meditation and reflection in my Lenten journey. It was a powerful and restorative journey. Surely all who came will be prepared more fully for the sorrow of Friday, the emptiness of Saturday, and the joy of Easter Sunday."

Plans are already underway for a Journey with Jesus experience for next spring. Please join us!

HOLY WEEK
APRIL 15-19, 2019

THANK YOU, SHALLOWFORD!



On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, thank you for the incredible support you gave during the month of October for the *We Are Shallowford* campaign.

For three Sundays in October, members stopped by the stewardship photobooth and participated in our churchwide photo taking experience. With smiles, laughter and love, members from the oldest to the youngest held a "prop" in support of stewardship and the Shallowford family.

Because of you, our community responded to the call to give, not only of time and effort, but of resources. Many members gave pledges for 2019 and many continue to pledge. The Shallowford community's generosity and spirit of giving is overwhelming. Because of you our community will continue to grow and to give through worship and music, congregational care, discipleship, hospitality and operations, and mission.

"We Are Shallowford" ...a statement of fact and witness. Our heartfelt thanks for giving now and continuing to give throughout 2019.

- Julie Cain Burkhard & Terry O'Toole
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

ANNIVERSARIES WORTH *CELEBRATING*



15 Yrs.
at SPC

Carol Payne

Position: Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Roles & Responsibilities: Carol, who came to Shallowford 15 years ago, supports the Shallowford Session by preparing documents and keeping records. She manages worship bulletins, organizes baptisms, and helps manage the new member onboarding process. On Sundays, Carol welcomes new member prospects and shows them what Shallowford is about and how they can get involved. Carol says, "Coordinating the prayer requests is my favorite part of this job. I like talking to folks about what's going on in their lives and where they need prayer support."

What brought you to Shallowford 15 years ago?

"My first career was in furniture manufacturing. I ran a plant in Roswell and then in Canton. I realized that, if I was going to be working as hard as I was, I wanted it to be for something I really, deeply cared about. So I started looking for jobs in the church."

How has Shallowford changed since 2003?

"We have a larger staff than we had before, and the tasks are more specialized. Also, our record-keeping has changed. We used to have 20 to 30 hard copies of everything. Now, everything is retrievable via electronic records, and we have maybe one hard copy."

How have you changed since coming to Shallowford?

"I used to always think about the next problem I had to overcome. Now, when I leave Shallowford at the end of the day, I can reflect. I often think about the people we're praying for. It's very centering, very calming. I'm really grateful to be here, where people's jobs are to care for and love others, first and foremost."



10 Yrs.
at SPC

Emily Floyd

Position: Director of Music Ministries

Roles & Responsibilities: Emily, who came to Shallowford 10 years ago, directs a 65-member adult choir, a 90-member youth choir, and two handbell choirs. She also supervises the children's music ministry.

Over the years, how has Shallowford given back to you?

"You [Shallowford members] have helped me serve the greater church by allowing time for me to be away teaching and conducting at the Montreat Music & Worship Conference, teaching at the Choristers Guild Institute, conducting school honor choirs throughout Georgia, and volunteering in choir classrooms at nearby schools."

How has the Music Ministry grown since your arrival?

"In the last 10 years, Shallowford has acquired a full set of handbells, three pianos, an electronic organ, a pipe organ, an updated music library/storage system, new chairs for every singer in both the choir room and the sanctuary, and new choir robes for 100 youth and 80 children. We have been busy, and the sense of vitality and enthusiasm is palpable!"

Expanding Our Reach: "Membership in both traditional and handbell choirs has blossomed! We now have 200 servant musicians singing and playing instruments in worship each year. Our youth Chapel Choir, which goes on tour every summer, has outgrown a single tour bus—it now occupies two. I am very passionate about reaching as many young singers as possible ("drawing the circle wide") and awakening their inner choral artist. Do we dare dream that we are part of something so beautiful? Shallowford's congregational song lifts to the heavens, and God must surely say that together our voices create more beauty than the world can hold. May it be so!"

SACRED SPACE is a publication of
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Interim Pastor
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Sacred Space Editor

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School Hour

Rev. John M. Semmes
Rev. Catherine E. Foster
Rebecca Goode

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



CONNECT

with us through social media!



Shallowford Presbyterian Church



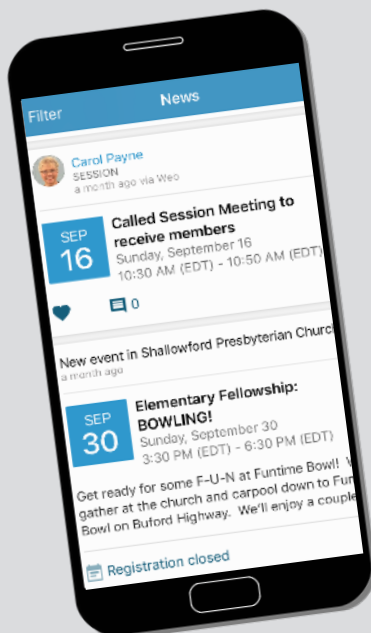
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News



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